Labor Statesman

OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Supported by Sixty-two Local Unions

NO. 363—EIGHT PAGES. VANCOUVER, CANADA, APRIL 17th, 1931 FIVE CENTS PER COPY

Department of Labour Parliament Buildings Dec

Conservatives Decline To Discuss Unemployment

Labor Members Attempt to Draw Attention to Unemployment Conditions, But Are Ruled Out of Order; Heaps, Woodsworth and MacInnis Speak

THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT at Ottaw does not consider the unemployment situation serious enough to have it properly discussed. Mr. Heaps, Woodsworth and MacInnis introduced the subject in the house, but they were ruled out of order on technicalities, and since that time nothing more has been done on the situation. The following report, from Hansard, describes the efforts made by the Labor members on the question.

Mr. A. A. Heaps (North Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave under standing order 31 to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, to call the attention of the house and the government to the acute distress existing among large numbers of industrial workers throughout the Dominion.

Hon. R. B. Bennett (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the form of the motion but judging from what the hon. member has said it would not be in order inasmuch as this matter has been under debate and is mentioned in the speech from the throne.

Hon. E. N. Rhodes (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to say just one word on the point of order? Without disputing the importance of the subject raised by the hon. member for North Winnipeg, I submit that the interpretation which always has been placed upon this rule has been that it must be a matter of recent occurrence. Furthermore, it must be of such urgent character as would create an injustice were hon. members of this house precluded from discussing the subject matter. I submit, first, that it is not a matter of recent occurrence, and, second, that it would be open to hon members to discuss this question during the debate which is now before this house. Therefore, the hon. gentleman is not in order in asking permission to discuss this subject as a matter of public importance.

Mr. Heaps: In moving this motion I was guided by the actions o f—

Some hon. members: Order, order.

Mr. Duff: The hon. member should speak to the point of order.

Mr. Heaps: I am speaking to the point of order raised and I desire to call the attention of the house to one precedent. In 1926, when the present government was in opposition, I find the following action taken by the house. It was moved by the hon. member for Cape Breton North-Victoria, Mr. L. W. Johnstone, that leave be granted under rule 39 to adjourn the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, to call the attention of the house and the government to the acute distress existing among the coal miners of Nova Scotia, many of whom were actually on the verge of starvation. My motion follows almost word for word the motion made in 1926.

I might state also that in the speech from the throne delivered in 1926, reference was made to the conditions in Nova Scotia, as follows:

With a view to affording such remedies as may appear to be practical and appropriate, the government also propose to appoint a royal commission to inquire fully into the claims that the rights of the Maritime provinces in regard to the operation of the Intercolonial railway have not been observed, and that in regard to transportation, immigration, and other economic factors these provinces have suffered prejudicially, in their position under confederation.

At that time the condition of the miners in Nova Scotia was not a matter of recent occurrence. I would draw the attention of the house to the fact that in 1926 this motion was made during the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. My motion is on almost all fours with the motion made in 1926, and I submit that I should be allowed to proceed.

No direct reference is made in the speech from the throne this year to any action which the government intends to take to deal with unemployment. We should not at this time insist on technicalities as I consider there is no more important question to be dealt with by parliament. The speech from the throne makes a certain vague reference to the economic conditions which prevail at the present time but there is no reference at all to any definite action which the government intends to take in order to meet the existing situation. In the rules of procedure the word "definite" is used, and we have to deal with a definite rather than an indefinite matter. May I point out also that the appropriations which the government has voted will expire today and there will be no further funds available for the municipalities or the provincial governments with which to cope with the present conditions.

Therefore, I consider there is an urgent need for a discussion of this question which, as I have stated before, I believe to be the most important question that can come before this house.

Mr. J. S. Woodsworth (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in speaking on the point of order it seems to me that this matter involves the rights of the members of this house. In stating the procedure Subsection 3 of standing order 31 reads as follows:

He then hands a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed to Mr. Speaker, who, if he thinks it in order, and of urgent public importance, reads it out and asks whether the member has the leave of the house. If objection is taken, Mr. Speaker requests those members who support the motion to rise in their places and, if more than twenty members rise accordingly, Mr. Speaker calls upon the member who has asked for leave.

I submit that the mover of this resolution (Mr. Heaps) has complied with the rules. He had handed to the Speaker a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed. I realize that the next clause of the standing order is to the effect that if the Speaker thinks it in order it is read out, but I take it that that is only a formal matter. The proposed motion might not be formally in order; then it is for you, Mr. Speaker, to say that it is not in order and to reject it. But we are here dealing with another matter. With all deference to your Honor I do not think it can be said that the possibility of the introduction of a motion of this kind is dependent upon the decision of Your Honor as to what is an urgent matter; that is dependent upon the twenty hon. members who may rise and support it. I do not think there can be any question that the motion is formally

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Tailors Win Wage Cut Strike

Union Tailors Win Wage Reduction Fight

The merchant tailors of Vancouver have failed in their attempt to reduce wages. A short time ago the merchant tailors of Vancouver notified the union that a ten per cent. wage reduction would be put into effect, but the union stated that no cut would be accepted, and an attempt to make the cut would be vigorously fought. The mechant tailors heard rumblings which made them realize that the union men and women meant what they said, and, after a final ultimatum from the union, all the firms, with the exception of three, agreed to continue the old scale of wages.

Last Saturday morning the strike started at these three shops; pickets were put on the jobs and the fight was on. By Monday afternoon the bosses were not so cheerful, and by Tuesday they were looking for a compromise. But there was no compromise forthcoming and trade was falling off and no workers willing to scab the work. On Wednesday the bubble of their 10 per cent. wage reduction dream burst and they capitulated to the union.

It was a short snappy fight and all the old-timers in the union got into it. The members agreed to assess themselves five per cent. to aid the strikers, and the head office was ready to help foot the bill, but neither of these actions were needed because the fight was short and sweet.

A Reserve for Labor

Dividend payments and bonuses in Canada during 1930 on common stocks alone are estimated at $284,000,000, an increase of $46,000,000 over 1929, or over 19 per cent, in a year of industrial depression.

The explanation of the increased dividends is partly the mechanization of industry, which permits greater production and larger profits with smaller staffs, but also the policy of setting aside huge reserves in prosperous times, to be drawn upon for dividends in the lean years.

Unemployment insurance would provide a similar reserve, for the benefit of the workers. Why should industry not guarantee the incomes of its workers, as well as dividends to its stockholders? No more reasonable proposal demands consideration by the government, and now, while the tragedy of enforced leisure without pay is so apparent, the question should be kept in the foreground of public attention.

Union Meetings at Labor Headquarters

FRIDAY, APRIL 17th	
Railway Carmen, 58	2
Molders	311
Engineers	315
Blacksmith	315
SATURDAY	
Bakers, 468	3
MONDAY	
Electrical Workers, 213	1
Teamsters, 466	2
Caretakers and Engineers, 963	3
Boilermakers	4
Egg Graders	311
Painters' Committee	313
Cement Finishers	315
TUESDAY	
Trades Council	1
Lithographers	313
WEDNESDAY	
Bricklayers No. 1	2
Ironworkers, 97	3
THURSDAY	
Painters, 138	2
Sheet Metal, 280	3
Union Label Trades	4
Textile Workers	313
FRIDAY, APRIL 24th	
Milk Salesmen, 464	1
Plumbers and Steamfitters, 170	2
Asbestos Workers	201
Welders	313
Engineers, 844	315

Job Shortage Is Endangering Capitalism, Says Rail Chief

Philadelphia.—A plain warning that the present economic system is in danger of collapse unless unemployment can be prevented and a better plan evolved for the distribution of wealth was sounded by President Daniel Willard of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in a striking speech here last week at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania.

Pointing out that "finance and commerce are based entirely on the principles of the capitalistic system," Mr. Willard urged the Wharton School to undertake research studies on the cause and cure of unemployment.

Has Created Problems

"Of what avail will your studies on finance and commerce be if the capitalistic system itself collapses?" he asked his audience.

He added, however, that he did not fear a collapse as he believed a way would be found to prevent it.

"But," he emphasized, "capitalism has created the nation's two major problems—unemployment and imperfect distribution—and capitalism must solve them.

"A system—call it what you will—under which it is possible for 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 of willing and able-bodied men to be unable to secure work for months at a time, and with no other sources of income, cannot be said to be perfect or even satisfactory.

On the contrary, it can be said to have failed in at least one very important detail."

Mr. Willard created a sensation among the more conservative of his listeners by the frank declaration that he would steal before he would starve.

"I can think of nothing more deplorable than the condition of a man, able and anxious to work, with no resources but his labor, and perhaps with others even more helpless dependent upon him," he declared.

"Unless he is willing to starve and see those who justly look to him for support also starve, his only alternative is to seek charity, and, failing in that, to steal.

Would Refuse to Starve

"And, while I do not like to say so, I would be less than candid if I did not say that in such circumstances I would steal before I would starve."

Both unemployment and faulty distribution of wealth strike at the foundations of the present political and economic system, he said.

"Here we have the richest country in the world," he pointed out. "We have productive capacity in our mills and factories far beyond our own domestic requirements, and, at the same time, we have millions in dire need of food and clothing.

"There is more of everything to eat and wear than we can possibly use, and still there are millions of human beings who are hungry and cold."

Sheet Metal Workers To Convene in City

Another labor convention is scheduled for Vancouver. This has resulted from a referendum vote of the membership of the Northwest District Council of the International Association of Sheet Metal Workers.

This District Council is composed of seventeen unions on the Pacific Coast and was to have convened in Portland in May, but on account of the A. F. of L. convention coming to Vancouver the executive of the District Council thought the delegates might wish to meet the general officers in Vancouver, hence a vote was taken of the membership and the change endorsed. Business Manager Dan McPherson of the Vancouver union is president of the Northwest District Council, which is composed of the following locals: Vancouver, Victoria, Prince Rupert, B. C.; Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Bellingham, Olympia, Bremerton and Wenachee, Washington; Portland, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Astoria and Salem, Oregon.

This is the seventh Labor convention scheduled for this city this year. The dates follow:

Sept. 21-25—Forty-second annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Sept. 26-27 — Northwest District Council, Sheet Metal Workers.

Sept. 29, Oct. 3.—Building Trades Department of the A. F. of L.

Sept. 30, Oct. 3.—Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L.

Sept. 30, Oct. 3.—Label Trades Department, A. F. of L.

Sept. 30, Oct. 2—Railway Trades Department, A. F. of L.

Oct. 5-16—Fifty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

MESSAGE FROM MACINNIS

A message from Angus MacInnis, M.P., to the workers of British Columbia will be included in the next Telford radio talk on Wednesday, April 22nd, at 6:45, over CKWX.

Painters' Wage Cut Strike Looks Healthy

There is only one department of the building trades in Vancouver that has a wage slashing battle on its hands, that is the painting trade. The Master Painters' Association recently informed the union that a wage cut would have to be accepted, but the union replied that it would not have to accept it. That meant a fight, so some of them, having become convinced that a fight might cost more than the reduction, capitulated. But there were some hard-boiled bosses who, not having very much work to do, thought they might just as well try cutting wages on the few men they did employ. Since that time these jobs have been picketed and both sides have been putting up a stubborn fight. But the bosses are not getting the best of it by a long shot, and if the fair bosses keep on carralling the work the way they are, there won't be any jobs for the union to picket.

The union expected to have a tough fight on its hands on account of the slackness in trade and the number of idle painters, but idle painters are not so eager to fill these struck jobs as one might expect, after a long period of depression, so the union anticipates having the bosses say "Uncle" within a very short time.

DRIVERS' STRIKE DEFEATS $7 PER WEEK WAGE SLASH

Chicago.—Five hundred members of Commission Drivers' and Helpers' Union, Local 703, went on strike here recently against a $7 a week wage reduction. Millions of dollars worth of produce, moved daily from the South Water Street Market, was tied up. Facing severe loss, the bosses surrendered and the men went back at the old scale.

MASS MEETING SUNDAY

Mass meeting of workers on Cambie Street grounds, Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Subject, "Conscription or Starvation; speaker, Dr. Lyle Telford.

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in order. Several years ago a motion in precisely the same form was introduced upon a like occasion and no question was raised by the Speaker as to its being out of order. A precedent was established and I do not see how it can be said that this is not in order. The only ground upon which he can rule that it is not in order is as to whether it is a relevant matter or not, and that depends on the decision of twenty members. I claim that it becomes your responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to ask whether or not twenty members believe that this is a matter of urgent public importance.

The suggestion has come from the opposite side of the house that already a reference along this line has been made in the speech from the throne. It must be conceded, however, that that is a very general reference, and my colleague has more than answered that when he has shown that similar action was taken on a previous occasion when the members of the present government were in opposition. As to the urgency of the matter, may I emphasize that the grant runs out today and that already a number of municipalities are cutting off direct relief to large numbers of men and women? The municipalities take the ground that they have no help from the Dominion government. What is to be done in such a situation as that? The Dominion government has given no indication of what its policy is to be and tomorrow these men will be on the streets. I have today from a western city a letter along that line.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member confine himself to the point of order?

Mr. Woodsworth: I am submitting that the matter is urgent and I do not know of any way of putting it more strongly than that unless some action is taken before the Easter recess, there is very serious danger that riots will occur.

Some hon. members: Nonsense!

Mr. Woodsworth: Hon. members may say that is nonsense, but if it desired to have the urgency emphasized I cannot put it more strongly than to say that thousands of men are without work and without food, and inevitably there will be riots. For that reason I urge that before the Easter recess some action be taken to meet this emergency situation.

* * *

Later on, under the heading of Supply, Mr. Heaps again tried to introduce the subject, as follows:

Right Hon. R. B. Bennett (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Mr. A. A. Heaps (North Winnipeg): Before you leave the chair, Mr. Speaker, I wish to follow the advice that you gave when you ruled on my motion a few moments ago. You stated that that motion was not debatable, but that other opportunities would occur when the question of unemployment could be raised, and I now take this opportunity of raising it on the motion for going into supply.

Right Hon. R. B. Bennett (Prime Minister): It is hardly competent, Mr. Speaker, for the hon. gentleman to discuss a question that is now before the house in an amendment, and with respect to which you have already ruled.

Mr. Heaps: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that on the motion for supply every member of this house has the inalienable right to discuss any grievance that he wishes to bring before parliament.

Hon. Hugh Guthrie (Minister of Justice): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I submit that a member cannot on the motion for supply make a motion of any kind that he sees fit. He cannot, for instance, discuss a question that is on the order paper; he cannot discuss a question that is under consideration by the house; he cannot anticipate a motion standing in his name on the order paper. Your Honor has directly ruled that this question is under consideration by this house, and I submit that your ruling applies to the hon. gentleman's present remarks.

Mr. Speaker: On the motion to go into supply the ordinary rules of debate are applicable. For instance, I quote the following from Bourinot: 'A matter already decided by the house or of which notice has been given, or which stands upon the orders of the day, cannot be discussed nor can any subject or matter of detail which should be discussed in committee, be debated in these occasions.

The question which the hon. member for North Winnipeg has undertaken to discuss undoubtedly stands for discussion on the orders of the day, because it has been brought before the house through the amendment by the leader of the opposition and also by reference to it in the speech from the throne which is now being discussed in debate before this house and which stands for further discussion.

Mr. Heaps: May I interject, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I am discussing a matter—

Mr. Heaps: Have I not the right to speak?

Some hon. members: Order.

Mr. Heaps: I wish some of the hon. members opposite who last year were so enthusiastic in the discussion of the matter of unemployment would show the same enthusiasm at this time.

Some hon. members: Order.

Mr. Heaps: Have I not the right to move an amendment on going into supply? That is what I am going to do.

An hon. member: Not that amendment.

Mr. Heaps: Hon. members cannot restrict the character of an amendment. No ruling of the house can restrict the character of the amendment I intend to make. I have an amendment to move if it is necessary to move it.

An hon. member: Move it then.

Mr. Speaker: Such an amendment as thought sought to be moved by the hon. member is not in order.

Mr. Gardiner: May I call the attention of hon. members to the fact that no amendment has been moved. Any member of this house has the right upon going into supply to discuss any matter and to move any amendment, and I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is not your duty to rule against an amendment which has not yet been moved.

Mr. Speaker: I understood the hon. member to say he moves an amendment to the same effect as the matter I have already held to be out of order.

Mr. Bennett: The hon. member said he was going to move the same amendment.

Mr. Heaps: I will place my case and my grievance before the house and then I shall state my amendment. At the moment there is no amendment before the house; last year I took exactly the same stand when the house was going into committee of supply. Certainly at that time there was no objection from any place in this house, either from the government or the opposition. From the opposition in the year 1930 we had a great deal of support in the discussion of certain matters when going into supply. Up to now Mr. Speaker, I have not taken up any time of the house with the exception of asking two questions. In connection with one question I had the honor of receiving an answer and the other question I was asked to place on the order paper.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that I would be recreant to my duty towards those people I represent in this house if I did not take the opportunity before the adjournment for Easter recess of drawing to the attention of the house some of the conditions which at the present time prevail in the Dominion of Canada. Those conditions are of such a nature that I feel parliament ought to take some definite action before we adjourn tomorrow. Following the adjournment a great many of us will be going back to our constituencies and will be meeting the people who sent us here. There is hardly a constituency in Canada at the present time which is not suffering from some form of economic distress. The first question which will be asked by our constituents and the first question we will face when we return to our home is, "What has parliament done to cope with the existing crisis?" Hon. members in this house with the possible exception of some members of the government, know nothing of what the cabinet has in mind to meet the conditions which now prevail. We had a special session of parliament. In July last year a change of government took place and at that time the opposition thought it was right and proper immediately after the election to summon the parliament to deal with the then very serious unemployment situation.

Some hon. members: Order, order.

Mr. Heaps: Now, if there was a condition in September last year with which this house should deal, I say that at the present time it is much more necessary. There is no hon. member of this house who will claim that conditions are not worse now than they were in September last year. If conditions are worse in the month of March than they were in the month of September then I think it is high time that parliament had before it certain definite proposals to deal with the existing emergency. When we go to our respective homes at the Easter recess we feel that half of the parliamentary session has expired. Up until this time, however, nothing has been done; not one worthwhile action has been taken by this parliament and no inkling has been offered to the people of this country concerning what action is likely to be taken. After all, Mr. Speaker, I believe the cabinet should have taken the house into its confidence and told the people of this country what it intends to do in order to deal with the present emergency. This is the 31st day of March and money voted in September last practically ceases to exist because parliament is not in a position, except by another act to vote further sums of money. Apart from that, the whole of the $20,000,000 voted by parliament has been more or less used up by municipalities in dealing with the unemployment situation. At the present time, Mr. Speaker, I find a worse condition of unemployment in this country than I have ever known in the past.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Heaps: We could travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific and find these same deplorable conditions prevailing. I have before me certain communications to which I wish to refer to briefly. Here is one from Calgary which reads as follows. It is from the Mine Workers' Union of Canada:

In view of the deplorable conditions which exist in the mining industry throughout Canada.

Another one comes from the province of Nova Scotia. The statement is contained in a report of a special committee of a conference held on January 20 in Halifax. The report reads in part as follows:

Conditions of grave and calamitous unemployment have for some time existed and are at this time prevalent in the coal fields of Nova Scotia.

What else do we find? In the city of Vancouver 10,000 people have registered as being out of work. The number who have registered does not of necessity indicate the total number of people out of work because there are thousands who refuse to register but who nevertheless are unemployed. I could travel to Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg and find a similar condition. In the city of Winnipeg we have had more than 7000 men who have been actually receiving relief from the city. In the cities of Fort William and Port Arthur the same deplorable conditions prevail. In the city of Toronto vast numbers of men are out of work. In fact, only last week in that city a crowd of unemployed men looking for work were actually clubbed because they dared to look for jobs.

An hon. member: That is wrong.

Mr. Heaps: Just a few days ago in the city of Montreal a large number of unemployed men trooped into an office and the man in charge actually shot one of the men who came in looking for work. Apparently the man who did the shooting was afraid some harm might befall him. The man was shot right through his body.

These are the conditions prevailing throughout Canada, and I feel that this parliament ought not to adjourn for the Easter recess until the government brings down immediate measures to cope with the situation. The excuse may be offered that we have been in session only since March 12th. But there is no good reason why the house could not have met two months earlier to deal with the problem. If parliament could have met in September in an emergency session there is no reason why it could not have met at the ordinary time this year so that we could have done something to meet existing conditions.

In the last session of parliament the government adopted three measures which they claimed would in some way alleviate or possibly put an end to unemployment in this Dominion. I never expected for one moment that the party now in power could end unemployment, and I am not going to blame them if they do not end unemployment in this country. The only blame I attach to this government is that hon. members opposite made such wild and rash promises to the electors, representing that they were the only ones who could solve the problem.

I have said that we could have met much sooner so that we might have dealt with the unemployment situation. I was very sorry indeed, Mr. Speaker, when, a few weeks ago, I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) what action the government intended to take to meet this serious state of affairs, the only reply I received from the right hon. gentleman—and then it was only after he had been requested by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) to do so that he replied—was that I should put the question on the order paper. I was to put the question on the order paper and then it might be answered. That may be a way of evading a question, but it is not the way to reply to an important question asked in the House of Commons. If the Prime Minister had answered my question in the way in which a question of that kind should be answered, I might probably not have found it necessary to get up in my place today and insist upon some action on the part of the government. When the Prime Minister of the government evades the answering of such a question, it seems to me the only resource we members have is to bring to the attention of parliament and the country the situation as it actually exists. In fact, when the Prime Minister made that reply to the question I asked him, he said he was going to follow in the footsteps of the former government. Now that is a rather unusual attitude for a Conservative Prime Minister to take in this house. But I have noticed of late how eager the Prime Minister is to follow Liberal practices. Upon his return from the Imperial conference he intimated that he was following in the footsteps of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. And when the right hon. gentleman was in opposition he used to quote continually from Lord Morley's Life of William Ewart Gladstone. He seems to have quite a tender spot for such quotations, a desire to follow in the path of Liberals of the past. I sincerely trust, however, that the Prime Minister will not follow entirely in what the Liberal party has done in the past, but will branch out into new lines in order to meet the problems we have, with new ideas, because the old ideas cannot solve the problems of today. It is no use attempting to deal with twentieth century problems with nineteenth century ideas; it cannot be done.

In September last the government had three proposals for dealing with the unemployment situation. The first was the prevention of dumping into Canada. That was one of their proposals and it became law. But not only did it become law; the government took upon themselves the right and prerogative which for many years parliament has exercised. There is therefore no excuse today that foreign goods are coming into competition with Canadian manufactures. That, as I say, was one remedy. The second remedy was the voting of $20,000,000 to give immediate relief where that was thought necessary. And the $20,000,000 more or less has been spent. Now I want to lay down, first, the maxim that capital expenditures are no remedy for unemployment. In fact, the more capital expenditures are made for unproductive works, the more we aggravate an already serious situation. Consequently the mere voting of sums of money for the carrying on of certain public works will in no way settle the problem of unemployment. Now we come to the third remedy offered by the government—and this was their trump card. They claimed that if the tariff were raised extremely high so as to prevent the importation of goods it would provide work for people at home and practically solve the unemployment problem. Today, after about six months' experience, we find that none of these so-called remedies are in any way a solution for unemployment.

I wish to show, by the figures supplied by the government, the extent of unemployment in Canada at present. I find there were 228,351 persons who received work as a result of the emergency vote passed by parliament last September. They worked a total of 3,975,355 days; that is to say, they worked on an average, approximately 18 days during the last five or six months. Now, the average wage they would receive from those who employed them would be approximately $60. In other words, they earned an average of $60 under the emergency legislation passed last year. What do we find further? In addition to the numbers who received work, there were also large numbers who received relief by way of groceries, meals and so forth. I find on page 11 of the report of 1931, dealing with the unemployment situation that there were 49,946 families and 64,728 individuals who received relief. In other words, over 130,000 persons received direct relief in addition to the 228,351 persons who were given employment during the past few months. This will give some indication of the serious unemployment situation which exists today.

Mr. Heaps' speech is concluded here for this week, but it will be continued next week, along with the speeches made by Mr. Woodsworth, Mr. MacInnis and Mr. Neill of Comox-Alberni. These speeches are all interesting and should have been of sufficient value to have caused the government to admit the emergency but instead of that the two attempts made by Mr. Heaps to get through a motion on the subject and a further attempt by Angus MacInnis to introduce a motion were all ruled out of order.

Eminent Canadians

Three generations ago an energetic Yankee boy appeared in a Canadian city carrying notions in a basket which he sold to the farmers on the market place. He was so poor that he went barefoot in the summertime when pursuing his trade of juvenile hawker, but he was enterprising and keenly perceptive. In a few years he was well dressed, had a fine team of horses, and drove over the country roads, wholesaling to rural merchants. A few years later he had acquired a small workshop and was producing a new household commodity. His business grew rapidly and while he was still a young man his product had gained world-wide fame.

He was one of the first to put Canada on the map as a producer and large-scale manufacturer of a commodity shipped to all corners of the globe. He was an atheist and non-conformist generally, though not given to expressing his opinion on such matters. He was married and a widower before middle age. He had one daughter who had such an optical deformity that not even her father's wealth made her desirable as a matrimonial attraction. At a later age than the average maiden marries this millionaire's' daughter acquired a husband who was not all that he might have been in many respects. A son was born of this union, who inherited some of his father's peculiarities. This grandson of the millionaire manufacturer, after a hectic career, filled an early grave unwept, unhonored and unsung.

The wealthy millionaire who had come to Canada a barefooted boy was now an old man and without family ties, his only child and grandchild being dead. He married a young woman of good character, who made him a faithful wife to the end of his days. When the millionaire died his second wife inherited all his wealth.

When the millionaire's second wife died, in middle age, she bequeathed most of her millions to a bachelor whom she had know from youth and on whom no breath of public scandal had ever blown. This bachelor is now wealthy and spoken of as an eminent Canadian. Perhaps he would have become eminent without the fortunate bequest and then again perhaps he is only eminent because of the bequest.

This "eminent Canadian" has a sister who is past the age at which the average maiden marries. She is a lady of good repute who has engaged extensively in respectable charities, which have the patronage of the proper persons and anything that she may lack in beauty of person is no doubt compensated for by richness of spirit and beauty of soul. At any rate, she has attracted to herself a major, the son of eminent Scotch Divine. When they are married the Major will also be an eminent Canadian. Perhaps he would have been an eminent Canadian anyway, and then again perhaps—but why speculate?

Thus eventually does the wealth of the old atheist manufacturer endow the son of a Presbyterian clergyman who earned his living by preaching the doctrine of pre-destination.

It is perhaps beside the question to mention the fact that the materials used in the factory of the millionaire whom I have mentioned were of such a malignant nature that the bones of women who worked in the factory actually rotted and frequently caused them to die prematurely and painfully. Some of them living for years a hideous sight to all who beheld them. All the workers in that factory for generations worked for pitifully small wages and under the most distressing conditions. They eked out an existence on a diet of salt pork, pea soup and corn-bread with sometimes, as a luxury, buckwheat flapjacks and blackstrap.

Conditions in that factory have improved in later years, largely because of regulation and legislation demanded by organized labor.

Strangely enough those largely responsible for improved conditions in such factories are not spoken of as eminent Canadians. They are variously referred to as Labor skates, Bolsheviks and agitators. Anything but eminent!

This is a true picture of Canadian social and industrial life, past, present and——future?

I have said nothing with the desire to cast personal reflection on anyone in particular. I have simply drawn a word-picture of conditions, privileges and opportunities in this year of our Lord and this land of our birth. Amen.

WM. BOON.

Trades Union Directory

LABOR HEADQUARTERS, 529-531 BEATTY STREET

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council—President, C. McDonald; general secretary, Percy R. Bengough. Office, 200 Labor Headquarters, 531 Beatty St. Phone Sey. 7495. Meets in Labor Hall at 8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays in month.

Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union, Local No. 468, meets first and third Saturday in month at 7:00 p.m. at Labor Headquarters. President, Jas. Brydson; Secretary's Office, Room 304, Labor Headquarters; Hours 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Phone: Sey. 3349.

Beverage Dispensers' Union, No. 676—Meets last Sunday at 8 p.m., Room No. 2, Labor Headquarters; second Friday at 10 a.m. at the office. Pres., M. J. Galvin; Secretary and Bus. Agent, T. J. Hanafin. Office: Room 1, Eagles' Hall, 535 Homer St. Phones Sey. 4783 and Bay. 1656-R. Hours: 9 to 2 p.m.

Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, Local 97, Int. Assoc.—Meets every Tuesday, Hall 2, Labor Headquarters, at 8 p.m. President, Robt. McDonald, Fraser 1248-R; Secretary, P. Lauret, Room 311, Labor Headquarters. Phones: Office, Sey. 7495; Residence, Fair. 5167 R.

Building Trades Council, Vancouver—Meets second and fourth Tuesday in Hall 315, Labor Headquarters. President, W. D. Wilson; secretary-treasurer, W. Page, Room 301, Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 7495.

Barbers' Journeyman International Union of America—Local 120, meets second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, in Hall No. 3, Labor Headquarters. President, Fred Dawe; Sec.-Treas., C. E. Herrett. Office, 304 Labor Headquarters.

Bookbinders' Local No. 105, Int. Brotherhood—Meets second Tuesday in month at Professional and Business Woman's Club, Empire Bldg., 603 Hastings W. President, Mrs. Harvey, 4487 Quebec; Secretary, Thos. Carroll, 842 Hamilton St.

Bricklayers and Masons International Union No. 1—Room 309, Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Wednesday, in Hall No 3. President, J. C. Greenwood, Phone Bay. 8047-Y; Secretary, W. S. Dagnall, 1244 East 20th, Phone Fair. 845-R; Fin. Sec., Albert Wright, 4128 Knight Road, Phone Fair. 2005-R.

Camp and Mill Workers' Federal Labor Union No. 31—Vancouver and vicinity, meets every second Wednesday at 8 p.m., at 544 Powell Street E. President, H. Miyazawa; Secretary, K. Tsuyuki.

Carpenters and Joiners, United Brotherhood of, Local 452—President, Wm. Page; Financial Secretary, R. W. Hatley; Business Agent, W. Hargreaves. Office, Room 310, Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Mondays, 8 p.m., in Hall No. 1.

City Hall Employees' Association—Meets first Wednesday of each month at 195 East Pender St. at 8 p.m. President, E. Mitten; Treasurer and Business Agent, W. J. Scribbins, 3208 Pender St. E.; Secretary, J. Tarbuck, 3517 West 25th.

Civic Employees' Union, Local 28—Meets first and third Fridays in the month at 251½ Hastings East at 8 p.m. President, John McRitchie, 604 West Twelfth; Secretary-Treasurer, George Harrison, 3427 Triumph St.

Egg Graders' Union, No. 11—Meets in the Labor Headquarters, first and third Monday in month. President, R. Gela, 3287 West 21st; Record Secretary, Miss D. Simpson, 627 Carnarvon Street, New Westminster; Financial Secretary, Miss Marjorie Deyell, 555 East 20th, City.

Electrical Workers, Local 213, International Brotherhood—Meets first and third Monday, at 8 p.m., at Labor Headquarters. President, D. McDougal; Business Manager, E. H. Morrison. Office, 201 Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 3510.

Engineers—International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 844—Meets every Friday at 8 p.m., Hall 315. President, F. L. Hunt; Rec. Sec., G. E. Jones; Business Agent and Fin. Sec., George Pettipiece. Office 306, Labor Headquarters. Phone Trinity 6434.

Fire Fighters, No. 18, International Association of—Meets every month at call of President at 251½ Hastings E. President, N. McDonald, 1136 McLean Drive; Financial Secretary, C. A. Watson, 1624 East 8th Avenue.

Floorlayers' Union, No. 1875, U. E. of C. & J. A.—Meets first and third Thursdays in month at Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, Oscar Soderman; Fin. Sec., Jack Nelson; Rec. Sec., John McDonald, 2905 West Twelth; Business Agent, W. D. Wilson, 1535 Fifth Ave. W.

The Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Marine Cooks and Stewards.—Local 28, Suite 39, 413 Granville St., meets second Monday each month at 3 p.m., and last Monday at 9 p.m. President, Flo Allen; Secretary-Treasurer and Business Agent, Harry Wood. Phone Seymour 125.

Ladies' Auxiliary, Local 171—United Brotherhood of Carpenters—Meets every first and third Wednesday of each month in Hall 201, Labor Headquarters, at 8 p.m. President, Mrs. C. J. Atkinson, 730 19th Ave. W.; Secretary, Elizabeth J. Hope, 1042 7th Ave. E.

Lathers, Wood, Wire and Metal, International Union, Local 207—Meets first and third Mondays in month at Labor Headquarters. Secretary, F. Macey, 2456 West Seventh Ave. Phone Bayview 6831 L.

Machinists' Local 692—President, Thos. Sills, 1352 Burrard St.; Secretary, P. R. Bengough. Office, Room 200, Labor Headquarters. Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays in Hall 313.

Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees, Local 464—Office 308 Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Fridays in Hall No. 1. President, J. Mitchell; Secretary-Treasurer, Birt Showler, 2841 Triumph. Phone High. 5327.

Mill and Factory Workers' Union, Local No. 1599—Affiliated with United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners. Meets first and third Thursdays in Hall No. 3, Labor Headquarters. Pres., G. Campbell. Secretary-Treasurer, C. Carslake, 1124 Alberni St.

Motion Pictures Phojectionists' Union, Local 348, of I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.—11:30 p.m., first Friday in month, in Hall No. 3 Labor Headquarters. President, Locksley Clark; Secretary, J. C. Richards, Box 345, Phone Douglas 1574-R; Business Agent, J. R. Foster, Phone Trinity 5708.

Musicians' Mutual Protective Union, Local 145, A. F. of M.—Meets at the G.W.V.A. Auditorium, second Sunday at 10 a.m. President, J. Bowyer; General Secretary, W. Couling; Organizer, F. Fletcher. Office, Suite 307-319 West Pender. Phone Douglas 2290.

Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, Local 138—Meets second and fourth Thursdays at Hall No. 2. President, W. Hunt; Rec. Secretary, A. E. Varah, 1442 Clark Drive; Business Agent, Ed. Smith. Office: Room 313, Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 3603.

Pile Drivers, Bridge, Wharf and Dock Builders, Local No. 2404—Meets every Friday night at 8 o'clock in 122 Hastingsg St. W. President, S. Goy; Jas. Thomson, Secretary, P. O. Box 320. Phone Sey. 7874.

Plasterers, Local 89—Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International Association—Meets first and third Wednesday in month at Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, F. G. Walsh, 378 East 37th, Fras. 108 R; Cor. Sec., A. Harry, 1115 East 33rd, Fair. 3222 R; Fin. Sec., E. A. Williams, 830 East 12th; Phone Fair. 5219 X.

Cement Finishers' Cor. Sec., J. W. Baines, 2866 Turner St.

Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 170, International Association—Meets every second and fourth Friday in Hall No. 2. President, Val Pearson, 787 East 52nd; Financial Secretary and Business Agent, W. Watt, 305-7 Labor Headquarters.

Printing Pressmen and Assistants, Local No. 69—Meets every second Tuesday in the month at 8 p.m. in Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, W. W. Quigley, 2047 West Second; Secretary, Thos. S. Ezart, 1807 East Thirty-eighth.

Railway Carmen of America, Lodge No. 58—Meets first and third Friday in month at Labor Headquarters. President, A. S. Ross, 5806 Sophia Street; Rec. Secretary, J. D. Valliamy, 2215 West 15th.

Street and Electric Railway Employees, Pioneer Division No. 101—Meets K. P. Hall, 8th and Kingsway, first and third Mondays at 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. President, J. E. Smith; Recording Secretary, J. Price; Financial Secretary and Business Agent, H. W. Speed. Office: Corner Prior and Main streets. Phone Sey. 5000.

Sheet Metal Workers' Association, Local Union No. 280—Meets second and fourth Thursdays in Hall No. 3. President, Jas. Strachan, 2205 W. 11th; Business Agent and Secretary, D. MacPherson, 308 Labor Headquarters.

Tailors' Journeymen Union of America, Local No. 178—Meetings held second Monday, each month, 8 p.m. Executive meets fourth Monday of every month in Labor Headquarters. President, Colin McDonald; Secretary, W. W. Hocken, 1582 13th Ave. E.; Financial Secretary, H. Nordlund, 1930 12th Ave. E.

Taxi, Stage and Bus Drivers, Local 151—Meets second and fourth Mondays at 10.30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. President, W. Wilson. Office, 306 Labor Headquarters; Phone, Sey. 7495.

Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, Local 466—311 Labor Headquarters. Meets every First and Third Monday, Labor Headquarters. President, F. T. Goodrich, 1239 Woodland. High. 2095-X; Secretary-Treasurer, Birt Showler, Room 306, Labor Headquarters.

Theatrical Stage Employees' Union, Local 118 of the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O. Meets second Tuesday in Labor Headquarters at 9:30 a.m. President, Geo. W. Allen; Recording Secretary, H. Pearson; Business Agent, B. McGlone, address, P. O. Box 711.

Typographical Union, No. 226—President, C. S. Campbell; Vice-President, E. R. Bayley; Secretary-Treasurer, R. H. Neelands, 300-2 Labor Headquarters. Meets last Sunday of each month at 2 p.m., in Hall No. 1, Labor Headquarters.

Union Label Trades Council meets in Hall No. 4, Labor Headquarters, 529 Beatty Street, second and fourth Thursdays in each month at 8 o'clock. President, Colin McDonald; 2834 St. George Street, Phone Fair. 3317-Y. Secretary, Mollie Dolk, 1587 Fifth Avenue East. Phone High. 477-Y.

URGES INHERITANCE TAX

Toronto. — Unemployment insurance and succession duties, or taxes on inheritances, were endorsed by Albert Matthews, chairman of the Board of Governors of McMaster University, in an address last week. Mr. Matthews said that over 200 people in Britain had incomes of $1,000,000 or more a year, while at the same time some 3,000,000 Englishmen earn an average of $12 per week.

DISCUSSING THE PROGIDY

Adoring Mother: Of course, I know she makes little mistakes sometimes, but you see she plays entirely by ear.

Uncle (on a visit): Yes—er—that's the way I listen, too.

New South Wales Attacks Private Financial Institutions

THE following speech, made by Premier Lang of New South Wales, to an audience of 25,000 people, relative to the action of his government in refusing to pay further interest on the war debt, should be interesting to our readers inasmuch as the Federal Government of Australia has since paid the loan and is suing the State Government for the $2,500,000. The New Zealand Worker says:

"The controversy raging round the proposal to scale down interest rates made by Mr. J. T. Lang, Labor premier of New South Wales, in the speech he delivered on February 23 in the East Sydney by-election, gives an intense interest to his actual statement, only an inadequate summary of which was cabled to the New Zealand press. Over 25,000 people crowded the hall and its vicinity to hear the Premier, and he had what the Sydney Labor Daily describes as a "tumultuous and magnificent reception." They heard the Premier make a vigorous attack on the private financial institutions.

After explaining that the conditions upon which the financial institutions insisted as the price for their assistance in the existing crisis were the suspension of social services, reduction of pensions, lowering of wages, and the removal of any factors which might impede the bankers' plan, Mr. Lang went on to say:

"New South Wales Labor's plan for the reconstruction of Australia is, first of all, a complete scaling down of all interest charges.

"As a first step, we propose that until such time as the oversea financial interests extend to Australia conditions of repayment similar to those which America gave to England, we shall make no further payment of oversea interest.

"In this attitude we feel that we are justified for two reasons:

"Firstly, that the money hitherto sent out of Australia could be put to better use if allowed to remain within our shores; and,

"Secondly, that our indebtedness was caused by our efforts to help England in her dark days.

"The least she can do is to extend a helping hand to Australia, who is now suffering from the aftermath of the war.

"Every year the people of this country are called upon to send away to the British bondholders £36,000,000 ($180,000,000).

"In our prosperous years Australia borrowed from England at the rate of £40,000,000 a year, but since the City of London decided that there is no more loan money available to Australia our governments have had that much less to spend.

"The £36,000,000 which ordinarily is sent out of the country would go a long way towards making up that leeway during these few years of Australia's travail.

Unfair Burden

"But the Labor Party does not say we should withhold payment merely because we are unable to pay. Our attitude is that this £36,000,000 of annual payment is an unfair burden imposed upon the Australian people because of its participation in the war to help Britain, and it is a burden that should be lifted from us as speedily as possible.

"The moment this policy was announced the anti-Australian press, which we have tolerated for so long, denounced it as a policy of repudiation, and if it were repudiation, at least it is not the people of Australia with whom we would break faith; it would be the international financial interests who would be asked to help Australia bear its burden.

"'Our honor is at stake,' is the cry of the anti-Australians, 'we must redeem our debt by paying overseas whatever levy the financial interests care to make upon us.'

"According to the newspapers and many of the leaders of government in Australia, it is honorable to take the pension from the war widow and give it to the London financier; it is honorable to close half our hospitals, turn the sick poor into the street, throw our nurses and hospital attendants out of employment, in order to pay our oversea commitments.

"That is what the bankers said we must do and that it what the opponents of the New South Wales Labor Party say is an honorable thing to do.

Cut Everything

"Cut out your arbitration; cut down your wages; withdraw the maternity allowance; compel your aged people to depend upon their descendants for support or enter a public workhouse—do any of these things before you default in the payment of one penny to the oversea bondholder.

"I am here to say that the Labor Party in New South Wales will never subscribe to such a policy; we will not abandon our Australian people at the dictates of international finance.

"All that Labor in New South Wales proposes is that the bondholder shall not get preferential treatment by way of income over the bred and born Australian who has to work for his living.

"What really is repudiation?

"There are three contracts made by the Governments of Australia. Are we going to break the one we made with the soldier and his widow? Are we going to break the one we made with the worker, in order that we may be able to satisfy the contract we had with the bondholder?

"The soldier and his widow had the word of Australia; the worker had the word of Australia, but the bondholder had our bonds.

"This then is to be the test of an Australian, that his word is not as good as his bond.

"The soldier, the war widow, the sick poor, the worker, who have no bondholders' association behind them are to be mulct so that the extortionate demands of the oversea financial interests may be satisfied."

Interest Rates

"To show how just is the request which the New South Wales Labor Party puts forward, I will quote a few figures.

"Now Australia pays Great Britain slightly more than 5 per cent on her oversea debt.

"Britain pays America 3.3 per cent., Belgium pays America 1.7 per cent., France's interest rate to America is 1.6 per cent., while Italy pays .405 per cent.

"We have a right to ask why should Britain pay nearly three times the interest of France, and more than eight times as much as Italy? But, above all, why should Australia pay almost twice as much as Britain?

"After all, it was Italy, France and England who were in danger of invasion during the Great War, not Australia.

"If Italy is lucky enough to be able to repudiate her war debts and pay an infinitesimal amount of interest, if France is lucky enough to achieve the same thing, it is only because the Italian statesmen had the courage to stand up for Italy and the French Ministers had the ability and the backbone to put the case for France. Surely Australia can find someone who will stand up for Australia?

Facts Which Justify

"These are the facts which justify the Labor movement in this State adopting the policy that unless the oversea money interests fund Australia's oversea debt upon more equitable terms, equal at least to those which America gave to Britain, we will make no further payments in liquidation of our oversea interest commitments.

"We say that the £36,000,000 which Australia has hitherto sent across the water shall remain and circulate in our own country in the relief of unemployment.

"Certainly New South Wales' portion of this amount shall be applied to that purpose.

"The second portion of our proposal is the reduction of interest on Australian loans to £3 per cent, which is to be the first step in a scheme of scaling down the whole of the interest burden being borne by our people.

"To meet the internal situation there are only two proposals before the people:

"That which has been enunciated by the New South Wales Labor Movement and that which is incorporated in the ultimatum.

"That ultimatum reads:

"'Subject to adequate and equitable reductions in all wages, salaries and allowances, pensions, social benefits of all kinds, interest and other factors which affect the cost of living, the Commonwealth Bank Board will actively co-operate with the trading banks and the governments of Australia in sustaining industry and restoring employment.'

"There, in that ultimatum, is the declaration of a lock-out of the people of Australia by the Australian banking institutions.

"The banks know that they can sustain industry and restore employment.

"They say that they will do it if their conditions are complied with, but if the Australian people and the Australian governments refuse to bow their knee to the banks, then the lock-out will be continued.

"The Labor Movement in New South Wales will go out of existence before it will permit the people to be sold into bondage to the financial institutions.

"It is not only to the governments this ultimatum has been delivered. Every farmer, every business man, every employer of labor, has been delivered the same thing.

"What is an adequate and equitable reduction of a war widow's pension, what is an adequate and equitable reduction of an old-age pension or the maternity allowance, or the assistance which governments give to public hospitals and other social services?

"The Labor Movement in New South Wales is firmly convinced that in compelling Australian bondholders to contribute 40 per cent of their interest income towards the relief of unemployment in this State, these same bondholders are only making an adequate and equitable contribution to our people at a time when it is most needed.

"Having got the rate of Government interest down, we are then in a position to scale down the whole of the interest charge being paid by the community. The banks have said they will do this voluntarily if Government interest is reduced.

"In that they are merely making a virtue of necessity, because a Labor Government will see that they are compelled to reduce interest.

To Assist Manufacturers

"If the rate of interest which property-owners are paying were reduced by 40 per cent it would enable the property-owner to get a return for his money, while charging only a fair rent to people who are now working on reduced wages.

"If the factories had their interest bills reduced by that amount, our industries would take on new life and be able to give employment to thousands who are now out of work.

"If the farmer was relieved of the major portion of his interest bill he would no longer be confronted with the awful prospect of having to leave the farm on which he had spent the best years of his life and on which his family had been reared.

"The salvation of Australia lies in this policy of a general scaling down of interest rates."

Mr. Lang went on to say that the financial interests have as their strongest weapon the present system of currency, which is nominally the gold standard.

"Actually we have millions of notes in circulation, behind which is nothing more than the public credit of Australia.

"We print a bank note on which we say that on demand a sovereign will be paid for every note issued, while as a matter of fact there are not enough sovereigns to convert 30 per cent of the notes in circulation.

"The financial interests can manipulate this currency as they wish, and the people have not opportunity of detecting that manipulation apart from experiencing its awful results in widespread depression and unemployment.

"The New South Wales Labor Party propose that the currency should be altered to one more suitable to the times in which we live, and puts forward a system known as the goods standard."

"It is not going to be an easy fight, this fight for the people against the financial interests.

"When you see a staid old newspaper like the Sydney Morning Herald inciting revolution, when you see a newspaper like the Sydney Sun urging the people to take up arms against the constitutionally elected Government, you must realize how desperate and how ruthless these financial interests are.

"It would be far safer for the daily newspapers of Sydney not to infect the populace with these ideas, for a rising would be to them as disastrous as that of Dr. Jamieson was to their kidney in the Transvaal."

EAST SYDNEY BY-ELECTION

The East Sydney by-election, which was fought on the policy outlined by Mr. Lang in the above speech, was decided on Saturday. The voting was:

E. J. Ward (Labor)	19,975
L. T. Courtenay (Nat'n'list)	16,333
W. A. Mountjoy (Communist)	611
Informal	1,068
Majority for Ward	3,642

A GENTLE HINT

Clarence: Does your father think favorably of my suit, dear?

Winnie (coyly): Well — er — he thinks you might—er—press it a little more!

The Labor Statesman

Published every Friday, at Labor Headquarters, Vancouver, B. C.

Owned by the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council.

H. W. Watts, Man. Editor.

PRESS COMMITTEE:

Ed. Smith, Chairman; W. Watt (Building Trades Council); P. R. Bengough (Machinist Trades), R. H. Neelands (Printing Trades), Dan McPherson (Building Trades), B. Showler (Teaming Trades), T. Hanofin (Beverage Trades), C. Herrett (Label Trades); Bert Speed, (Transportation Trades).

Subscription Rates: $2 per Year; to Unions, 16c per month per member.

Phone: Seymour 6279

Vancouver, Friday, April 17, 1931

REPUDIATED DEBTS

The yearly reminder of the repudiated State debts of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisana, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina is at hand in the annual report of the Council of Foreign Bondholders. It sets down the principal of those debts at $75,000,000, largely incurred for railroad guaranties, and adds an estimated $262,000,000 for interest. The U. S. government has steadfastly refused to assume any responsibility for these debts. While the cases are by no means parallel, there is an interesting contrast in the recent action of the Australian Commonwealth government in paying the interest due from New South Wales in London on April 1st, which New South Wales refused to meet. A special dispatch to the New York Times says: "At a conference at The Hague this month the concensus of international opinion on the question generally, without special reference to America, was in favor of federal responsibility for the acts of component states." The United States cites Russian repudiation as a reason for refusing recognition; the Soviet government retorts by citing American State precedents; and the Council of Foreign Bondholders with a singular inability to make fine moral distinctions comments: "The council has pointed out that that abuse of state powers which takes the form of repudiation of public debt is found only in parts of the United States and in Communist Russia."

WAGE CUTS

Rumors afloat in Toronto, New York and Washington say that a campaign to cut wages generally throughout the country has been organized by a powerful but unidentified groups of banks. Perhaps the depression and the unusually large surplus of labor available have made such a drive inevitable. Under our imperfect system supply and demand govern the price of labor as they do that of other commodities. In times of depression there is always present a tendency on the part of the owners of industry to slash pay rolls as the first move toward reducing costs, and contributing in no small measure to this tendency is the pressure exerted by the increasing supply of unemployed labor. Both of these influences are at work today, and although they may not yet have brought about a general wage cut, it appears likely that such a reduction may take place on a wide scale should the depression continue much longer; but it is a question whether financiers or owners of industry would be wise in initiating an organized wage-reduction campaign. A campaign of this character would have its greatest effect in those industries where labor is weakest. But if labor costs in any industry comprise a relatively small part of the total costs of production, the reduction of costs and consequent stimulation of sales in such a case will be relatively small. In industries where labor is organized and enjoys high wages, on the other hand, the campaign will have much less chance of succeeding.

Labor's income has fallen off sharply in the last year through part-time employment. The Standard Statistics Company estimates the decrease in 1930 at $8,853,000,000 as compared with 1929 in Canada and the United States.

Part-time employment has also resulted in decreased labor income, and hence in decreased purchasing power. It is altogether doubtful that industry will be helped by piling on top of this already drastic reduction in labor's earnings another considerable reduction in the shape of indiscriminate wage cuts. The consequent reduction in production costs may stimulate industrial activity, but industry will at the same time have to contend with an equally large cut in consuming power. The return to prosperity for business depends then to a large degree upon the question of whether the benefits of the former outweigh the evils of the latter.

THE OPEN ROAD

AFOOT WITH JACK LOGIE

When Professor Einstein landed in New York in December he received a great deal of publicity for his scientific achievements, but his views on pacifism were largely passed over in silence by the large newspapers. Among other very strong statements with regard to resistance to war psychology, he said: "If you can get only two per cent of the population of the world to assert, in time of peace, that they will not fight you will have the solution of international troubles. Even so small a proportion as two per cent will accomplish the desired result, for they could not be put in jail. There are not enough jails in the world to accommodate them."

The symbolism of the idea appealed to a number of people, and a campaign button was prepared with "2%" inscribed on it. On his departure from America the worthy professor and his wife were presented with a gold and silver button, respectively, and he made a stirring speech in response. The World Tomorrow says in comment: "Governments rest on the will of the governed, and resistance to tyrany is not only a right but a duty. But one suspects that this doctrine is heresy and treason to most Americans today. All honor to Einstein, then, for bringing it to the fore and applying it to the 'criminal action' of war-making. But is it practicable? Perhaps the good professor is so preoccupied with the universe that the little earth and the small affairs of men do not come within his ken. However, figures are figures, and perhaps the thoughtful mathematician has merely deduced a great social fact from natural science. It is an elementary fact of physics that a little lever moves a mass considerably greater than itself. This law applies to social phenomena as well. Great changes are wrought by determined leaders, usually very small in number. The '2%' doctrine is sound social engineering. A very small group, for example, brought about the abolition of slavery. And it seems more than a hope that a determined uncompromising 'Einstein 2% Society' could do exceedingly effective work in abolishing war."

I take pleasure in passing this idea on to the cabinet of British Columbia for what it is worth and if they wish to popularize their budget, they ought to strike off buttons with the symbol "1%" to signify that the wearer had paid his income tax and liked it. On the other it mightn't be a bad idea to wear such a button to show that you didn't like the tax and would go to jail rather than pay it.

* * *

Our big capitalists and political apologists are in a very difficult position these days. They try so hard to induce a cheerful mood in the public at large, but must find it almost impossible to secure a subject for optimism. If the stock market gains a point or two the fact is announced in large headlines on the front pages of all the newspapers, but if it loses all the gains and a great deal more we will find an item in some obscure corner to the effect that there has been a slight recession. Sometimes the article is in that humble, apologetic strain reminiscent of the young doctor who, in his first confinement case, lost the mother and child but succeeded in saving the father.

Such an item appeared yesterday in explanation of the usual set-back, stating that there had been some very discouraging developments with regard to financing the realty situation. We are warned to expect some very bad news just as soon as the powers-that-be see fit to make the information public, so if any of my readers derive their incomes from some mortgage company or loan and investment company they had better decide to postpone that pleasure trip to Alaska this summer. The big banks have been called in to save the realty market, but have decided that it is beyond hope, hence the hint of foreboding in the stock market.

* * *

Every few days another mortgage company goes into the hands of a receiver and on April 1st most of the companies in Los Angeles cut their interest to depositors from 6 per cent to 3½ per cent. (There must be some significance in connection with that particular date, but just what it is I will leave my readers to determine). I have seen it stated that 60 per cent of the income producing property in Los Angeles has been foreclosed, and there is every reason to believe that this statement is correct. It is certainly impossible to secure a building loan of any sort even on good property and with first class security.

At present the United States has most of the gold in the world; the large banks through mergers and taking over smaller institutions, have billions of capitalization, in spite of the slump there are more millionaires than ever and yet the whole financial structure is tottering to its collapse. The bankers are finding that they cannot eat their gold, that paper is a poor substitute for porridge and that while they have thousands of houses and farms on their hands, they can only live in one at a time and the remainder are a terrible incubus hanging around their necks. There is no source of wealth except through labor applied to natural resources, and when the land, mines and factories have been alienated and the worker deprived of any access to those things whereby he must live, the master will find that he has killed the goose which laid the golden egg and through his greed becomes the victim of the very system through which he exploited the wage slaves to their common ruin.

* * *

I have no doubt that there are still people in British Columbia who say that the country would be much better off if we had more capital. I have heard that statement made again and again although it hardly seems possible that anyone could be childish enough to believe it. As a matter of fact, if the workers of British Columbia could be driven to produce dividends and profits on a larger investment than at present, you couldn't keep capital out of the country with a machine gun planted every few feet along the border. Capital will always flow to any place where it can make a profit and where labor is cheapest. The flag is waved at election time and R. B. Bennett extols the wonderful benefits to be gained from Canadian nationalism, but we know that is all poppycock just as well as he does.

Not so long ago I read that a valuable corner on Hollywood Boulevard had been purchased and when a new block had been erected on the site the total investment would be eight millions. And now let me ask my patriotic Conservative friends: where did the capital come from? Why, from Vancouver, of course. If Canadian industry is being strangled for lack of capital, it almost looks as if Bennett had raised the tariff in the wrong place. Canadian banks have lost millions in Mexico, Cuba, New Orleans and elsewhere, and yet if an honest Canadian worker needed a few dollars to tide himself over a tough place and walked into the Bank of Montreal to see about it, he would have to wear a fur coat and ear muffs to keep from being frost-bitten.

Every dollar of foreign money invested in Canadian industry is a symbol that tribute is being wrung from the Canadian worker, and unless he can earn dividends for it you can bet your life it won't be invested. At the same time if Canadian millions are being spent outside of the country it means that the worker has been robbed to that extent and his masters are bleeding him of the surplus which he has produced and which cannot be re-invested because he has already been bled white and has no further surplus to contribute. Some day he will get rid of all parasites, Canadian or foreign, and it is about time he began on the job of elimination.

EIGHTH RULER TO LOSE CROWN IN GENERATION

New York.—The monarchs of seven nations have lost their crowns within the last generation. They are:

Manual II, of Portugal, which became a republic in 1910.

Emperor Pu-Yi, of China, abdicated, 1912.

Nicholas II, of Russia, dethroned by revolution, 1917.

Emperor Charles, of Austria-Hungary, dethroned, 1918.

Wilhelm II, of Germany, abdicated, 1918.

Sultan Mohammed VI, of Turkey, died in 1922, the monarchy passing with him.

George II, of Greece, dethroned, 1924.

Alfonso XIII, of Spain, abdicated, April 14, 1931.

That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with profit.

He had gone into the library to put the thing up to her father, and she was anxiously waiting on the front porch.

"Well," said the suitor when he returned, "he asked me how I was fixed, and I told him I had $3000 in the bank."

"And what did he say to that?"

"He borrowed it."

Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

Other Branches at Winnipeg, Yorkton, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Nelson, Vernon, Kamloops, Victoria.

DOWNSTAIRS ECONOMY FLOOR

Men's Light Work Boots

$3.45

ARE you an inside worker or a carpenter? Then you want to try these easy-fitting black or tan grain blucher boots—they're just the right weight—not too heavy. Sizes 6 to 11.

MAN AND WIFE WANTED IMMEDIATELY!

Who can be depended on to care for what they have. To deposit their papers, securities, titles, jewellery, etc., in the strongest storage vaults in America, located in the centre of Vancouver. It only costs one cent per day for absolute protection, security and privacy. It's the greatest non-worry tonic on earth. Travellers to Vancouver come to see these marvellous vaults—fire-proof, burglar-proof, earthquake-proof. Come and bring your friends. It's well worth while.

402 PENDER STREET, CORNER HOMER

They are giving a special discount until May 1st.

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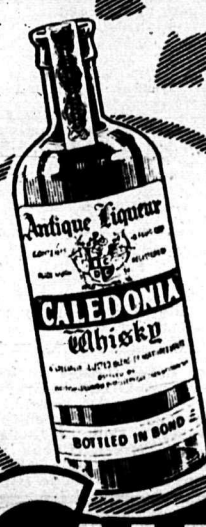
QUALITY

CONVENIENCE

PRICE



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1236-8 SEYMOUR STREET
FURNACE INSTALLATIONS
AND REPAIRS

After 5 o'Clock Phone Fraser 763L-1
Day Phone: Fraser 167
Frank Parsons
ART FLORIST
Wreaths and Wedding Bouquets Made Up
Greenhouses 7059 Wales Rd., Vancouver

Sardis Members 464 Hold Whist and Dance

Employees of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association of Sardis, B. C., who are members of Local 464, Dairy Employees' Union, held their monthly whist drive and dance at the Sardis Community Hall on April 8th. It was very largely attended, and during the evening Miss Mary Campbell gave guitar selections, and Brother Edmondson gave two pleasing solos. Music for dancing was supplied by Miss Beryl Banford's orchestra.

Members of I. L. P. Hear Office Holders

Alderman Deptford and Harry Neelands, School Trustee, gave a brief resume of their official activties to the members of the Vancouver Branch of the Independent Labor Party at the regular business meeting last Friday night. Alderman Deptford outlined the unemployment relief situation and his actions in connection therewith. He told of his efforts, which were in vain, to stop the City Council from informing the government that the Council favored a lower wage for relief workers. He told of his attempt to get the City Council to oppose the one per cent. tax on wages. He stated that 52 per cent. of the city work was now being done by day labor and that further efforts would be made to increase that figure. He answered many questions relative to City Council work, and received a vote of thanks from the members.

Harry Neelands outlined some of the activities of the School Board, and told of his individual efforts to place the workers interests well to the front. He was also accorded a vote of thanks.

Commencing with the month of May the business meetings will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the Williams building.

Correspondence

Editor, Labor Statesman:

An old "saw" runs like this: "A fool can ask more questions than a wise man can answer." Please permit me to ask:

First—Is not the main purpose of education to maintain our institutions and rituals, i.e., The State?

Second—Does not F. Oppenheimer prove it in his "The State"?

Third—Is not the State controlled by a class whose profits are the first consideration and social welfare only considered in as to how it affects their profits?

Fourth—Is not this ruling class's welfare opposed to social welfare?

Fifth—Is it not true that this is selfishness?

Sixth—Is it not true that this selfishness inherent in the mass of humanity demands adjustment in the distribution of mass-produced necessities that social welfare may be attained, or humanity perish?

Seventh—Can humanity survive another "war for liberty" over markets?

Eighth—Is not patriotism the objective of Christian, Mohammedan and secular education?

Who will answer?

IGNORAMUS.

A GRAVE ANSWER

Magistrate: And now, Murphy, give us your last residence.

Pat: Well, Oi have an idea 'twill be the cimitery.

Week At Parliament

By ANGUS MACINNIS

Federal legislators are scarce round Ottawa this week. The Commons chamber does not resound with the oratory of budding statesmen. The members whose homes are not so far away that the journey home and back would not take up the greater part of the eleven days' recess have gone home. Others have gone visiting friends, and a few from the farther away provinces have stayed here and are busy with arrears of work or preparing for new projects which they expect to bring forward during the session, or the time is spent in study, for which this place is well fitted, providing one has the time.

However, the Capital was not devoid of interest or color and thrills for those who have an inclination in that direction.

Since the departure of Lord Willingdon, some time in February, the country has been getting along as well as a country could be expected to get along without a head to its government. There was a substitute we know, but after all a substitute is —well only a substitute.

This incident—I have in mind the interval of time that has elapsed between the departure of Lord Willingdon and the arrival of Lord Bessborough (for he did arrive on Tuesday of this week), is something the Government should take care that does not occur again. We are taking extreme chances when we allow such innovations. The first thing we know some disruptionist will be drawing attention to the fact that if we got along for a month (and the weather was improving all the time) without a Governor-General, is there any reason why we should not do equally well for the other eleven months of the year. And if a Supreme Court Judge can officiate at the opening of Parliament without any apparent ill effect throughout the country, and, when that judge is indisposed, another one may be called upon to do duty in giving assent to a Supply Bill, so that the business of the country may be carried on, it is leaving the way open for some cynical persons to say why not have a Supreme Court Judge perform these functions, which are the chief duties of a Governor-General, at all times and do away with the pomp and expense of a Governor-General altogether. We are not suggesting that we would favor that, but we wish to point out how the Government have exposed the institutions of this country to the attacks of evilly disposed persons, and we have some of them in our midst, who are more interested in practical results than mere show.

We are not even suggesting that any saving that might be made would be used to enlarge the life of the less fortunate of our fellow citizens.

However, Lord Bessborough did arrive and we breathe easier again.

As we were walking from our home to the House of Commons on Tuesday morning, April 7th (a glorious morning it was, too), we noticed soldiers walking from all directions to the armoury, then again when we heard the guns booming on the arrival of His Excellency, and then again when we read in the evening papers a report of their arrival, with descriptions of soldiers, police, mounties, uniforms, guns and other military objects and phrases, we were wondering why rulers and ruling classes everywhere seemed to be eternally linked up with the military forces. Can it be that despite the seeming lip service of our ruling class to democratic institutions that we are still so distrustful of the merit of democracy that we must always have armed force in evidence? Or is it a left-over from an earlier and more primitive stage in our history, which our servitude to convention will not allow us to drop? Or is it a combination of both? While not for a moment accepting the position that wars are caused by man's inherent love of fighting, we think the cause of peace would be furthered by discarding military appendages wherever possible.

We are told by the press that "The scene inside the station was one of glamor," and, although we did not witness it, we agree. "Brilliant uniforms, silk hats, beautiful women, well groomed men, Union Jacks, the flags of all nations, and multi-colored bunting helped to make the traditional pomp and ceremony for a newly appointed representative of His Majesty the King."

Then we are told "At the track which was to hold the vice-regal special stood a red-carpeted platform with steps leading down. The carpet seemed to spread on and on endlessly, like a thin red line, into the rotunda of the depot."

And then we wondered if this was the same Ottawa, the same city where a few days previously, a reputable citizen, the president of the Ottawa South Municipal Association, Dr. W. L. M. MacKinnon, stated at a public school meeting in this same city of Ottawa, "I say that there are conditions in Ottawa today which are appalling as to poverty, people without clothing, living in squalor and without enough to eat."

Just think of it. This Dominion is rich enough to place a carpet that "seemed to spread on and on endlessly" so that the soles of the well made shoes of the Governor General and his party might not touch the vulgar concrete in the covered-in depot, but not rich enough to provide nourishing food, adequate clothing, and decent habitation for the future citizens of the country.

We are wondering if it is too much to hope that some day this country will have a government with humanity enough, and intelligence enough to say that no energy or material will be wasted in a vulgar display in receiving rulers and potentates until such time as full provision is made for the health and happiness of the humblest individual in the land? Is it too much to expect that some day we shall be civilized enough to act in our everyday life as we are supposed to act in times of catastrophe —the weak first?

"Glamor" and "Squalor." How will those two words sum up our civilization?

I. L. P. Players at Maple Hall, April 25

There has been such a big demand for another showing of the "Little Bits From Here and There," which was put on by the I. L. P. Players at the Maple Hall some time ago, that it has been decided to put it on again, so that those who saw it can get their friends to it. There will be some "New Bits" from here and there, but the charge will be just the same, 35c.

The Maple Hall is situated at 47th and Fraser, and this will be your opportunity to see what Labor can do in the way of putting on an interesting and educative show.

Musicians' Notes

By Con Sordine

The Benefit Symphony Concert to be given at the Orpheum Theatre on May 3rd will present on orchestra of 79 players. Rehearsals are now in progress, and, if the financial returns equal the artistic success which the players intend it to be, then the Symphony Society will have every cause to be proud of the achievement.

The last general meeting of the Local until the end of the summer was held April 12th, and thereat the request of the Waiters and Restaurant Employees that the union button should be asked for in restaurants was noted. A report was also received that "Happyland" at Hastings Park had advanced proposals for the importation of an American dance band, which proposals, however, are not looked upon with favor by local musicians.

I was pleased to see we had at last a local union-made nickel cigar on the market, and now I should like to know where I can purchase them, as although I always ask the store I happen to be in does not sell them. I hear privately that the maker is having a little trouble in placing the cigars, so I guess continued requests will eventually bear fruit and they will become readily available. I hope so, as I also heard that they are remarkably fine value for the nickel.

Editor's Note: Kurtz 5c cigar can be obtained from the E. A. Morris Store at 435 West Hastings.

THERE WERE OTHERS

"I called on Mabel last night, and I wasn't any more than inside the door before her mother asked me my intentions."

"That must have been embarrassing."

"Yes, but that's not the worst of it. Mabel called from upstairs and said, 'That isn't the one, mother'."

FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING!
Conklin Garrett Shows
CANADA'S OWN!
NINTH ANNUAL TOUR — SEASON 1931
ELKS' SIXTH ANNUAL
Bazaar-Circus
EIGHT NOVEL AND THRILLING RIDING DEVICES!
TWELVE NEW AND SPECTACULAR SIDE SHOWS!
Astounding and Sensational Twice Daily—Rain or Shine
FREE ATTRACTIONS!
CAMBIE STREET GROUNDS
SEVEN BIG DAYS
COMMENCING
SATURDAY, MAY 2nd, 1931
THIS YEAR'S SHOWS WILL SURPASS ALL PREVIOUS EFFORTS!
BIGGER — GRANDER — GREATER THAN EVER
ALL PROFITS ACCRUING TO THE ELKS FROM THE SALE OF ADMISSION TICKETS TO BE DONATED TO A WORTHY CHARITY

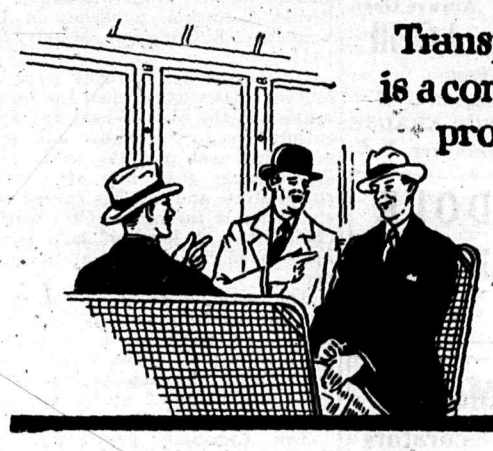
Call Home and Say "All's Well"

When you arrive at your journey's end, telephone!

The folks at home will be wondering how you got along on the trip and if you arrived safely, and you, on your part, will be wondering how they are. So call your home by long-distance—you can be connected within a few moments—and you and the folks there will be delighted with the speedy reunion.

There is nothing so reassuring as the sound of your voice. Tell them by telephone that "all's well."

B. C. TELEPHONE CO.



Transportation is a community problem

SUPPLYING street car service is not like selling groceries. A grocer can quit business and no one would be seriously affected. But a street railway—No.

Transportation is therefore the concern not of the street railway alone, but of those who benefit by it; that is, everybody.

Sometimes matters conspire to make the supplying of transportation difficult if not impossible. Traffic congestion may make car service so slow people will not use it. Fares, regulated by the community or public opinion, may be fixed so low that they do not pay the cost of the service. As a street railway company is not a free agent, these are matters which must be settled by the public if they are to receive good transportation service.

In a public utility service such as a street railway, for which there is no substitute, it is essential that enough persons use it and that those passengers pay a fair rate for it.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO.
VANCOUVER VICTORIA
GW. 6-29

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The Power of Local Industry

MANUFACTURING is the big point in local good times. It makes a community. In this way Pacific Milk is a direct and valuable contributor to British Columbia. Due to the splendid patronage of the people here Pacific Milk is a flourishing enterprise.

Pacific Milk

Factory at Abbotsford, B. C.

100 per cent. British Columbia Owned and Controlled

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MADE IN B.C.
At All Reliable Dealers

Union-Made Shoes

CORNETT BROS & CLARK
33 EAST HASTINGS STREET
Florsheim, Striders, C. B. & C. Men's and Youth's.

WILLIAM DICK, LTD.
Union Label Shoes for Men and Youths.

THE ONLY
UNION MADE SHOE
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MEN'S SHOES FROM $4.95 UP.

Fellow Unionists, demand the Union Label, Shop Card and Working Button, and patronize fair employers and employ UNION LABOR.

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Empire Cafe and Grill
Vancouver's Best
Under Personal Management of
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Men's Tailors
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Everything pertaining to the trade.
3016 VICTORIA DRIVE
Phones: High. 105 and Fair. 4148-R

Castle Hotel
Limited
Visit the Finest Parlors in Vancouver; seating 500.
Meeting Place of Union Men!
750 Granville St., Vancouver
Phone: Sey. 7907

Swatted It

Owner of Small Car (who has crashed with a truck)—"But couldn't you see me coming?"

Truck-driver—"I thought it was a fly on the windshield."—Optimist.

First Barber: "Nasty cut you've given the old gent, Bill."

Second Barber: "Yes. I'm courtin' his housemaid—that's to let 'er know I can see 'er Tuesday night!"

This Russia!

(By JACK DAVIS)

In 1928 the Russian Soviet government inaugurated a policy for the industrialization of their country. This occasioned no more than casual comment in the capitalist newspapers of the world at the time, where it was not merely an uncommented news item. Since then "The Five-year Plan," by which the policy is now known, has absorbed all the attention and energies of the Soviet regime.

The Five-year Plan is Soviet Russia's attempt to produce an industrial progress somewhat comparable to that of United States of America during the past century, with this difference, that all advantages of this progress would flow directly into the lives of the people, enriching and improving them to the extent of the success of the scheme. Roughly, the plan was intended, within the space of five years, to treble the industrial production; increase agricultural production by 400 per cent.; double the coal and oil production and produce a four-fold increase in electrical power, agricultural machinery and in the provision of industrial plants. The intention is to enable Russia to manufacture her own machinery and satisfy her own needs, independent of the outside capitalist world. To increase the standard of living of her 150 million population, and protect it from any possible sabotage is the impelling motive behind the whole plan.

Russia is rich in natural wealth; all the basic commodities of this steel and oil age are to be found in abundance there. It is only a question of providing the necessary modern industrial machinery to ensure an improved standard of living for her teeming millions.

To finance her great scheme Russia was handicapped by the fact that her credits were low in the world capitalist money-market, and her people had to make great sacrifices to make the scheme possible. Every part success, however, made further progress easier. The gains from the collectivised farms are being used to finance the industrial projects. "Piatiletka," the Five-year Plan, which was the fiery cross of the Communist faith, and on which it seemed the people might be crucified, has changed from a fanatical war cry to the practical means of salvation to the many millions of Russian peasantry. A higher standard of living, more educational opportunities, more comfortable clothes and shoes, better homes and more security are the practical gains and promises of "Piatiletka" to the peasantry. What was accepted only with serious misgivings by the Russian peasantry in 1928 is today acknowledged as a decided blessing by these people, as witness the letter from a Russian peasant-farmer to his daughter in British Columbia, published in The Vancouver Evening Sun, March 24th, 1931.

Its success has brought more attention in the world than the inauguration of the plan. Wheat and agricultural products, lumber and pulp, are being sent into the world markets cheaper than any of Russia's competitors, and this has caused consternation in the ranks of the world's capitalists. A howl of holy horror has heaved heavenward at the prospect.

The worshippers of cheapness decry the cheapness of Russia's products; the apostles of competition are loud in their denunciation of this competition; the employers of forced labor are horrified at the spectacle of forced labor in Russia.

The Canadian government has banned the importation of Russian goods because of the alleged conditions under which they were produced despite our large silk and jute trade with the Orient, where labor conditions are much worse. This situation has climaxed a scurrilous campaign of villification and abuse of Russia in which the social, industrial and religious leaders of Canada have vied with each other for the doubtful honor of being the most abusive.

Into this campaign has come Mr. Beaudry Leman, president, Canadian Bankers' Association. Mr. Leman, it seems, has been talking to the Canadian Club of Toronto on the tragedy that is Russia, and The Vancouver Province editor feels that his diatribe is worthy of pride of place in the issue of March 21st.

Mr. Leman sets off with the declaration that the great nations of the world are trying to develop an international spirit of goodwill, but to his horror he finds another influence existing, too. The lynx eye that could see an international spirit of co-operation in the capitalist world had no difficulty in seeing the monkey wrench that was thrown into the mechanism (the mechanism of a spirit would be interesting to see, but a confused metaphor is indeed an unconsidered trifle to such great minds as Mr. Leman's). My readers might be able to guess who threw the monkey wrench—Russia. I must admit that I know nothing of the international spirit of co-operation that Mr. Leman tells us exists amongst the capitalist nations of the world, never heard of it, and certainly cannot see signs of it, nor did I hear anything of the rattling of a monkey wrench as it was hurtled into the mechanism. But one incident in the relations between Russia and the capitalist world is brought to my mind by the simile, though it sounded more like a bombshell than a monkey wrench.

Some years ago the nations of the world met together at Geneva for a disarmament conference. Russia was represented, too, and to the astonishment of all, the bad and bearded Bolshevik proposed TOTAL DISARMAMENT. The conference was greatly offended and the press of the world gloriously abused the instigators of such a dastardly policy.

But, to get back to our advisor, counsellor and friend, Mr. Leman, who, unfortunately, is only speaking in a desultory way and not trying to analyze basic causes. We sure would like to hear him when he is engaged in more serious discussion. As it is, he says some queer things. Though even in discursive, desultory talking a clear understanding of the economic terms one uses is absolutely necessary for understanding and discussion. After wading through two long paragraphs in which Mr. Leman is quite confused with the term "capital"—confusing it with wealth-producing machinery for social needs—he reaches the remarkable conclusion that if the Soviets are anxious to destroy capitalism they should immediately proceed to smash existing machinery and aim at a machine-less world. One may destroy monarchy without killing a king, and similarly we shall destroy capitalism without smashing machines.

Following on this confusion, Mr. Leman sees a tragic loss to personal initiative in the Communist regime; whereas the merits and stimulating qualities of private property, personal initiative and individual capital are among our richest possessions in this land of the free. It must be a comforting thought to the unemployed worker to know that he can exercise freely all the qualities of personal initiative, private property, and individual capital. The skilly will taste like wholesome soup at the thought of it.

Conversely, the Russian worker, while his mind is opening to the wonders of culture and art and literature made possible by the new educational policy of the Bolsheviks and long denied him under the Czar, must in moments of meditation sigh for his lost individuality.

So much then for Mr. Leman. In conclusion let me say that the present interest in Russian affairs arises probably more from a fear that the new policy will succeed than from any concern for the condition of the people of Russia. If it can be shown that, through regulation and control of modern machine production, the Russian people can be raised from an illiterate, half-starved, ill-clothed and badly-housed nation of serfs to an educated, well-fed, well-clothed, dignified and responsible nation of free citizens, then the wisdom of the Socialist idea has been demonstrated.

MUNICIPAL HEATING PLANT IS BIG SUCCESS

Private stoves and furnaces are getting rarer and rarer in Winnipeg, Man. Two hundred of the city's business buildings have been served since 1925 by the municipally-owned central heating plant, so efficiently that the voters have authorized the expenditure of $450,000 for the enlargement of the plant and the extension of its mains all over the city.

The plant, by burning Canadian lignite, has cut import of United States coal by 50,000 tons a year. It is said to save 12 per cent. to 40 per cent. on fuel bills. The affair has been so profitable for the city that private capital is trying to squeeze in.

FINANCIERS FLAYED BY ALBERTA LEGISLATORS

Edmonton, Alta.—Banks, mortgage companies and financial corporations are severely criticized by a sub-committee of the Alberta legislature, which has just concluded an exhaustive investigation into the relations between these institutions and the farmers.

Perhaps the most serious charge is that excessive rates of interest are charged in the west.

The committee urges legislation to curb the greed of the financiers.

HAZELWOOD ICE CREAM
THE ONLY 100 PER CENT. UNION ICE CREAM IN THE CITY!
PHONE: SEYMOUR 2090
Hazelwood Creamery, Limited

HOME GAS MADE IN B.C.
You can buy no better

RED STAR DRUG STORE
"The Mail Order Druggist"
We Make a Special Effort to Get Goods Out by First Mail After Receipt of Your Order.
CORNER CORDOVA AND CARRALL VANCOUVER, B. C.

VANCOUVER'S LEADING UNION HOUSE!
The New Orpheum Cafe
Private Banquet Hall Prop.: Jas. P. Dwyer
762 GRANVILLE STREET PHONE: SEY. 3346

Trades and Labor Council Affiliations

The following local unions are affiliated with the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council:

Asbestos Workers, No. 54.
Bricklayers, No. 1.
Barbers, No. 120.
Boilermakers, No. 194.
Bakers, No. 468.
Brewery Workers, No. 300.
Beverage Dispensers, No. 676.
Bookbinders, No. 105.
Blacksmiths, No. 151.
Boot and Shoe Workers, No. 505.
Carpenters, No. 452.
Carpenters, No. 1251.
Civic Employees, No. 28.
Civic Employees, Burnaby.
Camp and Mill Workers, No. 31.
Engineers, No. 882.
Electrical Workers, No. 213.
Egg Graders, No. 11.
Elevator Constructors, No. 82.
Operating Engineers, No. 963.
Fire Fighters, No. 256.
Fire Fighters, No. 18.
Fire Fighters, No. 296.
Floorlayers, No. 1875.
Firemen and Oilers, No. 289.
Glass Blowers' Association, No. 53.
Hotel and Restaurant Employees, No. 28.
Ironworkers, No. 97.
Jewellery Workers, No. 42.
Lathers, No. 207.
Lithographers, No. 44.
Meat Cutters.
Milk Salesmen, No. 464.
Machinists, No. 151.
Machinists, No. 182.
Machinists, No. 692.
Molders, No. 281.
Mill and Factory Workers, No. 1599.
Mill and Factory Men, No. 1896.
Millwrights, No. 1638.
Mental Hospital Attendants, No. 35
Maintenance of Way Employees, No. 31.
Musicians, No. 145.
Operating Engineers, No. 844.
Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 170.
Painters, No. 138.
Plasterers, No. 89.
Plasterers' Helpers, No. 602.
Pile Drivers, No. 2404.
Printing Pressmen, No. 69.
Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 571.
Picture Projectionists, No. 348.
Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, No. 58.
Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, No. 280.
Sheet Metal Workers, No. 280.
Sheet Metal Workers, No. 314.
Street Railway Employees, Div. 101.
Sign Writers, No. 726.
Steam Shovel and Dredgemen No. 46A
Stone Cutters.
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MEETS second Thursday in each month. President, S. D. McDonald, Box 268, Secretary, Frank Derry, Box 498, Prince Rupert, B.C.

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"The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists"

The majority of the guests were standing. The floor was sprinkled with sawdust, which served to soak up the beer that slopped out of the glasses of those whose hands were too unsteady to hold them upright. The air was foul with the smell of beer, spirits and tobacco smoke, and the uproar was deafening, for nearly everyone was talking at the same time, their voices clashing discordantly with the strains of the polyphone, which was playing "The Garden of Your Heart." Several impatient customers were banging the bottoms of their empty glasses or pewters on the counter and shouting their orders for more beer. Oaths, curses, and obsence expressions resounded on every hand, coming almost as frequently from the women as the men. And over all resounded the rattle of money, the ringing of the cash register, the clinking and rattling of the glasses and pewter pots as they were being washed, and the gurgling of beer as it gushed into the drinking vessels from the taps of the beer engine, whose handles were almost incessantly manipulated by the barman, the Old Dear and the glittering landlady, whose silken blouse, bejewelled hair, ears, neck, and fingers scintillated gloriously in the blaze of the gaslight.

The scene was so novel and strange to Ruth that she felt dazed and bewildered. Before her marriage she had been a total abstainer, but since then had occasionally taken a glass of beer with Easton for company's sake with their Sunday dinner at home. But it was generally Easton who went out and bought it, and she had never before been in a public house to drink. So confused and ill at ease did she feel that she scarcely heard or understood Mrs. Crass, who talked incessantly, principally about their other neighbors in North Street, and also promised Ruth to introduce her presently—if he came in, as he was almost certain to do—to Mr. Partaker, one of her two lodgers, a most superior young man, who had been with them now for over three years and would not leave on any account. In fact, he had been their lodger in their old house and when they moved he came with them to North Street, although it was farther away from his place of business.

meantime, Crass and Easton—the latter deposited the string bag on the seat at Ruth's side—arranged to play a match of Hooks and Rings with the Semi-Drunk and the Besotted Wretch, the losers to pay for drinks for all the party, including the two women. Crass and the Semi-Drunk tossed up for sides. Crass won, and picked the Besotted Wretch, and the game began. It was a one-sided affair from the first, for Easton and the Semi-Drunk were no match for the other two. The end of it was that Easton and his partner had to pay for drinks. The four men had a pint each of four ale and Mrs. Crass had another threepennyworth of gin. Ruth protested that she did not want any more to drink, but the other rediculed this, and both the Besotted Wretch and the Semi-Drunk seemed to regard her unwillingness as a personal insult, so she allowed them to get her another half-pint of beer, which she was compelled to drink, because she was conscious that the others were watching her to see that she did so.

The Semi-Drunk now suggested a return match.

Although they played more carefully than before, and, notwithstanding the fact that the Besotted Wretch was very drunk, Easton and his partner were beaten and once more had to pay for the drinks. The men had a pint each, as before. Mrs. Crass—upon whom the liquor so far seemed to have no effect—had another threepenny-worth of gin, and Ruth consented to take another glass of beer on condition that Easton would come away directly their drinks were finished. Easton agreed to do so, but, instead of keeping his word, he began to play a four-handed game of shove-ha-penny with the other three, the sides and stakes being arranged as before.

The liquor was by this time beginning to have some effect upon Ruth; she felt dizzy and confused. Whenever it was necessary to reply to Mrs. Crass's talk she found some difficulty in articulating the words and she knew she was not answering very intelligently. Even when Mrs. Crass introduced her to the interesting Mr. Partaker, who arrived about this time, she was scarcely able to collect herself sufficiently to decline that fascinating gentleman's invitation to have another drink with himself and Mrs. Crass. After a time a kind of terror took possession of her, and she resolved that if Easton would not come home when he had finished the game he was playing she would go home without him.

Meantime the game of shove-ha'penny proceeded merrily, the majority of the male guests crowding round the board, applauding or censuring the players as occasion demanded. The Semi-Drunk was in high glee for Crass was not much of a hand at this game, and the Besotted Wretch, although playing well, was not able to make up for his partner's want of skill. As the game drew near its end and it became more and more certain that his opponents would be defeated, the joy of the Semi-Drunk was unbounded, and he challenged them to make it double or quits, a generous offer which they wisely declined; and, shortly afterward, seeing that their position was hopeless, they capitulated and prepared to pay the penalty of the vanquished.

Crass ordered the drinks and the Besotted Wretch paid half the damage—a pint of four ale for each of the men and the same as before for the ladies. The Old Dear executed the order, but by mistake, being very busy, he served two "three's" of gin instead of one. Ruth did not want any more at all, but she was afraid to say so, and she did not like to make any fuss about it being the wrong drink, especially as they all assured her that the spirits would do her more good than beer. She did not want either; she wanted to get away, and would have liked to empty the stuff out of the glass on to the floor, but she was afraid that Mrs. Crass or one of the others might see her doing so and that it might lead to trouble Besides, it semed easier to drink this small quantity of spirits and water than a glass of beer, the very thought of which now made her feel ill She drank the stuff, which Easton handed to her, at a single draught, and, handing back the empty glass with a shudder, stood up resolutely

"Are you coming home now? You promised you would," she said.

"All right; presently," replied Easton. "There's plenty of time; it's not nine yet."

"That doesn't matter; it's quite late enough. You know we've left the child at home in the house. You promised you'd come as soon as you'd finished that other game."

"All right, all right," answered Easton, impatiently. "Just wait a minute; I want to see this, and then I'll come."

"This" was a most interesting problem propounded by Crass, who had arranged eleven matches side by side on the shove-ha'penny board. The problem was to take none away and yet leave only nine. Nearly all the men in the bar were crowding round the shove-ha'penny board, some with knitted brows and drunken gravity trying to solve the puzzle, and others waiting curiously for the result. Easton crossed over to see how it was done, and, as none of the crowd were able to do the trick, Crass showed that it could be accomplished by simply arranging the eleven matches so as to form the word NINE. Everybody said it was very good indeed, very clever and interesting. Both the Semi-Drunk and the Besotted Wretch were reminded by this trick of several others equally good, and they proceeded to do them; and then the men had another pint each all round as a reviver after the mental strain of the last few minutes.

Easton did not know any tricks himself, but he was an interested spectator until Ruth came over and touched his arm.

"Aren't you coming?"

"Wait a minute, can't you?" he cried roughly. "What's your hurry?"

"I don't want to stay here any longer," said Ruth hysterically; "you said you'd come as soon as you saw that trick. If you don't come I shall go home by myself. I don't want to stay in this place any longer."

"Well, go by yourself if you want to!" shouted Easton fiercely, pushing her away from him. "I shall stop 'ere as long as I please, and if you don't like it you can do the other thing."

Ruth staggered and nearly fell from the force of the push he gave her, and the man turned again to the table to watch the Semi-Drunk, who was arranging six matches so as to form the numeral XII, saying he could prove that this was equal to a thousand.

Ruth waited a few minutes longer, and then, as Easton took no further notice of her, she took up the string bag and the other parcels, and, without staying to say good-night to Mrs. Crass, who was earnestly conversing with the interesting Partaker, opened the door with some difficulty and went out into the street. The cold night air seemed refreshing and sweet after the foul atmosphere of the public house. But after a little while she began to feel faint and dizzy and was conscious also that she was walking unsteadily, and she fancied that people stared at her strangely as they passed. The parcels felt very heavy and awkward to carry, and the string bag seemed as if it were filled with lead.

Although under ordinary circumstances it was only about ten minutes' walk home, she resolved to go by one of the trams which passed by the end of North Street.

Two trams passed without stopping, for they were already full of passengers, a common circumstance on Saturday nights. The next one stopped, and several persons alighted, and then ensued a fierce struggle among the waiting crowd for the vacant seats. Men and women pushed, pulled and almost fought, shoving their fists and elbows into each others' sides and breasts and faces. Ruth was quickly thrust aside and nearly knocked down, and the tram, having taken aboard as many passengers as it had accommodation for, passed on. She waited for the next one, and the same scene was enacted with the same result for her, and then, reflecting that if she had not stayed for these trams she might have been home by now, she determined to resume her walk. The parcels felt heavier than ever, and she had not proceeded very far before she was compelled to put the bag down again upon the pavement outside an empty house.

Leaning against the railings she felt very tired and ill. Everything around her, the street, the houses, the traffic, seemed vague and shadowy and unreal. Several people looked curiously at her as they passed, but by this time she was scarcely conscious of their scrutiny.

Slyme's "open air" that night, conducted by the Shining Light Mission, had been a most successful meeting, and when it was over, Slyme set off to his lodging at a good pace, for the evening had turned cold and he was anxious to get home to the fire. He had not gone very far when he saw a small crowd of people on the pavement on the other side of the road, outside an unoccupied house, and, in spite of his hurry, he crossed over to see what was the matter. There were about twenty people standing there, and in the centre, close to the railings, he could hear the voices of three or four women.

"What's up?" he inquired of a man on the edge of the crowd.

"Oh, nothing much," returned the other; "some young woman; she's either ill, come over faint, or something—or else she's had a drop too much."

"Quite a respectable looking young party, too," said another man.

Several young fellows in the crowd were amusing themselves by making suggestive jokes, and causing some laughter by their expressions of mock sympathy.

"Doesn't anyone know who she is?" said the second man who had spoken in reply to Slyme's inquiry.

"No," said a woman who was standing a little nearer the middle of the crowd, "and she won't say where she lives."

"She'll be all right now she's had that glass of soda," said another man, elbowing his way out of the crowd. As this individual came out Slyme managed to work himself a little further into the group of people and he uttered an involuntary cry of astonishment as he caught sight of Ruth, very pale, and looking very ill, as she stood clasping one of the railings with her left hand and holding the packages of groceries in the other. She had by this time recovered sufficiently to feel overwhelmed with shame and confusion before the crowd of strangers who hemmed her in on every side and some of whom she could hear laughing and joking about her. It was, therefore, with a sensation of intense relief and gratitude that she saw Slyme's familiar face and heard his friendly voice as he forced his way through to her side.

"I can walk home all right now," she stammered in reply to his anxious questioning, "if you wouldn't mind carrying some of these things for me."

He insisted on taking the bag and all the parcels, and the crowd, having jumped to the conclusion that he was the young woman's husband, began to dwindle away, one of the jokers remarking, "It's all over!" in a loud voice as he took himself off.

It was only about seven minutes' walk home from there, and, as the streets along which they had to pass were not very brilliantly lighted, Ruth was able to lean on Slyme's arm most of the way. When they arrived home, after she had removed her hat, he made her sit down in the armchair. The fire was burning brightly and the kettle was singing on the hob, for she had banked up the fire with cinders and small coal before she went out.

The baby still lay asleep in the cradle, but his slumbers had evidently not been of the most restful kind, for he had kicked the bed clothes off him and was lying all uncovered.

Ruth obeyed passively when Slyme told her to sit down, and, lying back languidly in the armchair, she watched him, through half-closed eyes and with a slight flush on her face, as he deftly covered the sleeping child with the bedclothes and settled him more comfortably in the cot.

Slyme now turned his attention to the fire and, as he placed the kettle upon it, he remarked: "As soon as the water boils I'll make you some strong tea."

During their walk home she had acquainted Slyme with the cause of the misfortune which had befallen her, and, as she reclined in the armchair drowsily watching him, she wondered what would have happened to her if he had not passed by when he did.

"Are you feeling better?" he asked, looking down at her.

"Yes. I feel quite well now; but I'm afraid I've given you a lot of trouble."

"No, you haven't. Nothing I can do for you is a trouble to me. But don't you think you'd better take your jacket off? Here, let me help you."

While he was helping with the jacket Slyme suddenly took her in his arms and kissed her repeatedly.

There came a cry from the cradle, and at the sound a shudder went through Ruth's limp and unresisting form. She wrenched herself free from his passionate embrace and struck at him so furiously that he recoiled before her and retired upstairs trembling and disconcerted.

The following week the Eastons' room was once again to let.

(Continued next week)

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I. L. P. NOTES

Propaganda Meeting

Don't forget to come and hear Comrade Skinner lecture on "Money or the Gold Standard," in the Williams building, corner of Granville and Hastings, Friday (tonight), April 17th, at 8 p.m. Come and bring your friends.

Gandhi Also Champions Organized Labor

Gandhi swept everything before him at the All-India National Congress. Now he is preparing to go to London, clad in a breech clout, to dictate terms to the British Empire.

Those who read his "24 points" will see that he is seeking industrial as well as political freedom. He champions labor's right to organize, and demand higher wages and shorter hours, as well as adult suffrage for both men and women.

Miss Slade's Choice

As he told his followers, he is asking for more than he expects to get. But if he is as shrewd a bargainer as his conduct up to date would seem to indicate, he will win such concessions as no Indian Nationalist dared to hope for a year ago.

Miss Slade, daughter of a famous English admiral, has abandoned family, religion and nationality in order to become a maidservant of this frail old man. Don't hastily jump to the conclusion that she is crazy.

If she can assist in preserving the spark of life in Gandhi until the pending negotiations are concluded, and a new regime is launched in India, she will have rendered a service which may help mold the destinies of hundreds of millions of human beings.

SPRING CLEANING

Don't forget that Wilson & McNeil can do a first class painting or paperhinging job. Look up their advertisement on page six, or phone them up at Highland 105 or Fairmont 4148-R. You will be delighted with their work and the price won't enrage you.

THE GOLD STANDARD

What do you know about the Gold Standard or the way that little thing called INTEREST attacks us every day in our lives? If you want to get an eye-opener or a peep behind the scenes of financial manipulations, go to the I. L. P. propaganda meeting this (Friday) evening at the Williams building, Granville and Hastings, and hear Robert Skinner on "The Gold Standard." Admission free.

CARLETON BRANCH, I. L. P.

Four new members were enrolled in the Carleton (Collingwood) Branch of the I. L. P. at the last meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23rd, in the Memorial Hall, Joyce and Kingsway. On Saturday, May 14th, the I. L. P. Players will be at the Norquay Hall, Slocan and Kingsway.

Elks' Sixth Annual Bazaar-Circus Near

The forthcoming engagement of the always popular Conklin and Garrett Shows in this city will be eagerly awaited by the outdoor amusement patrons who look forward each spring to a week of fun and frolic. This year finds the Conklin and Garrett management sponsoring many new and novel feature attractions of the better sort—the kind that appeals to the most discriminating and fastidious amusement seeker, and again catering as of yore to the family patronage.

This year's engagement will begin on May 2nd, on the Cambie Street playground, under the auspices of the local lodge of Elks and the net proceeds of the week's fun and frolic will be devoted to a most worthy charity. For the past seven years this giant amusement enterprise has played in this city and has always won the highest praise and liberal patronage because of its firmly established policy of giving the public the highest type of censored amusement features, together with the latest and most original ideas of show offerings. For several years the headquarters of the show has been here in Vancouver and it is regarded as a local amusement institution. It is here that its owner, J. W. ("Paddy") Conklin lives with his family and it is here that his winter quarters are located and where many of the attaches of the show maintain permanent homes when not "trouping" on tour during the summer months. Thousands of dollars are expended every winter with local merchants for various merchandise. Supplies in large quantities are bought here annually and it is a permanent fixture of which all the city of Vancouver is proud. Local merchants benefit plentifully because of the fact that the genial "Paddy" Conklin selected this city as the permanent base for his big amusement enterprise, and are proud of the enviable reputation achieved by the show here and elsewhere.

Lend Me Your Eyes!

(By BILL)

Farmers.
Bankers.
Interest.
City Halls.
Bed-time.

Our Member of Parliament, Angus MacInnis, made an excellent showing in delivering his first speech in the House at Ottawa. In reading over same I notice that he commented on the Farmers' attitude toward the banker, and the farmers' simple faith in his dealings with the bank. I think Angus should have gone a little further in his explanation to them, although he gave a fairly good description of their methods. Now, here's how I have the banks sized up: to begin with, I may state that I have a friend who is a banker; I never tried to borrow any money from him, which explains why he is my friend.

* * *

Now you put your money in the bank, and if in the meantime they haven't gone broke, you may get a small interest if you leave it in long enough in the savings department, but if you happen to borrow from the bank, the interest is altogether different. Oh yes, try it and you will be surprised. When you put your money in the bank they give you a bank book, that is to show you how much you lose if the bank goes bust; at least that's what the miners in Fernie, who deposited their savings in the Home Bank, figured the book must be for. When you go back to the bank for some money, the money they give you, if they do let you have it, is not the same money you deposited. Oh no, that has already been lent out at a big interest to somebody else. What you get in the money some other fellow had just brought in.

* *

No doubt most of you have seen that fellow at the Orpheum Theatre, with the seven bottles in the air and one in his hand, and no doubt that's where the banker got his idea first, because you notice he has always got some money in hand, and the rest is somewhere else. His idea is that we won't all want our money at the same time; but, gosh, once in a while this happens, and then there is a devil of a mess.

* * *

Talking about money, I think this is the opportune time for our City Council to make arrangements in regards to borrowing some for the purpose of building a city hall. We have heard the cry for a new city hall for a number of years, and we sure need one badly. A great saving can be made at the present time, owing to the low cost of all building material, and it will also help to relieve the unemployment situation in the building trades. The city hall question is getting to be a joke, but here's hoping the City Council will get down to business and once for all make up their minds at an early date that a city hall is a real necessity and plans be laid, and a start made, on a building which Vancouver citizens can be proud of.

* * *

Who has not read in The Province, Burgess Bed-time Stories? I believe the kids get a great kick out of them. I read them to the kid on Tuesday night. The title was "Peter Rabbit Stays at Home," and it told you all about Peter Rabbit going into the green forest and nibbling the twigs. After the kid went to bed, I turned to the front page and read about another Burgess Bed-time Story. Of course, this story was not about a rabbit; it was a police commissioner, and he did not stay at home, although he is alleged to have gone after bed-time and nibbled a few twigs. He states he did not back up a truck and steal a house, and this I have found to be correct, because we have investigated and found that the house is still there; at least most of it.

* * *

Shame on you, Burgess; what is a decent married man doing out between three and four in the morning? Oh, well, maybe he was gathering material for Burgess Bed-time Stories, or maybe it was a plank for his platform as police commissioner. Anyhow we should worry, because the other rabbit—I mean police commissioner—Norman McLean, has absolute faith in his partner who has been accused of going into the green forest. But, dear reader, be careful and don't read the wrong Burgess Bed-time Story to the kids, because there may be a number of Burgess stories in the papers for the next few weeks.

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.40	Barbasol	.23	
.60	Williams' Aqua Velva	.37	
.25	Colgate's Cashmere Boquet Soap	.17	
1.25	Stroh's Malt Extract	.70	
.35	William's Holder Top Shaving Sticks	.23	
.25	Glycerine Suppositories; Children's; 6's	.16	
1.00	Nujol	.73	
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HE LEFT HIM COWED

A Kansas stockman, who had mortgaged his cattle to the local bank, was called in by the banker and told that the note was due and must be paid the following day. The stockman asked the banker:

"Were you ever in the cattle business?"

The banker answered "No."

The cattleman said: "Well, you are now," and walked out.

The human is the only animal that can be skinned twice.

MONTREAL ABOLISHES 10-HOUR DAY AT LAST

Employees of the city of Montreal will be given the 8-hour day with no reduction in wages on May 1st, according to a recent announcement by Mayor Houde. At present laborers work a 10-hour day and are paid 40 cents an hour. After May 1st the 50-cent hourly rate will prevail.

Laborers will therefore receive 50 cents an hour for eight hours where they formerly got 40 cents an hour for 10 hours.