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vince, is in the field ostensibly as a Liberal but anyone [illegible] Gouin's record in his Provincial legislation knows that he is hand and glove with the barons of privilege. He is now out campaigning with the active support of the Tory Star. Gouin's chief plank is the return of the Government railways to private exploiters at a merely nominal price. So the Liberal of the provinces of Quebec is more Tory than Meighen.

Even in Quebec, however, the so-called Liberals are not having their own way. It is expected that twenty-five Farmer candidates will be in the field, beside the Labor candidates in the cities. So with Quebec also shot to pieces, there will be a sorry looking lot of Liberals returned.

We all know that Cape Breton is going to return four Farmer-Labor candidates. Cumberland county is likely to return its candidate, Captain MacKinnon, while R. M. Reid in Pictou gathers strength from day to day. Wallace and Hawkins in Halifax are putting up a splendid fight, and with the two Liberal candidates in that city admittedly out of the running it is the expectation that the great mass of the voters will plump for the two Labor candidates.

The West is acknowledged to be solidly Progressive. So from all points of view the only conclusion possible is that the Progressive party is the next government of Canada. This throws light upon the ten per cent cut in wages of the steelworkers in Sydney. The managers of the British Empire Steel Corporation knew it was bad tactics to cut wages before election time, but they knew that their friends, the Liberals and the Conservatives, would no longer be in power after December the 6th, and so put the cut into force while they yet had friends at Ottawa, hoping that by the time Meighen had handed over the reins of office to the Progressive party, the workers of Sydney would have become reconciled to the cut.

Sydney Record Supports Carroll, Kyte and Low Wages

The low wage propaganda paper, the Sydney Record, in its issue of November 12th, devoted three columns of its space to three things, first, to trying to prove that the miners would have to take lower wages, second, to attempting to turn the anger of the steel workers away from the management of the British Empire Steel Corporation and having it directed against their working brothers, the coal miners, and third, in giving a prominent place to the placards displayed in the Coal Company stores showing how much cheaper goods are than they were during the peak prices of 1920. The latter information is given to try and show the miners that they should take lower wages. To show how unfair the Sydney Record is, how partial and biased it is in favor of the British Empire Steel Corporation, we will dissect their statements and show the facts. In doing this, we are working from the outside, not having access to the cost sheets of steel production. But we can show from facts of public knowledge just how the Sydney Record is trying to fool the workers.

In its article, the Record states that the Dominion Steel Corporation has got an order of 20,000 tons of rails at $6 a ton below the September price. On the 20,000 tons, it means a decreased price of $120,000. It will take two months to complete the order, so the Company's decreased earnings will average $2,000 a day. A ten per cent cut provided the same number of men were working would mean a saving of only $1,000 a day, the company thus losing $1,000 per day. But as a number of workers are being sacked the loss over the September price will be only a few hundred dollars a day.

The Sydney Record tells the steel workers that it is the high price of coal ***which causes the steel profits to shrink a few hundred dollars a day,*** and the Record wants the steel workers to turn on the coal miners, ***in order that added profits may go into the maw of privilege.*** Let us look at the side of profit.

Dominion Steel's Net Earnings

During the past six years the net earnings of the Dominion Steel Corporation ***averaged over seven Million Dollars a year.*** As there are on an average, 300 working days a year, the ***average daily profit of the Corporation during the past six years was over $23,000.*** The two thousand dollars a day decreased earnings of Steel Corporation is not ten per cent of its average daily net earnings over the past six years.

The Corporation cut the pay of its steel workers twenty per and ten per cent and now ten per cent again. As the steel workers are faced with great difficulty in supporting their families on the measly wages given, the Sydney Record practically says to the steel workers "Do not look at the $23,000 a day net profits of your employer, no, no, look at the wages of the miners. Go fight the miners." Just listen to the Record, "Those steel workers have been standing the gaff while the miners got their peak wages; they will explain to the miners if need be how the gaff works." In other words, the steel workers are not to be angry at those who threw the gaff into them, but are to help the lords of special privilege throw the gaff into the miners.

What about those twenty-three thousand dollars a day net profits? Cannot the Dominion Steel Corporation shade those profits ten or twenty per cent if necessary? Of course they could. Will they? Not on your life if they can possibly help it. They will take their twenty-three thousand dollars a day profits and more if they can get them, and take those profits in the form of wage cuts of the employees.

Profiteering of Dominion Steel

The Record tries to compare the Dominion Steel Corporation to a retail merchant who has to pay higher wholesale prices while taking lower retail prices. The analogy does not hold at all. During the war the Dominion Steel Corporation's net profits rose to ***Eleven Million Dollars***, or eleven per cent upon its capitalization. That is an outrageous percentage to take. It is profiteering. Now the profits have fallen to over seven million dollars a year or seven per cent upon the capitalization, water and all. The Sydney Record is advocating low wages in order that huge profits may be made. The Record is defending profiteering at the expense of underpaid labor. If we are in error, let the British Empire Steel Corporation make public its cost sheets in the minutest detail.

The Sydney Record, in speaking of the lowered prices and conditions affecting production says, "It is not Wolvin who is doing this it is Business. Business is out after real prices and ***bus-***

We guarantee FIT and WORK

Also Fall and Winter Coats
at Lowest Prices
Men's Fine Shoes, Tan or Black, $5.40
S. SABLE
STIRLING, GLACE BAY

The Bowling Arcade
Alleys now in first class shape.
Drop in and meet the boys and enjoy good healthful exercise.

considered with profit by the management of the British Empire Steel Corporation. Ford pays a minimum wage of five dollars a day, with graduated pay for the more skilled workers. Office boys in Ford's business draw over a hundred dollars a month. Ford's idea is efficiency, big output and low prices. By so doing, the overhead ***which increases so seriously the British Empire Steel Corporation expenses,*** is spread over such a vast output as to be but a small charge.

Coal Company Stores

We come now to the propaganda campaign carried on by the Dominion Coal Company's stores, with regard to the decreased cost of living, which the Sydney Record so blatantly upholds. The Company stores are patronized largely by the men who get so little pay that they cannot afford to pay cash. They trade with the Company stores, live in Company houses, and for long periods of time see no cash at all, all their wages being reabsorbed into the Dominion Coal Company's cash through rent and store accounts.

The Dominion Coal Company, in its campaign to persuade the workers to take lower pay at the coming wage negotiation, posted in its stores a placard showing that in the peak prices of 1920 a barrel of flour cost $16.50 and a bag of sugar cost $22, or a total of $38.50. Side by side with that statement, it published another statement showing that a barrel of flour now cost $10, a bag of sugar now cost $10, or $20, and then it gives a whole list of small articles which can be purchased with the other $18.50 that used to go into the sugar and the flour. To an unthinking person, this seems a convincing argument. The cost of living has gone down, therefore the miners should be paid less. But it is not at all convincing, for the cost of living at the peak prices had risen higher than the wage scale had risen, and so the workers were worse off than they were before the war. We will give the comparison.

Cost of Living and Wages

In 1896 the laborers in the coal mines of Cape Breton were getting a datal wage of $1.25. In 1920 after the Montreal agreement, they were getting a datal wage of $3.90, or 215 per cent over the 1896 rate.

In 1896, the index number of the wholesale prices of commodities in Canada stood at 90.6. Wholesale prices advanced till the peak period of May 1920 (the peak price shown in the Company stores) when the wholesale index number had advanced to 356.6, or 293.6 per cent over the wholesale price of commodities of 1896 or 78.6 points more than wages had risen. Reducing the cost of living and the wholesale prices to a common basis, it is found that in May 1920 ***the cost of living had risen twenty-four and a half per cent more than wages had risen.***

The net result is, that the miners had ***got an actual reduction of wages as compared with 1896 of twenty-four and a half per cent.*** That is to say, the men in 1896 with $1.25 a day, ***could purchase almost one-fourth more necessities than they could in May 1920 with their so-called high wages.***

1896 was known as a period of low wages. As a matter of fact, the workers in 1920 had got an actual cut in wages of almost twenty-five per cent, ***and Wolvin and the Sydney Record want to make that actual cut permanent.***

Another point about the Company's placard shows it is most unfair; ***it takes sugar in which was the worst profiteering, to measure the fall*** in prices. In 1896 sugar was selling for four cents a pound, in May 1920 it was selling for 22 cents a pound or ***an advance of 450 per cent*** over the 1896 prices. If wages had advanced in the same proportion as sugar, the datal men in May 1920 would have been getting $6.88 a day in wages instead of $3.90.

Advice to the Sydney Record

We would give a word of advice to the Sydney Record if it will take advice from a confrere. The Sydney Record by its present policy ***is heading straight for the financial rocks.*** Its readers will quit it, for the prosperity of its readers is bound up with fair prices to the workers. ***Also the advertisers will quit advertising in its columns.*** For every cut in wages means that much less money to be spent in Sydney and Glace Bay, ***and the advertisers are hurt just that much.*** Imagine a newspaper going to a merchant and saying, "I am going to try and cut the income of your patrons thirty-three and a third per cent. Now I want your advertisements in order that I may have funds to carry on my campaign to reduce wages and to cut off the market for your goods." ***That is just what the Sydney Record is doing.***

The Maritime Labor Herald is ***fighting for the prosperity of every business man in Cape Breton***, that is why we have so much advertising and why the business man are going to vote for the Farmer Labor candidates.

The Sydney Record is saying to the voters, "We want to have your pay cut away down, and we want you to vote for Carroll and Kyte." It inevitably follows ***that a vote for Carroll and Kyte is an endorsation of the Sydney Record's campaign for lower wages to the wealth producers of Cape Breton and for contracted markets for the merchants of Cape Breton.***

Those who want the prosperity of Cape Breton to be diminished