

**FREE EDUCATION**

For All in Far Off New Zealand

Toronto, Canada.—In an address to a section of the Ontario Educational Association in this city, N. R. McKenzie, inspector of New Zealand schools, said that attempts to fit the individual to an educational system has long since been abandoned in his country.

"Primarily, our educational system is designed to fit the individual," said the educator.

"We have no rigid courses of instruction. The teacher has the right to use his initiative. Text books are not compulsory and the teacher takes his choice. Our examinations are not set from books.

"Our high schools are governed in very democratic fashion. A board of governors, nine in number, has jurisdiction over one school, or perhaps over the schools of a whole city. Of this board, three members are elected directly by the parents of the pupils, four are elected indirectly by the parents, while two are appointed by the government.

"We place more stress upon manhood than upon property.

"We have even gone the length of making domestic science compulsory for girls and exempting them from algebra and geometry.

"Including the universities, education is free to those who show the necessary aptitude.

"In our city schools 55 per cent of the boys and 33 per cent of the girls take Latin; 90 per cent and 93 per cent respectively take French. In our schools we push French. Nor does the system drive the student toward a 'white-collar job.' From the cities 23 per cent of the senior pupils in all the secondary schools have gone to universities, but 24 per cent have gone to the farm. That seems peculiar, but it is a fact. We turned 24 per cent of that year's grist in the big cities into farmers."

**CONTROL OF JOB**

Not Industry, Is All Labor Wants, Says British Employer

Philadelphia.—Labor does not want commercial dictatorship nor is there any widespread desire to control industry, said B. Seeborn Rowntree, of York, England, who is lecturing at the Friends' summer school at Haverford college. Mr. Rowntree operates a chocolate-cocoa company in England and employs several thousand workers.

"There is a mistaken impression current about labor, namely, that labor wants the control of industry," he said. "Except for a small radical element that is not true.

"The thing that labor chiefly wants, and is determined to have, is a voice in determining the conditions under which it shall work, and the recognition that it is a co-operating factor in industry rather than a servant."

Mr. Rowntree said that the establishment of unemployment insurance stopped a revolution in England.

"Contrary to a general supposition, labor as a whole does not want to receive the benefits of insurance. The 1,800,000 men out of work in Great Britain want work badly, even if they are receiving help.

"It has been argued that with such insurance there would be a tendency to lie down on the job and go without work. But I have not found that true. Coincident with the paying of the insurance benefits government employment agencies are trying to find jobs. When they get one that is fit to the man applying for benefits, it is offered. If he refuses it, he gets no benefit. That sort of thing can be controlled. But the fact is that the men want work."

**WAGE LAW BEING FOUGHT**

Tucson, Ariz.—Arizona wage working women are the latest to discover that if they would secure a living wage they must depend on themselves.

The last state legislature increased the minimum wage for women to \$16 a week. The amendment is in the courts and the attorney general has stated that no act until its legality is settled.

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**THE BIG TREES**

IT WAS nearly dusk in the forest, but not one of the trees around the big oak tree was ready to be quiet for the night. And no wonder, for they all were very much upset.

That day a woodman had worked his way through the underbrush and had carefully looked at all the trees. He had walked all around the Big Oak and finally made a mark upon the bark.

None of the trees needed to be told what the mark meant! Year after year the same thing has happened to the unfortunate tree that bore the cross. Men with huge axes cut away the underbrush to make a path for their team, and then the dreadful sawing would begin.

But perhaps you do not know about the cruel saw. It is a long piece of steel with sharp, jagged teeth, and at



"Pine Tree, You Are Very Small."

each end is a handle, and with this saw the men work back and forth making a ringing and singing sound as they saw deeper and deeper into the trunk of the tree, but if you are not a tree the sound is quite pleasant to hear.

And this was the reason that all the trees around Big Oak were awake and sighing that night, for they knew it would soon be gone, though their sympathy did not make it any easier for Big Oak to bear the thought of its fate.

Just beneath the Oak grew a small pine tree, not very old, but, oh, so very wise as you will soon learn. Vainly had Pine Tree tried to make its voice heard above the moans and sighs of the larger trees, and when it was about ready to give up Chestnut Tree, swaying near, bent a branch low enough to notice little Pine.

**"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW**

Urged By U. S. Coal Commission

Washington.—Let the president set miners' wages and hold these workers to their tasks in the event of failure of mine workers and coal owners to agree.

This is included in the preliminary report by the United States coal commission, after eight months' investigation.

The report also recommends that the government seize the mines and they be operated by the president, who shall set coal prices and the compensation to be paid to the mine owners. In the latter case, however, the president has not the final word, as in the case of setting wages. The property owners may appeal to the courts if they believe the award is too low.

In its plan to avert strikes, the commission says that the expiration of the contract in the anthracite region should not coincide with the expiration of the bituminous contract.

Reference is made to coal owners' enormous profits, and reports by coal owners, as do railroads, and other public utility corporations, is favored.

The commission does not seem to consider that it would inflict a penalty on miners if congress prohibited them from striking and empowered the president to set their wages. The commission says no "punitive legislation" will be recommended at this time, but that the anthracite wage negotiations, now on, will be watched to see if the miners and coal owners "show a co-operative spirit."

**ANGLIN'S "BUNK"**

New York.—Margaret Anglin's statement that trade unionism affects her art, is pure "bunk," says Equity, official magazine of the Actors' Equity Association, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

"It is too bad that Miss Anglin feels this way, but there are many others who belong to our union who have not felt cramped, confined and bound in by being so," says Equity.

"Such artists as Ethel Barrymore, Laurette Taylor and Jane Cowell, to mention only two or three (for the list is long and would cover several pages of this magazine), have never done better work than they have since they became members of the American Federation of Labor. It has been generally recognized that there has been no better acting at any epoch of American theatrical history than there has been the last year, and yet 95 per cent of these artists belong to the Actors' Equity Association.

"Miss Anglin's statement is pure 'bunk.' Art is not affected one way or another by the artist belonging to a union."

"What is it you are trying to say away down there, Pine Tree?" it asked. "You will have to grow faster if you wish to talk to us."

In a brisk tone that made its needles stand quite straight it said: "I have something to say to Big Oak."

"It is very kind of you to be sorry," sighed the Oak, but tonight I really cannot bear any more sympathy."

Little Pine Tree saw that it had them all interested and bristling its needles it spoke in a sharp, clear voice so that all could hear. "Big Oak," it asked, "what have you ever done that was really useful?"

Big Oak lifted its branches in dismay at such a question; it swayed a little too, before it could find voice to reply, for everyone had looked upon Big Oak as the most important of the forest dwellers.

"Why, my big branches and leaves," it managed to gasp, "do they not furnish shade for all the forest folk who run about below and do not my strong limbs make homes for many others as well, and you ask me, who is the mighty one of the forest, of what use I have been in the world? Oh, this is too much, too much."

"Pine Tree, you are very small to be so wise, but if this be true," said the Chestnut Tree, "how did you find it out? You have never been out of the forest."

"It is rather a long story, but if you will be patient I will tell you all about it," answered the Little Pine.

"My mother was a Christmas tree, of course. She lived in the forest first, but she was marked and then one day she went to a big house and was dressed in gayly-colored trimmings and little children clapped their hands and danced about when they saw us—I mean her, my mother."

"How wonderful," murmured all the trees, looking with envy upon Big Oak, who now had raised itself to its full height and no longer felt sad.

"Did you see anything made of my wood?" asked the Chestnut Tree.

"I had only a little time to peek at things," replied the Pine, "but I know this, that every wood has its use and that if you all grow big and tall you will some day be chosen just as Big Oak is to be carried out of the forest and become useful and perhaps beautiful."

"Thank you, Little Pine, and good-night," murmured all the trees, as they quietly folded their leaves and went to sleep, contented and happy.

Little Pine had taught them a lesson that the things most dreaded sometimes turn out to be the greatest blessings in life.

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**TORY AGENTS GLOAT AT REDS' ACTIVITY**

Boston.—In an attack on President Gompers, which it labels "advice," the Boston News bureau can not conceal its jubilation that revolutionists are attempting to destroy the trade unions.

The news bureau is a spokesman for big biz. Its "advice" is the stereotyped citizens' alliance harangue that has been worn threadbare the past 25 years by anti-unionists.

Its only claim to public attention is this carefully worded notice to revolutionists that the Tory element is in sympathy with their attack on the trade unions:

"Perhaps it is too late for you to change, Mr. Gompers. But the final estimate of your career will be cast in about this mould. And we fear that ere long the great federation, which you have created, and to which you have given more than two score years of thought and toil, will have to face the most bitter struggle of its existence, for the 'reds,' the extreme radicals, are planning a tremendous effort to take possession of it in the near future."

**ALABAMA ALONE**

Birmingham, Ala.—Alabama is the only state in the union to retain this relic of barbarism, declares a committee of citizens who are opposing the leasing of convicts.

The state has 3,000 convicts. More than 1,600 of the best physical specimens are leased or contracted to four coal mining companies and one lumber company. The committee states that 90 per cent of convicts maimed and injured after conviction receive their injuries while under lease, and that 80 per cent of the tuberculosis cases are contracted while the victims are under lease.

The committee quotes figures on convict casualties from annual reports. In 1917, 27 were killed; in 1918, 14; in 1919, 13; in 1920, 12; in 1921, 20. Although there are more than 250 mines in operation in Alabama, 25 per cent of all the men killed were convicts working in five mines.

The anti-leasing committee is enlisting citizens in every section of the state in a fight against "this blot on our state's fair name."

**WANT CONVICTS WHIPPED**

Raleigh, N. C.—A few counties in this state refuse to accept Governor Morrison's suggestion that the whip be banished from county prisons. The chief executive has abolished the practice in the state prison, but it may be necessary to pass a state law before the county floggers are stopped.

**SHAMEFUL METHODS**

Adopted By R. R. "Union" in Recent Election

Altoona, Pa.—The recent election by the Pennsylvania railroad's company "union" was by far "the worst ever pulled off by any corporation, and violated every principle of fair dealing," says the Labor News, published in this city.

"The shop men were not given any choice, but to vote for one of the men on the ballot. The question of how they were to be represented did not figure at all, despite assurances of the management two years ago that at this time the men could change the system if they wished to do so. There was no opportunity to make a change from the present mis-representative form of representation.

"There is a growing resentment against those responsible for this situation and those who were elected are held in open contempt by most of the shopmen, who realize that a bona fide union is far superior to the one they are now compelled to work under.

"As a company 'union,' the rump committee is the biggest farce ever known, and is the laughing stock of both the men and many of the officials."

The labor paper says that the shop men who are at work are hopeful that there will be a solution of the present trouble, and that the one-time good will between the workers and the management will be restored.

"But this is not possible as long as railroad officials make laws for the 'union,' conduct the elections, furnish 'runners' to gather up votes and run the whole proposition themselves."

**DOES PRESIDENT OPPOSE BASIC WAGE INCREASE?**

Washington.—An analysis of the president's "labor speech" at Helena, on June 29, would indicate that capitalists have been armed with a new weapon to resist wage increases in "our most important industries and services."

After recounting to his audience how some capitalists expected his administration to destroy trade unions, the president said:

"On the other side of the line were those who hoped, by exorbitant demands and an attitude of uncompromising insistence, to force the nationalization of some of our most important industries and services."

What "exorbitant demands," other than wages, could the president have in mind? What union has taken "an attitude of uncompromising insistence" except on wage increases to meet present-day living costs?

This portion of the president's address is a new reference to wage movements that will not pass unnoticed by industrial autocrats and cheap-labor advocates.

It may be seized by these employers as hungrily as they seized the "open shop" cry to destroy collective bargaining and thus make the unions impotent.

**NO HELP**

For Labor in Huge Profits of Copper Barons

Phoenix, Ariz.—Copper barons in this state are rolling in wealth, while their workers are rewarded by low wages and poor working conditions. The power of these barons is shown by the deportation from Bisbee of 1,150 workers, July 12, 1917. The workers were rounded up in cattle cars, but no one has been punished for this outrage.

It is declared that the profits hunger of the copper barons equals the "clean up" of 1916 to 1918 when their incomes averaged a net profit of 54 per cent a year on their capital stock.

Another "clean up" is possible because this metal is now selling at 17 cents a pound. The world's consumption is 250,000,000 pounds a month, while production is only 195,000,000 a month, which will force the price to 20 cents a pound before the end of the year.

While the copper barons are perfecting plans for this gouging of the public, they continue the blacklist and terrorize any employee who dares suggest that through organization a living wage can be secured.

**IGNORE LAW VIOLATORS**

Baltimore.—The grand jury has set an example for law violators by dismissing charges against the foreman of a sewer contractor who stated he worked employees 10 hours a day, in violation of the eight-hour law, and that he intended to continue that course.

President Broening, of the Baltimore Federation of Labor, appeared before the grand jury, where he was actually argued with as to the merits of the eight-hour law.

"I tried to point out to them," said the trade unionist, "that it was not for them to construe the law, but to it that it is enforced. This received scant attention. It was plain to me that a majority of the jury was prejudiced. They seemed impatient at my attempt to offer evidence."

**DOLLAR DAY**

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**DOLLAR DAY**

Thursday July 26th

THURSDAY, JULY 26, has been designated as Co-Operative Dollar Day. It will be an event well worth looking forward to—a day you will have occasion to remember for weeks to come. On July 26, members of this organization will offer real bargains; genuine values; valid inducements why you should

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July the 26th is CO-OPERATIVE DOLLAR DAY. It signifies a sincere desire and willingness on the part of all members of this organization to place Service above self, and to render you a service that IS a service.

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