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WHY LABORERS SHOULD FORM STUDY CLUBS

The average laborer knows very little about his employment. He accepts the job, does, and usually does well, the work assigned to him, draws his meagre cheque at the end of the fortnight and takes it home. He complains that it is not enough, but how many set about to learn just why it is "not enough" and how it can be remedied. Two years ago the laborers in and about Newcastle on strike. They demanded more wages. The Premier came over and a round table talk followed. The local employer was able to show the men that he at least was not able to pay more wages. The men returned to work more or less satisfied. They were convinced that that particular employer could not pay them more wages.

But did they attempt to ascertain just why that employer could not pay more wages. They all agreed that the wage was too low. Did any one attempt to ascertain how conditions might be changed whereby the employer would be enabled to pay more wages? If anyone did, either he did not succeed or else he hid his knowledge under the proverbial bushel. Certainly the knowledge never came to light, and the wages did not increase. If anything they sank still lower. There has been no talk of strike since.

The "Strike" is a potent weapon in the hands of labor when properly applied, but it should in all cases be applied judiciously. Most of our small operators are finding it difficult to make ends meet. They recognize the fact that men are under paid but in many instances they are unable to remedy it. And yet some where there must be a remedy. And the laborer is in the better position to put the remedy into effect, because of his superior voting power. But before he must first ascertain wherein lies the remedy; and he can find that out only by study. So laborers should, if they wish to be anything more than the slaves of Capital, group themselves together and study out the remedy, and then PUT IT INTO EFFECT. Strange as it may seem the employer is not in the best position to bring about REFORM. Reform has always sprung from the masses; it has never been handed out by the Bourgeois. It has had its champions among the upper classes, but it has never sprung from them. And it has never come without a struggle. The history of reform and government is the history of the proletariat striving against the oppression of men in high office. The Barons against King John; the rebellion of Simon de Montfort against Henry III; the Commons against Charles I

the Gordon riots; our own struggle in Canada for Responsible Government. As Sir Ernest J. P. Benn has put it it takes centuries to win a little freedom and a very few minutes to destroy it."

Our Responsible Government, as we call it, has not been the cure all that we would have it. The centralization of Capital in the hands of a few paralyzed. Responsible Government; it exists only on paper and in imagination. The Hon. Mr. Stevens said that twelve men control the wealth of Canada. If that is true then they control the Government as well; for without money and the power which it generates, no Government can carry on for very long.

Here in New Brunswick we have a lingering recollection of what was known as the "Northumberland Deal". We know the struggles that were made to break up the long term leases. Did they succeed? Instead of leases for twenty-five years they now have them extended to fifty years. When a Liberal Government under the Hon. P. J. Veniot endeavored to confront the lumber interests in 1925. What happened? Laborers voted him out of office. Why? They were promised two pulp mills. By whom? The then premier of this province went about this county exhibiting an agreement by which certain Capitalist leaseholders would build up Greater Miramichi. Labor swallowed the bait. The Liberal ticket was defeated at the polls. And what happened after that? Capital got a lien on the County of Northumberland for the next fifty years and we got the dole.

Labor must look these facts squarely in the face. This state of affairs was brought about by THE VOTES OF LABOR. A rosy picture of an Eldorado was painted for your consumption. The big propaganda of Big Business was carried about on the shoulders of Labor; You spread the gospel everywhere. You worked yourselves up into a frenzy and VOTED YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION. Five years later the same propaganda was tried, but not so successfully. To the Credit of Labor it spurred the prophets. But the damage was already done. Our Crown Lands were tied up for half a century, and today laborers walk the streets of Newcastle and Chatham begging for employment that has been denied them. When we set about to look over the labor situation, we are met by the stereotyped reply that there is no sale for lumber. Why should Labor have to be dependent solely upon the price of lumber for a daily wage? We are stumbling blindly forward as the wheat growers of the West and the potato growers of

the East. With this difference, that when the wheat growers got caught up on the horns of the bankers they, being organized, stretched out their hands to the Federal Treasury and got what they wanted. Today the Government is paying them the bonus on the 1931 wheat crop. Just stop and think that over. Are they paying you any bonus on the wages you were supposed to have earned in 1931 and didn't?

Law and Justice

A. Belanger, member for Prescott in the Ontario Legislature, speaking before that House recently is reported to have used these words:—"I am not talking of legal rights, I am talking of justice. The right under the law and the right under justice may be two entirely different things. Laws do not always carry out the demands of justice."

"Let us take the demands of justice."

"Let us take the corporations that have been exploiting the wealth of the north, our timber and our mines. To whom does this timber and these mines belong?"

We know not how they are treated in Ontario, but we know that in this County of Northumberland they are treated as though they belonged to the Lumber Lords,—EXCEPT that by virtue of some mystic rite they have been preserved to them FREE FROM TAXATION.

The laborer who was supposed to have earned an income of \$450 and didn't, is taxed on that amount because, if he didn't earn that amount he should have done so (which is true) but because he was not given an opportunity he didn't earn it and that also is true. HERE, IF ANYWHERE, IS A FIELD WHERE LABOR MIGHT VERY WELL EXPLORE THROUGH THEIR STUDY CLUB. THEY MIGHT VERY WELL FIND OUT THE REASON WHY TIMBER LICENSES WHICH SOLD AT PRIVATE SALE FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ARE YET REMAINING FREE FROM TAXATION. Yes, laborers should begin by forming a Study Club. —Farm and Labor

MAN DEPICTS LIFE OF CHRIST ON GUILT

HAGERSTOWN, Maryland, May 15.—Exhibited at the Kiwanis Club hobby show last night were sections of a quilt on which J. P. Stouffer has spent more than 1,000 hours to weave pictures of the life of Christ and the Old Testament history.

Stouffer, whose hobby is embroidery, is an iron worker and automobile mechanic.

DEATH OF MINER TO BE PROBED

Joseph Campbell One of Moose River Rescue Crew, Killed at Stellarton.

STELLARTON, N.S., May 16.—An investigation into the death of Joseph Campbell, killed yesterday 4,000 feet below the surface of the MacGregor shaft when struck by a string of loaded coal cars, will be made within a week by Rod G. MacKay, of New Glasgow, barrister, who investigates all mining accidents in this district.

A tribute to Campbell's courage was paid by sturdy miners when all activities at the mine were stopped yesterday following the accident.

Today colliers went back into the black pits quietly mourning the death of the Stellarton miner who had risked his life with Draegermen and other rescue workers to aid the attempts to save two men trapped in a gold mine at Moose River last month.

Physically exhausted from the strain of the digging that resulted in the rescue of Dr. Robertson and Alfred Scadding April 23, Campbell had travelled to Boston with several other rescue men on a short vacation from the arduous work at the coal mines.

Saturday he returned with Joe Nearing, John Corbett, Angus Grant, Warren McDonald and John Sheppard and Monday returned to work.

The Comely Ten at the Federal Capital

Politics at Ottawa—as at all capitals—takes many peculiar turns. France perhaps provides the most amazing realignments of parties; and the last general election in Canada also revealed many new political organizations. But there is something different developing on Parliament Hill; apparently a subtle move to cut across party lines by grouping members of Parliament as handsome and otherwise—the comely and the homely.

The women members of the House have started this serious business. While carrying on alone, Miss MacPhail was silent on the subject of manly beauty—or lack of it—in the male members; but now, reinforced by Mrs. Black of the Yukon, the sorting-out business is going on merrily. Even between these two there is division of opinion. Miss MacPhail sees in the House ten handsome men, while Mrs. Black maintains stoutly that in all her life she has seen but three who could pass the beauty test—and that's what it is; a beauty test.

If the competence of these self-appointed judges be questioned, let questioners be silenced by the statement that Miss MacPhail has spent years among the splendid specimens of manhood to be found in her Grey County constituency—even before a section of Bruce was thrown in—and that Mrs. Black was in the Yukon during the great days when the cream of this country's manliness surged about up there in search of gold.

Competence of the judges being established, the next thing to be considered is the standard of manly beauty. Who is handsome—and why? Of "handsome" the dictionary says:—"Good-looking, well-proportioned, graceful, with dignity, liberal or noble; generous; ample". That list should take in nearly any member of Parliament, if every other qualification be absent there remain "ample", "well-proportioned"; and the majority of members in this Parliament claim to be "liberal", only they use a capital L.

Males are queer regarding their "looks". One thing the judges have overlooked is that men dislike being told they are handsome—at least they pretend to. The hours spent in grooming and posing and tiptoeing are nobody's business. A public man owes something to the public; he should appear at his best, however poor that may be.

Here is what is likely to follow the judging: Fun will be poked at the winners. Driven together in a sort of beauty ostracism, they will form a new group in the House—the Comelies—is a party tag. The Homelies, of course, will be in the majority; they are everywhere. But women are resourceful, and an occasional deferred judgment may supplement the racks of the chosen ten until—well, they might hold the enviable "balance of power". It can be done. Two clever women may do what they like with any number of men, even up to 245 members of Parliament. All the Comelies have to do now is elect a Leader—and that will be a contest more interesting than the Conservative leadership issue in Ontario. What a handsome chap the Leader of this new group must be to win the post.

Of course, cynics will recall the dictum, "Handsome is that handsome does", but it is too late now to bring this up at political Ottawa.

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