

# How Liberal Government Has Protected the Workers' Interests

Advanced Legislation for the Prevention of Strikes and Lock-outs Inaugurated.

CREDIT TO MR. W. L. M. KING

Probably the particular measure with which the name of Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King, the distinguished civil servant who has just taken a plunge into politics in North Waterloo, is most closely identified, is the Lemieux Act. It is well understood, and the Minister of Labor has himself stated, that the measure is the direct result of recommendations made by Mr. Mackenzie King, as the result of his investigations into industrial disputes.

The particular aim of the Lemieux Act is to "aid" in the prevention and settlement of strikes and lockouts in certain industries. The Act does not undertake to "prevent" or to "settle" strikes and lockouts, but simply to "aid" in doing this.

What It Does Not Do. Nor does the Lemieux Act forbid striking. It simply requires that before a strike or lockout is commenced, the parties concerned shall have been fully investigated by a Board established under the provisions of the Act, the theory being that, in nine cases out of ten, a strike is the result of misunderstandings which a frank and informal discussion, such as may take place before a Board, will remove.

The experience of eighteen months shows that this theory is well-grounded. Not less than 50 disputes have been referred under the Lemieux Act, and in only two cases after an investigation has taken place has a strike occurred, one exception being that of the Canadian Pacific machinists now in progress; and the second, that of coal miners at Springhill, N.S. In each of these cases the findings of the Board had been in the nature of a compromise, favoring some contentions of each party. The findings in each case also had been accepted by the company and refused by the men. In the case of the Springhill strike the men, after a strike of three months, returned to work on the findings of the Board, and work is now being conducted on the basis of those findings. In the case of the Canadian Pacific and its machinists, the company also put the findings of the Board into operation before the strike started. It will be generally admitted, however, that the amicable settlement of 48 out of 50 cases referred under the provisions of the Act is a very fair record, especially when it is taken into account that the machinery of the Act is new, and that the methods of working it best had to be learned by experience.

Strikes Averted. In each of these 50 cases, the parties concerned made sworn statements that a strike or lockout would occur if the dispute was not settled by a reference under the Act. In all but two or three instances it was the strike, and not the lockout, that was declared to be impending, and it was the men who applied under the terms of the Act. In four or five cases the result is still pending. In all other cases but two the result of the reference has been to avert the threatened strike. One example of the more important among the disputes arranged under the Act may be mentioned briefly. Seven thousand employees of the Dominion Coal Company of Nova Scotia applied for a Board. It was an open secret that the negotiations between the company and its employees had come to a deadlock, and that a strike of most disastrous character was impending. Neither side thought an amicable arrangement of the dispute possible, but the Act forbade a strike until a further settlement before a Board had been attempted. The machinery of the Act was applied by a tactful chairman, Prof. Shortt, recently appointed to the Civil Service Commission, and the result was a triumph over all difficulties and the conclusion of a two-year agreement. This one agreement would have more than justified its existence on the industrial book, and the slight cost of administration. And this success is but one of more than two score similar successes that could be indicated, though they are not all of equal importance to that of the Dominion Coal Company. The former Deputy Minister of Labor may well be congratulated on being the author of a measure so beneficial to the industrial community of Canada.



"I ACCEPT THE ISSUE."

"And Mr. Borden has said that purity is the issue in this campaign. If that be true, I accept the issue. If that be the challenge, I accept the challenge."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Niagara Falls.

## ONTARIO LIBERALS WILL STRENGTHEN LAURIER

No Reason for Creating a Situation That Might Approach a Deadlock—No Possible Chance of Conservative Victory in the Approaching Contest.

It is generally conceded that the result of the election, outside of Ontario, will be to give a large majority to the Laurier Government. Conservative prophets hope, or profess to hope, that the Laurier majority elsewhere will be destroyed by an overwhelming Borden majority in Ontario, or so far reduced as to render it impossible to carry on government. By no possible figuring can they make out a substantial working Conservative majority; the best they can figure out is a deadlock, or a condition approaching a deadlock. Even this result is conditioned upon the expectation of an overwhelming Borden majority in Ontario, a result which could be brought about only by a large body of Liberals voting for Conservative candidates, or staying away from the polls. Can Mr. Borden, or any of his friends, give the Liberals of Ontario a reason why they should weaken and embarrass their own leader, efface themselves, cease to play an influential part in the management of the affairs of Canada, and at the same time run the risk of creating a deadlock and throwing the business of the country into confusion?

A Contrast, Not a Parallel. The Toronto News says that Ontario ought to do this because Ontario gave Whitney an overwhelming majority, and is fairly well satisfied with the result. But surely the cases present a contrast rather than a parallel. In 1905

the people of Ontario put an end to a deadlock. To-day they are virtually asked to create a deadlock, such as existed in Canada just before Confederation, or such as virtually existed in Ontario between 1888 and 1895. The consequences of the former deadlock were so serious that the remedy was found only in a vital change in the constitution of the country. As to the latter case, it would be conceded that the chief source of the evil was simply the numerical weakness of the Government; the fact that it could not command a working majority in the Legislature.

Will Strengthen Laurier. Ontario Liberals might very well regard the result of the Provincial elections with resignation if not with entire satisfaction, because they put an end to a condition which was satisfactory neither to the party nor to the Province. But surely it is the height of unreason to expect that those Liberals who acquiesced in the giving of a great working majority to Whitney in Provincial affairs will seek to weaken and embarrass Laurier in Federal affairs, and to run the risk of creating a deadlock, such as was the main cause of trouble in Ontario before the change. A party may be asked to subordinate itself in order that the country may have peace and ordered government, but surely it ought not to be asked to efface itself in order that the affairs of the country may be thrown into confusion. The wise Liberal policy in this case is to strengthen Laurier's hands, and at the same time, by electing a strong Liberal contingent from Ontario, to give Ontario Liberalism its rightful share in directing the policy of Canada during the next Parliament.

Liberalism Is Proud of the Prospective Minister of Labor, Mr. W. L. M. King.

### REFORM BLOOD IN HIS VEINS

In nominating Mr. Mackenzie King, the Liberals of North Waterloo show regard for the future as well as the present. It is important to win the present election, and it is still more important to send to Parliament men who will uphold the basic principles of Liberalism, men who will not tamely follow but lead, men of originality and independence, who will bring to the Liberal party not merely a vote on a division but new ideas.

There will be many elections after this, and many Parliaments, and Mr. King, as a young man, may be expected to take a part in public life for many years to come.

Mr. King is the grandson of one of the liberators of Canada. The part played by William Lyon Mackenzie and by Robert Baldwin and others in winning responsible government for Canada ought never to be forgotten. But Liberalism cannot afford to rest upon the achievements of the past. Those achievements ought to be, not reasons for inaction, but sources of inspiration for earnest endeavor, for new deeds of courage and sacrifice in the never-ending battle for the rights of the people. Responsible government was not the end but the beginning of that battle. It removed one great obstacle to self-government. Edmund Burke says that there never will be a time when liberty will not be obnoxious to certain classes and interests. Enemies of liberty are never tired of quoting Madame Roland's saying: "O Liberty, what crimes are committed in thy name!" For one crime committed in the name of liberty a hundred have been committed in the name of authority, of privilege, and of class interest.

Mr. King's Training. Mr. King has had a training which peculiarly fits him for the career of a tribune of the people. His regard for the people has not evaporated in sentiment. He has done things. He has been confronted with the difficulties which lie in the path of the advancement of the people, and has overcome them in a practical way. His friends will be deeply disappointed if he does not carry his government sympathy and the fruits of his experience into his new career, and we do not believe that such disappointment awaits them.

We need have no anxiety as to the material progress of Canada. That progress is assured. The prosperity which we now enjoy is only an earnest of the prosperity to come. The resources of Canada, its fertile soil, its minerals, its forests, its water powers, have only been touched. But greater than all these things is the condition of the people of Canada, of the workers in the fields and the forests, the mines and the workshops.

The Work of Liberalism. Canada will have great cities, great in population and wealth, in huge factories and magnificent residences. But there is shame as well as pride in great cities. There are dark and filthy tenements. There are places where the natural and healthy instincts of childhood are repressed, and where stealthy vice murders daily the place of honest play. Canada, having before it the experience of the cities of the old world, and even of the cities of the United States, may guard against these evils. It may provide playgrounds, bathing facilities, cheap and easy access to woods and rivers and lakes, to places of health and beauty. But always let it be remembered that this work should be done as a matter, not of philanthropy, but of justice; that the workers of Canada are entitled, as a matter of right and justice, to share in the heritage of Canada. This is the work that lies before Liberalism to-day, just as responsible government was the work of the Liberals of seventy years ago. In this sense we hope to see William Lyon Mackenzie King carrying on the work of William Lyon Mackenzie.

# Two Periods in Canada's History

The history of Canada of late years naturally divides itself into two chief periods—the dark days from 1881 to 1891, and later an era of brightness and prosperity which began shortly after 1896.

## The Dark Days

The story of the ten years from 1881 to 1891 is burned into the memory of every Canadian of middle age. Debt was increasing, the burden of taxation was growing, and there was nothing to show for it all. There was stagnation everywhere. Immigrants landed on our shores, but they passed through to the United States. Some people from older Canada

moved to the Canadian West, but the trails were soon cut deep by a second movement across the border to the south. From factory towns and Ontario farms there was a steady exodus to the cities of the Republic. The whole country seemed smitten by blight, and gloom settled on all when the census of 1891 showed an increase of but half a million in all Canada in the previous ten years.

Population all Canada:	
1881 .....	4,324,000
1891 .....	4,833,000
Increase in ten years.....	509,000

## The Break of Dawn

A change came in the late nineties. Under a new and progressive Government the transportation service was improved and charges lowered; tariff anomalies were swept away, and trade helped rather than hindered; conditions were made such that our own people were glad to remain at home, and a vigorous campaign was inaugurated with a view of bringing the cream of the population from other lands to this. The result is seen in the figures given.

Population of Western Provinces:	
1901.....	419,000
1906.....	809,000
Increase in five years.....	390,000

An increase in the population of three Provinces, in 5 years, not so much less than that which took place in all Canada in 10 years.

## They Are Producers

Nor has the stream of immigration which has poured into the West found its outlet in the towns. Most of it has gone upon the land—to till the soil. Nearly 130,000 immigrants from other countries settled on farms in the West during the five-year period ending with 1906. Of that total Manitoba received 18,000; Alberta, 45,000, and Saskatchewan, 66,000. It is to the wealth produced by these new arrivals that a very great deal of the prosperity since enjoyed by all Canada is due.

Increase in Farm Population by Immigration	
Immigrants arriving in Western Provinces and settling on farms in five years ending 1906:	
Manitoba .....	18,000
Alberta .....	45,000
Saskatchewan.....	66,000
Total.....	129,000

## Good Stock, All

So much has been said of the antics of a few fanatical Doukhobors that many have concluded these make up a large proportion of the new arrivals in the West. As a matter of fact the fanatics are a mere fraction even of the Doukhobors. The great bulk of the new arrivals from abroad who have settled on Western farms are of our own blood. Nearly one-sixth came from the British Isles. Almost one-half are from the United States. Considerable numbers, as shown by the adjoining table, came from the Scandinavian countries and Belgium. These are all good stock. Even the Galicians are proving industrious and frugal settlers, and are rapidly becoming assimilated with our own people. Indeed, competent observers predict that they will prove one of the very best elements in the new communities which are being molded in the West.

Where They Came From	
This table shows the countries from which most of the 130,000 immigrant farmers who have settled in the West during the last five years came:	
United States.....	60,000
Great Britain.....	21,000
Austro-Hungary.....	24,000
Norway-Sweden.....	7,000
Germany.....	4,500
Belgium and Denmark.....	1,000

The story of the two periods is before you, which do you prefer? A continuance of progress under an active, aggressive Government—a Government that does things—or return to a period of stagnation under a party, the abilities of which are exhausted in criticism.

# Prospered

Under the Laurier Government Canada have been tall chimneys have been

EXPANSION	
1900 .....	\$446,000,000
1905 .....	\$833,000,000
1906 .....	\$387,000,000
1907 .....	\$431,000,000
1908 .....	\$706,000,000
1909 .....	\$225,000,000

in factories has been number of toilers employed. The aggregate increase in the five years, as shown by accompanying table, was \$4,000—or equivalent, counting in dependants of workers and those to whom their wages give employment, to the crea-

an factories, employing 1900 to \$162,000,000 in

Salaries	
1900.....	\$113,000,000
1905.....	162,000,000
1906.....	\$49,000,000

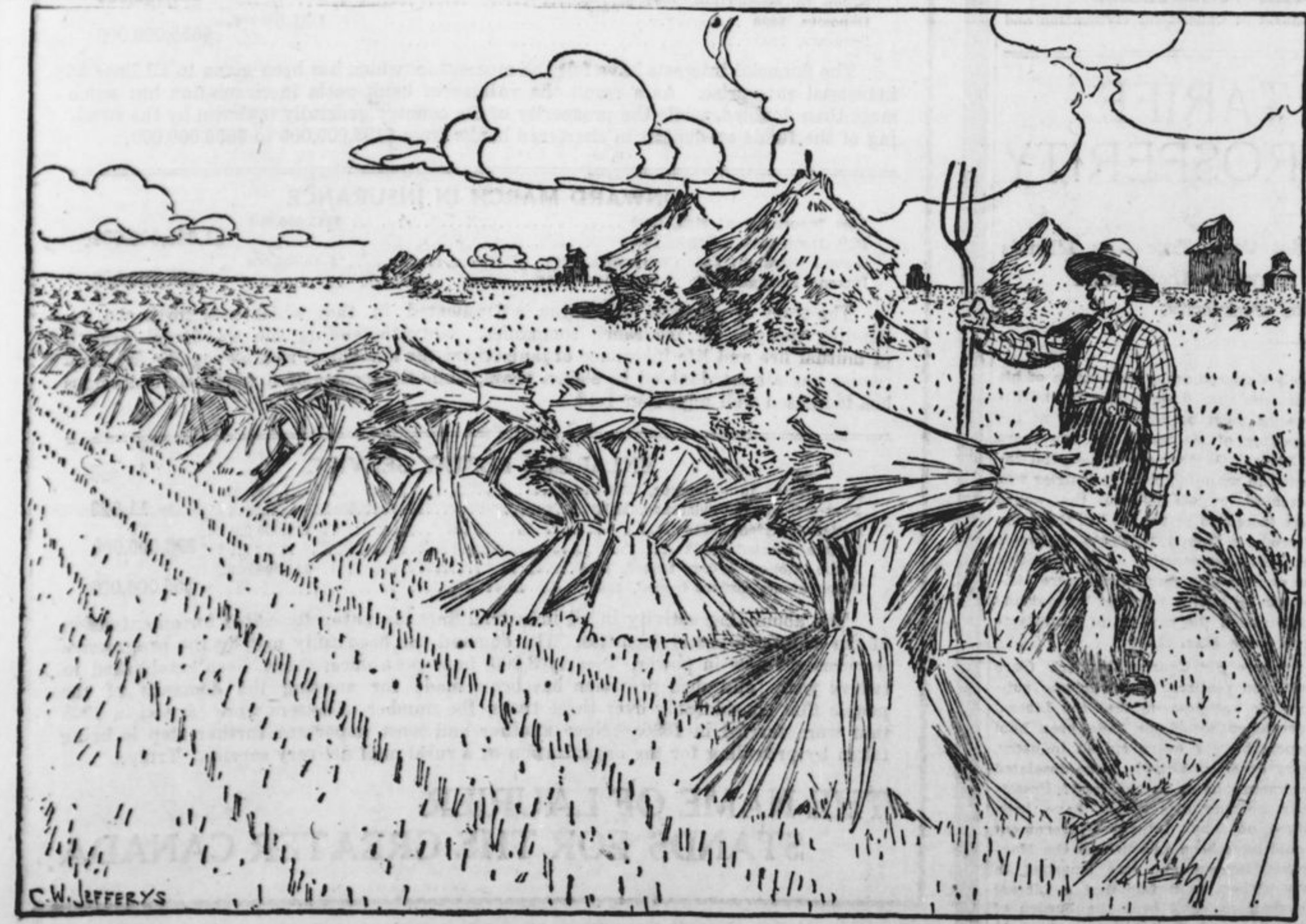
Ontario has had her full share in the industrial revolution which has taken place. Nearly half the increased capital employed in Canadian manufacturing, and over half the addition to the value of production turned out, is credited to this one Province.

Ontario Cities	
Value of Output	Increase in 5 Years
\$88,714,000	\$27,298,000
24,025,000	7,503,000
12,878,000	4,504,000
10,847,000	3,003,000
11,568,000	7,777,000

the Laurier fiscal and manufactured goods. A recent aid to manufacturing not only in the home but in the table, which shows \$10,000,000 in 1896 to

1900 .....	\$10,000,000
1905 .....	\$28,500,000
1906 .....	18,500,000

aining in power the already been made.



A series of eight cartoons drawn by Mr. C. W. Jefferys representing the conquest of Canada for civilization and the men who are engaged in it.