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McLAREN'S INVINCIBLE OLIVES



The Canadian Legion in the Porcupine

By the Secretary-Treasurer

This week we will start off with a little outline of the labour situation in the Porcupine. Judging from a letter in this paper last week the situation must be a bad one if we did believe the letter. First, we might truthfully say that the Legion had nothing to do with the letter. Next, we will give the feeling of some ex-soldiers. Some ex-soldiers think that they and they alone have the right to live and work. We also feel that to the "victor belongs the spoils" in reason. A great many transient ex-soldiers have come into the camp of late, and some have departed (after being fed by the local branch of the Legion), disgusted that they could not get work. A great many were miners, and never would be miners; some were crippled; some had work offered but refused it; and some did not want work at all. We know it is hard to stand by and see foreigners hired. We will not say "all reds," as many foreigners have become good Canadian citizens and a credit to Canada. I know that years ago some of these foreigners had "red" principles but they soon forgot the red part and have filled numerous public offices with credit. In the last "red" trouble those who were doing the agitating were outsiders mostly. Of course there are a few reds in our midst that we know, but only a very few.

Now we will take the employers' side of the question which is a very difficult position. During the last two years the employer has had to spend many, many thousands of dollars in protection for his employees and as fast as he does his mining he has to conform to the new regulations. Then he has to have all men examined and those who are not fit are turned down by the doctor as not suitable. Then he has to hire his men according to the work he wants them for. Experience counts; that is, experience in Canadian mining, as Old Country and Canadian mining are entirely different. He never knows a day ahead what men he will want to-morrow as men are coming and going at all times. He may require an all-round miner, or a runner, or a timberman, and in the line-up for work that day there are no English-speaking men or ex-soldiers in the line-up who can fill the qualifications. He has to take what is there that morning as he cannot let his mine go short for the sentimental side. His mine has to pay, and he has to "make the mare go." Then we have the ex-soldier or English-speaking man who gets a job and tires of his job and quits. Some will not be told anything and think they can do as they please. Some work only about half time and apparently think the employer is honoured to have them. So he is, if they will play the game. An ex-soldier knows discipline and should set an example to others instead of falling down on his work and then blaming the employer for getting rid of him. The employer's side is not all milk and honey. Having tackled this labour situation in the past we know what it is and just what can be done in the matter. We know that there has been "greased trails" in the past but there are few greased trails at present. Two of the officers of the local branch of the Legion had the word passed on to them some weeks ago, that they would have to watch themselves; one in particular was warned that a trap was being set for him; but the same two officers have still a weather eye open and can read between the lines as it were and can truthfully say that even if the labour situation is very little better, it is certainly no worse than it was.

Having placed the two sides of the question we will now put forward a third side and that is, there are many good citizens in town who pay taxes and are out of work. Some have a grown-up family, also out of work. Some have sons trying to get a better education by working a few months in the summer time. Surely the mines have the right to place these people along with the rest. Some of these citizens have worked years and years for their employers and surely the employer has the privilege to employ whom he pleases and has the right to give these people a little preference when it comes to employment. Then we have the man who could not go overseas! Has he to starve? Some of the members of the local Legion served from 1899 to 1902, during the Boer War. From 1902 to 1914 they found that their services in the Boer War was not worth a tinker's curse, when it came to employment preference. Many fought from 1914 to 1918 again for their King and Country, and again they found that their services to the nation were not worth the same tinker's curse when it came to em-

ployment preference. So, the sooner "One who served" forgets all about what he did in the great war the better he will get along in this hard old world. We will now get on with the Legion's side of the question. We are banded together to help others. Our motto is to help those who cannot help themselves. Below I'll give some of our cases of help. One case I have in mind only just over a year ago. A comrade dropped into the branch office who had not seen war service. He was lucky to be placed at work and joined the Legion. Last quarter found him with dues unpaid for two quarters after working steadily since he started work. As a Dominion Day present he received a suspension notice for he had not paid his dues to the Legion that was his salvation a year or more ago. Next, we have another comrade who joined the branch about nine months ago. His pension case was taken up by the branch and he received several hundred dollars back pension and a sum each month. He has also worked steady. He also received his suspension notice on Dominion Day for owing the Legion who had got him hundreds of dollars and a pension, the small sum of two dollars for dues.

Next we have a comrade who received several food tickets of sums of \$5.00 and more before he joined the branch. His food bill would be around \$25.00 given freely. About eight months ago he joined the branch and parted with \$2.00. He also received a Dominion Day present of a suspension notice. He also has been working steadily for the last six months.

Next we have a case of an ex-soldier for whom we got several hundred dollars for war injuries and the lies he told caused the branch to get some very truthful information regarding this man. When tackled about his lies, he laughed and said, "Well, I've got my money. To— with the Legion."

We have also in the past made loans to some comrades in distress who asked for a loan, but to get the return of the loan is quite a different matter. In one case we had to take proceedings and in two cases we had to threaten to take proceedings before we saw any sign of repayment of the loan.

We next hear of an ex-soldier getting work at a house of a good citizen for a day. The good citizen's lady promised to give this man three good meals and \$2.50 in cash. He refused the \$2.50 as he had never worked under \$3.50 per day in his life.

We next hear of an ex-soldier begging money for meals. In some cases we found that a good citizen had given this man food which he left in the bush, and kept on collecting money for meals.

Next, we have the case of the ex-soldier who fooled the Kirkland Lake branch into giving him money to come to Timmins to get a job at a mine here, representing that he belonged to Timmins branch when he had neither the job at the mine, nor did he belong to the Legion at all.

Next we had the ex-soldier who belonged to this branch of the Legion before it was formed who refused the food ticket for \$10.00 as he wanted cash.

The officers of this branch could fill a book of their dealings with the ex-soldier and those who represent themselves as ex-soldiers, and some of the officers know only too well that the employer's patience has been sorely tried with some ex-soldiers that they were good enough to employ, and then had to get rid of these men as they were useless to them.

We ask the employer not to consider all ex-soldiers in the same category as those who have failed them in the past, and to the good citizens who have so nobly supported the Legion this last few years we say that there is no need for an ex-soldier to go hungry in the Porcupine, as we have a relief committee on the job all the time who supply meals for hungry ex-soldiers, and we have sleeping accommodation by the lake for the summer for the same ex-soldier and before giving meals (never give money) to a person who says he is an ex-soldier to make sure that it is an ex-soldier whom they are helping. We know there are many who have not been soldiers at all, going around using the ex-soldier part to arouse sympathy. The badge of the Legion, or the ex-soldiers badge does not necessarily mean that the wearer is an ex-soldier or belongs to the Legion. There are a good many wearers of the badge of the Legion to-day in the Porcupine who have no right to wear the badge of the Legion for reasons best known to themselves. All member of Branch 88 of the Legion are supplied with a card and a card case showing their standing in the Legion, which they can produce at any time and those who have neither card or receipt to show have failed the Legion or never belonged to it, and we are again warned that there are men canvassing for The Legionary and using the Legion to better their aims. So everyone beware of these men. The Legion has no canvassers at all. This branch has no canvassers, only at present several comrades are taking donations for the relief fund giving a ticket in exchange for the fifty cent donations. This ticket entitles the holder to five admissions to the rink, a chance in the draw and must be produced when accosting "Mr. Legion," the mystery man of Branch 88 who will give a \$5.00 gold piece daily to the lucky person who first stops "Mr. Legion."

Our first comrade to sell out and turn in a book of donations was Comrade Jack Regan from the Dome, or rather his good lady, and by the amount of orders for tickets Jack and his good lady look like topping the bill in securing donations this year. Our relief committee are still very busy; in fact, the relief handed out lately is assuming large proportions. Just to show how this works:—a returned soldier dropped around the other night, broke, hungry and without work or a place to sleep. In less than a few moments he was given a ticket for meals and a place to sleep. He had his discharge papers to show and remarked that it was the first time his discharge papers had done him a good turn. We have a good friend at one of the mines in this district who served under the White Ensign many years ago and is now a mine captain. This good friend has lately been able to find several ex-soldiers work—a thing that we are proud of, as this is the Legion spirit, to help those who cannot help themselves. We have a case of another ex-soldier who had tramped around the district for the last three weeks looking for work, a married man with a large family. As a last resort he got in touch with our good friend of the White Ensign and is now in employment. So I think "One who Served" cannot say that all ex-soldiers are turned down and I feel quite confident that our friend of the White Ensign will place the other comrade, before this letter appears in print.

We are holding an emergency general meeting, Monday, July 27th, for the purpose of sending resolutions to the Provincial and Dominion Conventions from the largest branch north of Toronto. We want a record meeting as besides getting resolutions in order, we want workers for the "Week of Wonders." So all who can show up to give a hand to get the rink ready for the big Week of Wonders.

Dues are coming in fairly good, but there are well over 130 comrades yet who cannot produce the card of Branch 88, Canadian Legion, owing to dues being unpaid. The more paid-up members we have the more backing we get at the conventions, so hurry up, shell out, and send in the dues owing. Next week I hope to be able to give a full outline of the Week of Wonders, Goldfield Drug and Legion Swim, and other interesting news.

Comrade Bob Stroud is working on two large signs or banners for the street advertising and these will likely be up by the time this letter appears in print.

As this winter will likely be the worst yet we have had, everyone get out, boost the Week of Wonders, and all pull together to see our relief fund bolstered up for the coming winter!

In conclusion I might add that even if the postal rates have gone up those comrades who send in their dues will receive a receipt by return of post as usual.

—The Secretary-Treasurer

Chesley Enterprise:—The June session was held in Owen Sound last week with all the members present. The members of Grey County Council never go gallivanting in June, and never reduce their sessional allowance. They get \$5 a day and pay \$2.50 a day for board and lodgings, and they consider the pay is none too high. A petition signed by Agnes Macphail, M.P., and other members of Artemesia U.F.W.O. was read at Tuesday's session suggesting a cut of ten per cent. in the sessional allowance on the salaries of all country officials and wages of men employed on country roads. No action was taken and the members were much incensed at Miss Macphail's interference when she is receiving a sessional allowance of \$4,000 for her services in the House of Commons, and is not returning any of her pay to the Federal treasury.

Millions Enslaved Under Russian Plan

Men, Women and Children Victims of Forced Labour Scheme in Soviet Russia at the Present Time.

The Duchess of Atholl in an address recently in London, England, said there are now several millions of men, women and children performing forced labour in Soviet Russia because of the speed with which the five-year plan is being pushed.

The Duchess, who formerly was parliamentary secretary to the Board of Education and is high in the councils of the Conservative party, based her opinions on the recent blue book of the British Foreign Office, in which official Soviet Government decrees were printed, and more recent ordinances published in the Russian press.

"In February, 1930, a special decree ordered the wholesale expropriation of the possessions of the better-off persons and their transportation with their families to wherever their labour was most required," the Duchess of Atholl said.

"It is estimated that over five million persons were forcibly deported under this decree, chiefly to the forests of the far north of Russia.

"Many of them arrived there in the winter and had no houses until they had built them for themselves.

"History, I think, records no such wholesale uprooting and banishment of peaceful fellow-citizens as this.

"This kulak decree was followed by the publication of a code of laying down regulations for the labour in penal camps of persons sentenced to imprisonment for more than three years. The labour of these prisoners also was to be employed in a manner that would best yield a profit. Their rations were to depend on the work done."

She reported that the forced labour had spread to collective farms, handling of grain and timber and other industries. Those refusing to go to points where they were ordered were struck off the unemployment register and lost their precious ration cards, thus being "left to starve" she asserted.

"Even women of the aboriginal population of the East are liable to conscription and forced labour has covered every conceivable category of persons in the vast Soviet Union," she said.

"That this enslavement is due to the five-year plan is unquestionable," she concluded. "That the shaping and execution of the plan is being assisted by foreign experts, foreign credits and foreign purchases in further unending. "Canada has taken action to clear herself completely of responsibility in the matter. Are countries such as the United States and Great Britain, both of which have made sacrifices in the past in the name of freedom, satisfied to do less?"

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20% discount on all Yard Goods. A good time to buy Sheeting, Pillow Cotton Flannelette, Curtain Material, Cretonne, Art Sateen, Silks, etc.

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Coats LADIES' and CHILDREN'S to clear \$4.95	Summer Hats Values to \$6.00 to clear \$2.95	Coats NEWEST STYLES to clear 1/2 Price

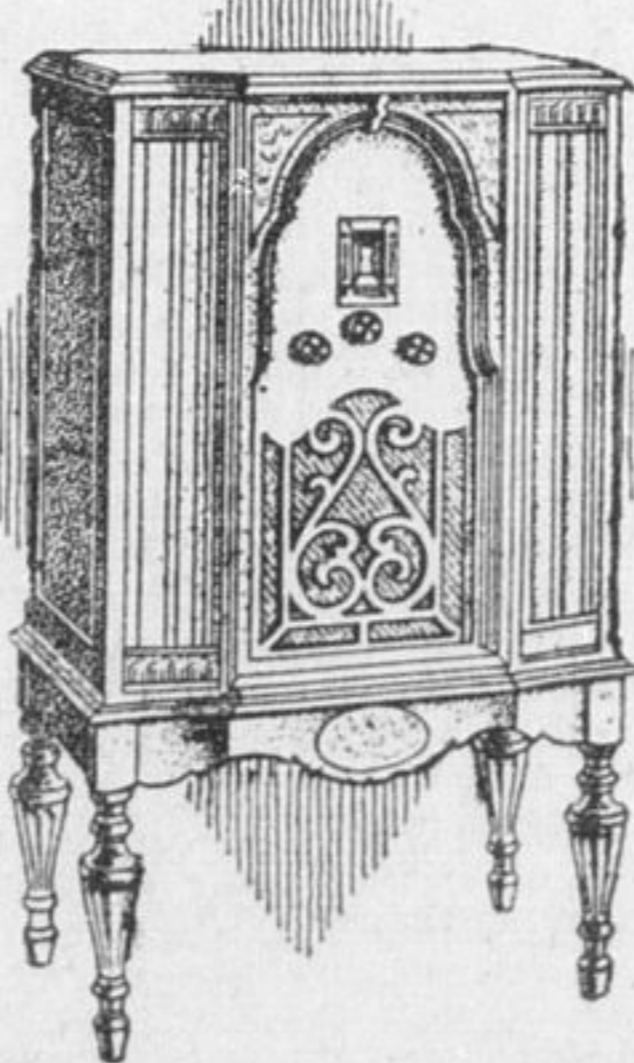
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