



CLASS STRUGGLE PRINCIPAL LEGISLATURE

Government Shrewdly Spars Against All Measures Intended for the Relief of Labor, While Going the Limit in Defence of Capitalist Schemes of Exploitation.

COAL MINES MOTION.

Hawthorathwaite's Resolution for Inquiry into Violation of Coal Mines Regulations Voted Down by Capitalist Government.

Hawthorathwaite's motion for an investigation of alleged violations of regulations for workers in underground mines came up in the House on Monday only to be defeated by a vote of 23 to 15, the Government side voting in solid opposition. The motion which was moved by Hawthorathwaite and seconded by McInnis, read as follows:

Whereas this Legislature enacted in 1905 "An Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act," providing that no person should be employed underground in any coal mine for a longer period than eight hours from "bank to bank" (surface entrance into a mine); and

Whereas this Legislature further enacted in 1904 "An Act to further amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act," which provides: "Coal Miner" shall mean a person employed underground in any coal mine to cut, mine, break or loosen coal from the solid, whether by hand or machinery, and after the coming into force of this Act, possessed of a certificate of competency as such; and further, 111. "No certificate of competency shall be granted to any coal miner who does not satisfy the majority of the Board of Examiners who are sufficiently conversant with the English language, and with the provisions of the Acts relating to coal mining and rules and regulations made thereunder, to render his employment of such safe, and also that he has been employed in a coal mine for at least twelve months previous to the date of his application for such certificate, and his sufficient acquaintance with the methods of mining to render him competent to perform the duties appertaining to his employment;" and

Whereas it is well known that these and other laws for the protection of underground workers in coal mines are not observed in the coal mines on Vancouver Island, more especially the mines operated by the Union Colliery Company; and

Whereas it is also well known that a large number of Chinese and employed underground in the mines at Cumberland;

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Government take prompt measures to enforce into the foregoing matters and enforce the laws in question.

Mr. Hawthorathwaite said the House had already rejected the proposal of the member for Delta to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into this complaint, but during the debate on that proposal he understood that the Premier had promised to investigate it, though later on he had modified his position, so that he (Mr. Hawthorathwaite) would do himself, much against his will, obliged to bring the matter before the House. There could be no question that the statements of the Department of Mines on this subject had been misleading. He did not say that the Minister of Mines had willfully misled the House; on the contrary he was satisfied that the Minister had himself been deceived; but so far as the people of this country were concerned the result was just the same.

Owing probably to the fact that incompetent men were engaged in working on the face of the mines, the number of accidents was increasing very great, yet when questions were asked in the House misleading information was supplied. The other day the Premier had stated that the Orientals employed in the Union Colliery at Cumberland were paid the same wages as white laborers.

"He deliberately made that statement," said Hawthorathwaite, "and yet we find in the Mackenzie King inquiry dealing with the importation of Oriental laborers, when a contract was made between the Wellington Colliery Company and the Canadian-Nippon Company for the importation of 500 Japanese miners the scale of wages for unskilled men was to be from \$1.35 to \$1.75 a day, and from \$1.50 to \$1.90 to engineers and skilled workmen in British Columbia? He knows it is not correct; but I am sure he has been deceived or he could never have made that statement."

Mr. Hawthorathwaite continued that the House and the country were both being misled as scores of these Orientals were being employed underground against the laws of the country. He had it on good authority that in Cumberland the company employed 350 white men as against 1,750 Orientals. It was hard to get correct figures, but there was little doubt that there was simply a horde of them. There could be no question that these men were not qualified to work underground. They did not understand English and when an accident occurred invariably happened. Their presence increased the danger not only to the property but also to the men. What had the company done with the 500 Japanese imported under the contract? Where were they? Would not these with the 450 admitted to have been employed last year bring up the number to a thousand?

There could be no doubt that it was the intention of this company to continue to employ these men underground if they were possible at all. The manager had stated frankly that he considered them more desirable than white workers though it was the only corporation in British Columbia that employed these men underground. There were some companies that had been carrying on business on a large scale long without employing Orientals, then why should this company be allowed to do so?

The Premier had said that the men were allowed to select one of the three Mining Examiners on the Board, but of what use was it? If a man in such a position dared to assert himself on behalf of the men he would instantly lose his job. What was the statement of the Premier? It was that the Government would discharge any man entering the Trades Union? Mr. Dunsmuir, the president of the Wellington Colliery Co., when examined by a Commission a few days ago had said frankly that he objected to organized labor; that he could get along far better without it, and that he considered that he had an absolute right to do as he pleased with his own property; and that from his standpoint white carried no obligations with it.

"It is impossible under such conditions," said Mr. Hawthorathwaite, "for the men to form a union and obtain any protection in that way. They have to depend on the Government, and on this House to protect their rights and interests, and I insist that they have not received the protection they should have received." A short time ago I had an interview with the Premier in which I urged that a proper system of inspection of the collieries should be established; and within a week after that an explosion took place in the Extension colliery in which some of the men were badly injured. I have seen some of those men since and they are practically maimed and marked for life."

He continued that it might be pointed out that under the Workmen's Compensation Act, they could obtain compensation for their injuries, but the same rule held for Trades Unions. If an injured man were to proceed against the mine owners for compensation he would never get work with them again. Nay, further, when men had been killed, their widows found that they dare not proceed against the mine owners, because their families would be shut out from obtaining work in the future.

"In making these charges I take the responsibility and the onus of proof rests with me. These things shall not go on, and I insist that the Government appoint a commission to investigate whether the statements made by me are true. I say the statements made to the House by the Premier within the past few days are incorrect; and if the Government do not do this they will not fail to investigate this matter, and let the public know the truth with regard to it." (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. McBride: "I must take exception to a few of the statements made by my honorable friend. He says that the first mines that I have been deceived by officers of the Department under me. He must refer to the inspectors. Let me tell him that not one of these gentlemen are appointed by this government, but are tried and licensed officers of the Civil Service of some years standing. Complainants such as the honorable gentleman makes to-day have been made before in two cases at least, and when they were investigated there was found to be nothing in them. For my part I have the utmost confidence in these men. It is easy to make charges, but it is hard very often to make them good."

The Premier continued that instead of 1,750 Orientals being employed at Union mine as stated by the member for Nanaimo, the information received by his department was that there were only 406 altogether. Of these 250 were Chinese and 145 Japanese. Of these men 201 were employed by the company direct and 204 by contractors. He added that the miners had a right to choose their representative on the Board of Mining Examiners, but in several cases had failed to do so, and the Government had been compelled to appoint men instead so that they might be represented. Owing to the opposition of the member for Delta, the intention of the Government to appoint inspectors at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Mr. Williams said that if they only kept going a little longer they should soon have the number of Mongolians employed at Cumberland at the figure the member for Nanaimo said it was. A few days ago the Premier said the number was 200 and now he said it was a grand total of 406.

The Premier reminded him that the best figures he had given the House were as to the number employed in 1906. Since then he had obtained the figures for a later date, and these he had just given to the House. Mr. Williams said that anyhow the number was evidently going up. The Premier seemed rather surprised that the miners at Cumberland never elected a member of the Board of Examiners. The reason was that it would never do for a man with a wife and family to keep to tackle a job of that kind as he would never get work as a miner again. The statement of the Premier that Orientals were paid the same wages as white laborers was shown to be groundless by the fact that mine owners were so anxious to get more Orientals. The investigations held in the past years had given the inspectors were simply far from the case of Mr. Archie Dick of the Crow's Nest Company, the Court of Enquiry had never attempted to get into communication with Mr. Tomkin, the principal witness, and the

man who had made the statement that Mr. Dick received \$300 a month from the Crow's Nest Coal Co.

The Premier asked whether Judge Spink had not held an Enquiry and suspended Mr. Dick for several months till the truth of the charges was made known. Mr. Williams said that made no difference, they had certainly not attempted to get into communication with Mr. Tomkin who was in Pennsylvania at the time. To show how the Coal Mines Regulation was being violated he had received only last week a letter from Phoenix saying that two Chinamen had been employed underground there; but what could he do in face of the fact that the mine Company was employing hundreds underground. The Socialist party was being kept in the position as representatives of Labor on the floor of the House, and as policemen of the labor situation outside the House. They should not have to do this police work as these matters should be dealt with by the Government itself. He meant to propose an amendment to the Factory Act to the effect that no inspector should divulge the source of his information in laying a complaint against an employer. This might help to solve the situation. It was not at all wonderful under present circumstances that the Department of Mines received no complaints from miners. Complaints were a luxury which a miner with a wife and family to keep could not afford to indulge in.

Mr. McInnis pointed out that if the Premier had an opportunity to investigate and prove that the charges made by the member for Nanaimo were not true; and he thought he could do so or he would not lose that opportunity. If the Department wished to maintain its reputation for carrying on business as it should be carried on it was up to them to have this investigation, and set themselves right before the country.

Mr. Macdonald said he would support the Premier's proposal that the Province was entitled to know whether there was any truth in the charges made by the member for Nanaimo or not.

Mr. Oliver said he would support the Premier's proposal that the member for Nanaimo was wrong in the wrong way. He should have asked for a Select Committee of the Legislature, and then they could have gone on with it at once.

Mr. Hawthorathwaite said a Select Committee would hardly do in this case as his statements affected several hundred men and it would be necessary to examine them all and it would be a manifest absurdity to bring them to Victoria for that purpose. He was not getting any good wages as white men, because none of them were receiving \$2 a day, and in spite of the statements that white miners were receiving from \$3 to \$5 a day it was a question whether in the mines they received more than \$2 a day on an average. It was absurd to say that the rules were being complied with; these men could not understand English and how could they comply with them? They should, as the Premier said, take the observance of the eight-hour day. Men worked twenty minutes before the starting time, and twenty minutes after quitting time in the past years in the mines. The town in the cars an hour before the time. They arrived at the mines thirty minutes before the time. They could not stay in those dirty, stinking, disreputable cars and they were straight to work in the mine. In one case the inspector had instituted proceedings for the violation of this law, and a fine of \$10 was imposed but the same thing went on next day.

With regard to the Workmen's Compensation Act, what compensation had been made during the last half dozen years by the Wellington Colliery Co.? It was true that the miners of the Crow's Nest Pass Company got \$50,000 from them in one year. He was sure that was not half what they should have got. And all but the fact was that many of them dare not enter a claim.

The Premier: "Can the honorable gentleman say that any complaints have been made of the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act?" Mr. Hawthorathwaite said that only had told him they dare not complain as it would mean the loss of their situations. Two years ago he had pointed out that there were several thousand cubic yards of gas in one of the Western Fuel Company's mines at Nanaimo. The Commission appointed to investigate had looked into it and found the statement correct though he had said here was no danger, and account of the precautions taken by the company. But there was there and why did not the Inspector report it, and why was he not instantly dismissed? But no, the Premier said the inspectors had done their duty. The Premier had introduced the question of Trades Unionism which had nothing to do with this debate, simply for the purpose of affecting his position with the workmen.

The Premier: "I had no disposition to do that at all."

Mr. Hawthorathwaite said it could have no other purpose. Yet he had introduced two bills in that House especially for the benefits of Trades Unions. He had introduced an offence for an employer to discriminate against members of Trades Unions. The Premier and his colleagues had strongly opposed and had voted against them. He challenged the Premier to produce a single report from any reputable newspaper in which he had attacked or fought against Trades Unions. The Premier on the other hand had said, "what is done is done" and had complained that one-third of the time of the House was taken up with labor legislation, in discussing these very Trades Unions Bills which he had introduced. He hoped the Premier would reconsider the Premier's position on this resolution.

He was satisfied that there were 350 white men and 1,760 Orientals at Union and that upwards of a thousand had been employed underground. So far as the figures to the contrary advanced by the Premier went, he would quite believe the company capable of laying off a number of their men in order to place these figures before the House.

"When labor dominates this House and I occupy the Premier's chair, as I hope to do in a short time, I promise that we will see that the inspectors do their duty, that there will be no violation of eight-hour laws, and in all Oriental questions will be applying the public mind to it does to-day. But that is not the position now. We have in power a capitalist Government that is here to protect capitalist interests, that is here to do it, and as long as those conditions last the labor laws will be disobeyed. I therefore again ask the Premier to reconsider his position and go on with this investigation."

The motion was defeated on the following division: - Yes (Members): King, Yorden, Hall, Eagleson, Jones, Yarron, Oliver, Macdonald, Henderson, Jardine, Williams, Hawthorathwaite, McInnis—13. No: Nays (Members): Tatlow, McPherson, Bower, Cotton, Ellison, Ross, McPhillips, Thompson, Hunter, Paul, Young, Taylor, Grant, Macgibbon, Gifford, Grant, McKean, Mason, Hayward, McGillivray, McKay. - 23. Duvy—23.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL BEATEN.

McInnis's Measure is Rejected on Second Reading by Mixed Vote of the House.

The bill presented by Mr. McInnis of Grand Forks, to prevent employers of labor from discriminating against members of Trades Unions went down to defeat on Tuesday by a mixed vote of 23 to 15. Dr. Young and Mr. Schofield on the Government side supported the measure, and Major and Brewster of the Opposition voted against it beyond that it was a party vote.

The Premier in the first place said he would oppose the bill, because while not doubting the good intention of the member for Grand Forks, the bill simply originated in a local grievance against the Granby Smelter company in the town of Phoenix, and it was unwise to make laws to meet special cases. Besides an employer paid his man and had a right to engage or dismiss them as he thought fit and the Legislature had no right to interfere.

Mr. Macdonald, the Opposition leader, said that he did not see that any employer had the right to sack a man who had organized himself to belong to a union. He did not think the bill would be effective as there were many ways of getting round it, he would support it as an expression of the principle that an employer had no right to interfere with labor or any other organization.

Mr. Williams said that if, as the Premier said, this bill only originated in a local grievance, it was the business of the House to interfere and right it, and not wait till it had spread over the country. The member for Rossland (Mr. Macdonald) while supporting the bill hinted that he did not think it would be very much good. Perhaps that was accounted for by the fact that he was solicitor for the Granby Company and was throwing out to them an excuse for his support of the bill.

Mr. Macdonald rose and explained that when he entered politics he gave up his job with the Granby people.

Mr. Williams said that he recollected two years ago the member for Rossland refused to vote on the eight hour bill for smelters because he was solicitor for the Granby Company.

Mr. Macdonald explained that when he entered politics he was receiving a very handsome retainer from the Granby Company which he threw up, though he still did business for them in the same way that he would for John Smith or the member for Newcastle on anyone else who paid him for his services.

Mr. Williams said that was a very fine distinction, and it was rather difficult for an ordinary man to understand it. However, he was glad to hear it, and if, judging from the stand taken by the Premier, this bill did not become law, he hoped the member for Rossland would do as he claimed that he had done in regard to the eight-hour law, go to the Granby Company and persuade them to adopt the principle voluntarily. Mr. Hawthorathwaite denied that this bill originated simply in a local grievance. He said there was a crying necessity for it all over the Province. Only the other day he had quoted the declaration of Mr. James Dunsmuir that he did not want to hire men that belonged to Trades Unions. The Premier had said that the object of such bills was to divide the Legislature, and try to put members on record as being opposed to labor legislation. Well, they had a perfect right to do that, and it was the intention of the Socialists at least.

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AS TO SLAVERY.

If the productive power of their civilization was not sufficient to supply themselves with the bare necessities of life, it is clear there would be no motive to prompt his enslavement by another. If, however, the productive power of the individual be more than sufficient to give him the means, the motive is afforded to prompt his enslavement by another, who might, perchance, have the power and opportunity to do so.

Not until the powers of production had been developed to the point where it was possible for the worker to produce a surplus beyond his own actual requirements, was human slavery possible. When this point was reached it was only because possible but inevitable. Slavery became the order of the day and although its outward garb has been changed from time to time, in its real essence it remains with us to-day even more rampant and drastic in its consequences than in the days when the conqueror brought home his captive slaves at his chariot wheel.

Never were the world's toilers more completely enslaved than now. Without title of ownership, in the means upon which they must depend for an existence, they are absolutely at the disposal of the class in present society that owns and controls the land and instruments of production. They are compelled by their necessities to offer their services to these owners and accept such terms as the circumstances of the slave market may prompt those owners to offer. Even under the most favorable conditions for the slave he can successfully demand but little, if any, more for his services than enough to keep him in fairly decent working order. Upon the average the slaves cannot even demand a plus. They are, therefore, always at the mercy of the master class, a circumstance that this class is by no means slow to take advantage of upon every occasion.

The worker sells his labor-power to the employer. He receives for it a price that is determined by the conditions of the labor market at the time. If the market be well supplied with laborers the price will run low, as the competition for jobs will tend to force it down. If laborers be scarce the price will tend upward as the competition for jobs will be lessened in consequence of this scarcity of labor. The more potent the tools of production become the more chronic becomes the overstocked conditions of the labor market. The smaller the number of workers required to carry on the process of production the more acute the competition for jobs will be.

The wages of the workers are paid out of the proceeds of the sale of the products of their own labor. Such balance as may be left in the hands of the employer after wages are paid, represents that portion of the product which he has been compelled to expend in the employer's service and for which he receives no payment or recompense. He produces his wages during a part of the day he works for the employer for nothing. Out of the product of chattel slaves the slaves were fed, clothed, etc., the balance was devoted to the comfort and pleasure of their master. The slaves produced their

own sustenance and provided for the luxuries and expensive living of the master. The labor expended for the latter purpose was labor for which they received no returns. During a certain portion of his time the feudal serf produced sustenance for his lord and lordly by working upon a piece of land set aside for his special use. During the balance of his time he had to work for his feudal lord for nothing. In this way the workers are supplied with the necessities of high living, without any cost to himself. Under the wage system the worker pays his own wages during a part of the working time. During the remaining periods for the wealth of the employer, by working for nothing.

In either case the result is the same. A bare and narrow existence for the slave, luxury, pomp and ostentation for the master. A civilization rotten and corrupt to the core, because of the poison of slavery that lurks in its veins.

No civilization can long withstand the poison of slavery that is based upon human slavery. Just as chattel slavery and serfdom went to their doom, so is capitalism, with its wage system of slavery, now tottering to its final end. It is too rotten and too rotten to be longer tolerated by human kind. It is a cursed nuisance that must be abated in the interest of social peace, well-being and decency. It is up to the enslaved working class to do the job.

THE BANKING SYSTEM.

Agitators, humorists and other folk who people have been saying mean things about our banking system. If there is one thing more than another that arouses the ire of the Poor Scotchman it is to see the innocent misbegotten, who has been rescued by our noble and philanthropic institutions. Says Mr. Dooley: "Our banking system is sound if it is nothing else." And Mr. Dooley is right, he is right, but the course there are people on the other side who, having seen nothing but stage money for so many weeks, assert that the sound is nothing but a hollow mockery, but these are pessimists by nature and addition.

But laying all jokes aside, as the man said when he adopted humor as a profession, our banks are as sound as could be expected under the capitalist system. Therefore he rallies the Poor Scotchman they will not be needed. It is not more banks or better banks that we need, therefore, but no banks.

From the point of view of capitalism, the banking system is the most efficient and eminently satisfactory. It fills the bill, else it would go out of business. If a more satisfactory system could be devised it would speedily put the present one to the dollar.

*No, gentle reader, the trouble is not with the banks but with your understanding. You will persist in expecting the bank to be a public benefactor while the fact is that the bank is in regarding it as a sort of cold storage for your ill-gotten gains, while it is really a carefully constructed device for conveying profits to the pockets of its proprietors and shareholders. The bank is a holder generally, of whom the little ones exist merely for the purpose of assisting the big ones to get richer. None of these latter have been heard grumbling at the sound of the bank's bell, and it is reasonable to expect that if they are satisfied nobody else has any kick coming. The banks are theirs and if they give them satisfaction that is all that is required.

All this to do about the bank system emanates from our mythical "middle class," the small fry would-be capitalists, who find that the banking system is one of the tentacles of the octopus, and, of course, the workers are suckers enough to echo the equal.

It is charged that the banks inflate the currency, but, a conscience man, what else would you have a bank do? You protest that it is the banks that are the cause of the only fifteen cents really. If that is worrying you so bad the Poor Scotchman will take pity on you and ease your aching heart right now. Send your address to the Western Clarion, Black Block, care of the Western Clarion. You can have seventeen and a half cents for everyone of them.

As the writer has remarked before, a five-dollar bill buys a five-dollar bill, but it buys a five-dollar bill in gold which again represents a certain quantity of labor performed, approximately the same quantity as is embodied in the five-dollar bill. The population of the world is not so numerous as to have a balance to redeem more than an infinitesimal practice of the bankers as circulation matters nothing so long as the public is willing to accept them at the value they are known to have, and the confidence, and the confidence of the public certainly justifies

the practice of the bankers as well as the theories of the Christian Scientists. What is the odds what a five-dollar bill is "really" worth so long as the grocer will accept it as five dollars? Even if it depreciates in value, it is still a five-dollar bill, and the working-class who would merely have to be given twice as many bills for their wages, unless the condition of the labor market warranted a reduction in wages, which in that case would be reduced anyway whether the bills depreciated or not.

It takes the worker quite awhile to forget that he gets so much money in exchange for his labor-power and to adjust his focus to see that the real wage is the things he buys with that money. What he gets in exchange for his labor-power is its approximate exchange value. It is not the fact that his living according to the prevalent standard of living. To him it matters nothing whether it is gold, paper, tin, brass or pure unadulterated gold that is used as a medium of exchange.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Phillip Thompson Makes Pointed Comment on Things Generally and Incidentally Panicles a few Banners.

Toronto, February 5, 1908. The problem of the unemployed is confronting the civic authorities and well-to-do classes of Toronto in a more acute phase than ever. There are many thousands out of work and on the verge of starvation in this bitter winter.

The ordinary methods of dealing with the situation have proved utterly inadequate. Our newly elected civic officials have proved their incompetency or indifference, and had the matter been before this have perished of cold and hunger. They opened a civic bureau for those who wanted work, who registered to the number of over 2,000 and got the satisfaction of seeing their names on the list and now and then at long intervals the chance to work for not more than three days. Mayor Oliver—"mayor of all the people," as his friends acclaimed him last year, is a Socialist candidate who asked only the support of the workers—was profuse in his sympathies, but had not apparently either the will or the power to insist upon adequate and instantaneous action.

The machinery of civic administration having completely broken down, the worst consequences were averted by revolutionary efforts on the part of the citizens. The Globe saying that the workers took matters up, published columns of descriptive matter showing the extent of the destitution, and called for subscriptions which were speedily forthcoming to the extent of several thousand dollars. Local committees were busy distributing provisions, clothing and fuel. And now that the danger of absolute starvation has been averted by these praiseworthy efforts, the citizens are patting themselves on the back for their own self-conceived virtue and mutual admiration and telling each other what a noble, generous philanthropic people we are. Far be it from me to sneer at any citizen act of helpfulness or generosity for others, and there are, no doubt, many on the list of contributors actuated by the Best of motives, but what I wish to emphasize is that anything like the self-congratulatory favors and commendations that public spirit and benevolence which have appeared in the press are entirely out of place. It is like praising a man for rescuing a drowning man after deliberately shoving him into the water.

Who Are Responsible.

The prominent citizens, merchant princes and capitalists of industry, are the workers who figure on the list with subscriptions of fifty or a hundred dollars, no doubt experience a glow of satisfaction at the thought that they are public benefactors, are simply saying that they are not. The great majority of the unemployed are recent immigrants—brought here by these men or the government they support. For years the "public opinion" of Toronto has been in favor of immigration on a large scale. Employers of labor of all sorts, it goes without saying, have been anxious to overstock the labor market so as to keep down wages. But apart from the present-day capitalist, the ordinary dandy of the boulevard, the politician, newspaper and preachers tell him, has become possessed with the idea that in some unexplained way an increase in the population will be to his advantage. "What this country wants is more population," these wiseacres will tell you. After dinner speakers and platform orators can always get up a rousing ovation by predicting that Toronto in a few years will have half a million people. And

so they support governments which bring immigrants here by the hundred thousands on false pretences, and willingly play into the greedy hands of the factory lords who want to swell the "population." It is right that those responsible for their being here—that is every man who votes Grit or Tory—should have to pay roundly, either voluntarily or through abridgement of his maintenance. And he need not pose as a ministring angel either. He is only abridging the worst effects of the villainous work sanctioned by his vote. Economic Determinism and Temperance.

No better illustration of the workings of the principle of economic determinism could well be afforded than the extraordinary advances everywhere made by the cause of Prohibition. Said cause has just achieved a victory in Toronto by the action of the city council in reducing the number of liquor licenses by 24. Of course this is hailed by the temperance element as the result of a better understanding of the principles appealing to the moral sentiment of the community. The preachers and platform fanatics who have established an eleven commandment, "Thou shalt drink no liquor," are congratulating themselves for having put all the bars in the rear future. The bar is going, sure, every observer with half an eye can see that, but the vaunted moral and religious sentiment of the community has been put on the coach wheel. The barroom must go because it does not fit in with the modern organization of industry, and is against the economic interests of the community. It is going because it impairs efficiency of the wage-slave and tends to throw the mechanism of the industrial system out of gear. In the old days of hand-making, the village shoemaker or blacksmith filled up with whiskey and neglected his business. It inconvenienced a few people and if he did it too often he lost his custom. In the time of great industrial organizations it is very different. The drunkenness of even a few workmen may result in serious loss, and paralyze temporarily the whole plant. Since the invention of the playing class is enlisted in the temperance cause. They simply won't stand for the booze any longer. So it will have to go. Old Economic Determinism is finishing up the conference in the name of closing the bars. The moralists have been struggling unavailingly for half a century. And of course the latter are taking all the glory to themselves.

Rebelling a Lost Opportunity.

The disgruntled pack of grafters and fakers known as Tories are raising their heads and baying at the fearful lot of rogues and charlatans known as Grits, differing in no respect from themselves except that they have now the chance to steal, have so far improved the shinning limits in the West which the Tories had not had the foresight to steal. While inwardly sighing, no doubt, over lost opportunities, they are busy prying up the stones of the mill, showing that the favorites of the government obtained timber valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars for merely nominal prices. Are the Grits rattled by the venality of their own official documents? Not a bit of it. They coolly retort that the Tories in the days of their ascendancy did just the same thing. And that is accepted by the party journals as a perfectly satisfactory vindication. Meanwhile the public continues profoundly indifferent to the whole business. Why not? What else had they any right to expect? And what difference does it make any? As to the capitalists they have the sense to know that any party whose sole reason for existence is the maintenance of a system of robbery and exploitation, will stand to the limit of its opportunity to get out of the management rules in the interests of capitalism, their masters are willing to allow them to plunder the public practically at will. And so far as the working men are concerned there is no difference between the Tories and the public continues profoundly indifferent to the whole business. Why not? What else had they any right to expect? And what difference does it make any? As to the capitalists they have the sense to know that any party whose sole reason for existence is the maintenance of a system of robbery and exploitation, will stand to the limit of its opportunity to get out of the management rules in the interests of capitalism, their masters are willing to allow them to plunder the public practically at will. 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THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

(Continued from Page 5.) CLASS WAR IN GRAND FORKS.

Grand Forks, N. C., Feb. 12, 1908. O. G. McKenzie, Vancouver, B. C. Dear Comrade:—We have not been very active here lately as the Granby Company has taken the job out of our hands, and we have more Socialists than we can hope to do. The local paper, The Gazette, recently printed a column and a half of senseless vituperation and invective directed against John McInnis, M. P., and the "faction" he represents. I guess the "faction" he represents was the biggest "faction" here last February, otherwise McInnis would not now be at Victoria fighting with the other Socialists for his class. The Granby Company was responsible for the brilliant (?) article in question, and when we wrote a reply to the editor, he accepted it, but some of the Granby's lackeys got wind of it and it was turned. The Granby is anxious to rid the camp of Socialists and the old parties intend to combine against McInnis next election. But in spite of all this we will re-elect Jack by a margin over the combined forces of capitalism. Mr. Hodges, the manager of the Granby Company, and autocrat of the Boundary district, is very busy getting bunches of the men into his office lately, as telling them they must not allow the men that have been discriminated against at the forthcoming election of officers. The officers of this union are, and have been class-conscious Socialists who would not allow the men to handle them. For that reason he wants a bunch elected that believes in the identity of interests between master and slave, and who can be handled in future. We had never had any trouble here until this would-be tyrant and despot, Mr. Hodges, started the roll calling. But the game isn't over yet. This is the man that threatened a union committee that the outrage committed by the mine owners at Crisp Creek and the Coeur d'Alene would be committed here in the event of a strike, and who paid to the same committee, "What do we care for your laws, we can buy law." He thinks he can put the Socialist movement of the Boundary out of business here will get left.

SEES THE POINT.

The Weakness of "Industrial Union" Cognito Pointed Out by One of the Rank and File.

To start out with the assumption that there are a lot of leather heads among the western miners who have only to be seen and conquered is a mistake. The arguments that those who would declare that we will remain in possession of the means of production. Now this, though they do not see it, is a confession of their economic helplessness. Inasmuch as the strength they intend to take over those means of production, i. e., to seize economic power. They have no designs on the state which is the guarantee of ownership and, as they have not they must stand convicted of having a movement that cannot take for the emancipation of the workers.

(1) Because the working class do not possess that power, and a matter of fact are economically helpless and dependent. (2) Because any form of trades unionism is necessarily confining its efforts to effecting (if it can) changes for the betterment of the membership within the limits of the wage market. The I. W. U. is no exception to this rule, therefore it is powerless to reflect the class interests of the whole I. W. U. men has to put up with a thing short of the abolition of that market.

(3) It refuses to take into consideration the struggles of the workers for possession of the jobs that won't go around, thereby... (4) Ignoring the one thing that makes unionism valuable to any set of workers—effort to resist competition. Now the I. W. U. is a phenomenon that deserves some consideration on our hands. It is an effect of some underlying cause; it does not just happen, nor should we dismiss it with a wave of the hand, and having got it to the point where labor quacks who are economically unskilled, let it go at that. Some of the men who are sponsors for this form of organization stand big and deservingly so, in the ranks of labor. They are, in many instances, intellectual giants of unblemished character and undoubted integrity—where the interests of the workers who gave them their confidence and trust are at stake, and we cannot attribute to them ulterior motives. Doubting their infallibility is something which even they themselves would accord us as a right, and I, for one, am disposed to question their judgment and take issue with them of this matter, which is of vital importance to my class, I think, myself, we cannot oppose too soon nor too strongly the propagation of this kind of organization, for we are offering to the masses a class weapon, which they will seize with avidity, for our own undoing. There is an instinctive feeling in the ranks of the workers that we must get together to effect our deliverance, and we must. But where? And the answer is: Wherever we can. Now you know we cannot do so in the industrial field and it is unnecessary for me to go into that. The only place we can assemble the forces of labor is on the political field for the purpose of reforming the only task that is essentially ours and which we must perform if any identity of interests obtaining among the workers—the abolition of the capitalist system.

There is a leveling process going on in the industrial world, through the action of the market, which is gradually reducing the workers gradually to a common footing. They feel this intuitively and they are preparing to meet it as intelligently as they can. Their experience has con-

framed them to experiments on the industrial field and they naturally turn toward it in their desire to get together, falling to observe the impossibility of assembling their forces there. I would say that the industrial workers reflected to addition, the unconscious efforts of the unskilled workers to interest the skilled workers in their struggles. This, of course, cannot be accomplished, for so long as they are in the hands of those who are aware of the tendency of industrial development with its consequent effect on their crafts, they are not disposed to imperil any advantage they possess in a spirit of altruism.

Again, the programme which even the most reasonable of I. W. U. advocates outline is a direct contradiction to their assumption that we possess economic power. They say "when we declare a strike we will remain in possession of the means of production." Now this, though they do not see it, is a confession of their economic helplessness. Inasmuch as the strength they intend to take over those means of production, i. e., to seize economic power. They have no designs on the state which is the guarantee of ownership and, as they have not they must stand convicted of having a movement that cannot take for the emancipation of the workers.

A MINER.

CLASS STRUGGLE IN PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

(Continued from page 1)

to keep on doing it, so that the people could see who were their friends. It that House and who were not. On a division being called the bill was defeated on the following vote: 11 yeas, 11 nays. Those who were in favour of the bill were: Messieurs—Munro, Brown, Nelson, McElride, Bowser, Crockett, Ross, Thomson, Hunter, Fulton, Taylor, Garden, Macgowan, Gifford, Grant, Behnen, Manson, Hayward, McGuire, Mackay, Parsons, Daver—23.

FACTORY ACT.

When Mr. McPhillips's Factory Act was discussed in committee of the whole it gave rise to a great deal of lively debate. Mr. Kergin, of Skeena, occupied the chair, and had an interesting speech.

Mr. Brewster, of Alberni, started the ball rolling by suggesting that the eight-hour clause might apply to salmon canneries, and he did not think that would be fair, as the employees of canneries were only Indians who worked hard for a few weeks while the salmon run was on. Mr. Hawthornthwaite took exception to Mr. Brewster speaking of the canneries as "only Indians." If they were they were wards of the nation, and were the most helpless people in the Province and most entitled to the protection of that House. Mr. Brewster explained that the Indians worked the best of the day, more hours they put in the more money they made. For two or three weeks, while the salmon run was on, they made as much as \$3 to \$7 an hour, and they were content to do their work as much or little as they liked for the rest of the year. He moved that salmon canneries be not included. Mr. Hawthornthwaite said he did not think the member for Alberni was sweating with anguish or losing any sleep over the Indians. He thought canneries should be included, as employers when they got these things into their caperny ground were very loath to lay out of their hides that they could. Mr. McPhillips said the bill was not intended to include canneries, but if Mr. Brewster raised the question it might be. As it was, latitude was allowed to inspectors who would not include canneries on their rules. On this assurance Mr. Brewster withdrew his amendment. The next question that arose was over the regulation of laundries. Mr. Hawthornthwaite moved to add as clause (d) to section 40 describing the duties of an inspector under the Act: "In all cities or rural districts where one or more laundries are established and being operated by steam or other mechanical power, to prohibit work being carried on in any laundry before 7 a. m. and after 6 p. m." He said that recently a deputation of laundries had been over, and had pointed out that the Act applied to women and children who they

employed and would curtail their hours of labor; but that it would work a hardship on them as they had to compete with Chinese laundries, where the Chinamen worked twelve, fourteen and sixteen hours a day almost continuously, so that this excessive amount of labor combined with their low cost of living made it very difficult for the white laundries to compete. It had been suggested that in some of the white laundries might be protected by regulating the hours of labor in all laundries. If Chinese laundries were prohibited from working more than eight or nine hours a day it would be placed in assisting the others. There was every reason why the Chinese laundries should be brought under the operation of this Act, as they were conducted in a most unsanitary manner and posing a danger. Hence there should be washed ran risks they should not be allowed to run. In fact, generally speaking the conduct of these laundries was a disgrace to British Columbia. Mr. Oliver suggested that the amendment should be printed and placed on the order paper so that before the bill came into committee again the members would have a chance to discuss it. To this proposal Mr. Hawthornthwaite consented. At this point the bill went off at a tangent. Mr. Stuart Henderson, who had been obstructing all afternoon, declared that he was bound against Rule 43 of the House, and out of order, since it interfered with trade, and as such should have been introduced by the Government by message from the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. McPhillips and Mr. Hawthornthwaite both vigorously combatted this suggestion and Speaker Eberts was called in to decide. He said he would see that the bill interfered with trade, but all the same reserved his decision to allow the committee time to cool off, and the bill has not come in again since.

COMMISSION ASKED FOR.

Hawthornthwaite moves to request the Imperial Government to Appoint a Royal Commission to Inquire Into Conditions of Immigration in B. C.

Hawthornthwaite's motion asking for a Royal Commission appointed by the Imperial House to inquire into the conditions of immigration in British Columbia and the differences on the question between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, was launched in the House on Tuesday. McBride moved adjournment. Mr. Hawthornthwaite moved, seconded by Mr. Williams:—

Whereas a conflict of interests has arisen between the Province of British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada in respect to Oriental immigration into British Columbia; and Whereas a treaty, known as the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, has been entered by the Dominion Government; and Whereas the said Treaty contained the following section: "The subjects of each of the two high contracting parties shall have full liberty to enter, travel or reside in any part of the dominions and possessions of the other contracting party, and shall enjoy full and perfect protection for their persons and property." And whereas the industrial and labor interests of British Columbia have been affected by the abnormal influx of Japanese immigrants under said section; and Whereas laws enacted by this Province to regulate said immigration have been uniformly disallowed by the Dominion authorities; and Whereas the existing condition cannot continue without injuring the various interests referred to, and further endangering the good understanding that has been effected between the people of Japan and the people of this Province; Therefore be it Resolved, That this House memorialize the Imperial Government, through the Colonial Secretary, to appoint a Royal Commission to fully inquire into all the circumstances in connection with these matters.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite in speaking of his motion said that no subject had agitated the public mind in British Columbia so much as this Japanese immigration, and he held it to be the duty of the Legislature before they adjourned to do something to alleviate that agitation, and show the people who had sent them there that they were trying to do their duty. On two previous occasions when he had called attention to this matter, he had failed of success because of the diverse views held by members of the Legislature. The resolution before them fully covered both the differences and he did not think the different political parties could offer any objection to it. Both Liberals and Conservatives said it was their desire to put a stop to this Oriental influx, to have the situation cleared up and some final arrangement arrived at. It seemed to him that in British Columbia they were not fully aware of all the circumstances underlying this matter, and it was their right to be placed in possession of all the facts. If there had been misunderstandings or misleading statements or underhand actions, the facts should be laid fully and frankly before them to be adjudicated on the floor of that House. The resolution pointed out the differences between the Dominion and Provincial Governments on this matter, and the action of the Dominion Government in enacting the Japanese Treaty showed at once that they were not in accord with the people of British Columbia and did not understand our feelings. They had Sir Wilfred Laurier making extraordinary statements, and drawing a fancy picture of the British and Japanese fleets moving together on the sea, and sweeping to destruction some common enemy. "I hope and believe there is no such treaty between England and Japan. Does Sir Wilfred Laurier mean to say that we are bound to Japan in case of war? Who does he mean by a common enemy? He cannot mean France, he is French himself. He cannot mean Germany, we have no enmity against them. Then does he mean the United States? This is an important question. We know these two countries are said to be drifting towards war; and we cannot allow such statements to go to the people of the south of us without knowing on what they are based. Certainly such a treaty would be quite opposed to the general conduct of Japan, for who could conceive of Japan allying with Great Britain for the purpose of sweeping up the seas the fleets of the Oriental races. No, sir, for it is well known that that country is trying to found a great empire in the East that shall contain within its borders all the islands of the East, and it is clear that this great Oriental Empire would not be in the interests of the white people or of the British Empire. Then, surely, there is some misunderstanding."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite continued that it was also said that before the Japanese treaty came up in the House of Commons, Sir Wilfred Laurier had been asked if it was the desire of Canada to exclude the Japanese under the treaty, and he had replied that Canada did not wish that! The people wished for some inquiry into these matters, and he could conceive of no better method of doing so than by the appointment of a Royal Commission.

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"I have said very strongly indeed that I something is not done in this matter on constitutional lines the working class will be compelled to resort to methods that are not strictly constitutional. These are not proper methods I admit, but the working people of B. C. are in deadly earnest. They are waiting till this House concludes its session and the Dominion House concludes its session hoping that something will be done. The Japanese population in Vancouver to-day is simply an armed detachment of white men and a few Japanese. No, sir, for it is well known that that country is trying to found a great empire in the East that shall contain within its borders all the islands of the East, and it is clear that this great Oriental Empire would not be in the interests of the white people or of the British Empire. Then, surely, there is some misunderstanding."

Premier McBride moved the adjournment of the debate.

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Editor Western Clarion. Dear Comrade:—Will you allow me space in your paper to expose some of the tyrannical methods practiced by the Nicola Coal & Coke Co.? Forgive the capitalists' tool, whose name no doubt is familiar to a great number of your readers, is a man

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