

Relations industrielles Industrial Relations



The Congress of the Professional Association of Industrialists

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Volume 6, Number 1, December 1950

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1023260ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1023260ar>

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Publisher(s)

Département des relations industrielles de l'Université Laval

ISSN

0034-379X (print)

1703-8138 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this article

Moreau, L. (1950). The Congress of the Professional Association of Industrialists. *Relations industrielles / Industrial Relations*, 6(1), 28–28. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1023260ar>

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The Congress of the Professional Association of Industrialists

The Professional Association of Industrialists held their Sixth Annual Congress at Montreal, on the 30th and 31st of October. The subject under consideration was the following: "Economic and Social Security". It is undeniable that the discussions and studies presented during the two days was crowned by a real success. One hundred and fifty of the three hundred employers who are active members of the most important Catholic employers' organization of the Province of Quebec, were present.

The administrators of the P.A.I. were especially fortunate in the choice of speakers for the annual banquet of the Association and for the luncheon talks. Maitre P. E. Côté, member for Verdun, and Parliamentary Secretary of the Honourable Federal Minister of Labour, spoke on joint production committees as an indispensable means for "conquering industrial peace".

Mr. Esdras Minville, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Montreal, presented "a few reflections on the French-Canadian business man". Mr. Minville reviewed the relations which the business man should maintain with his clientele, his personnel, with his comrades in industry and with public authorities. These ties that the business man maintains with the above groups should be regulated according to the norms of social justice, which, in turn, necessitates quite a bit of thought. A completely new conception of the economic world must be formed. Who is ready to do this at present? Such a task does not belong to the governing bodies. Moreover, the business men are not prepared to undertake it either. Mr. Minville expressed the desire for a sincere cooperation between business men and those university professors concentrating their studies on industrial and commercial problems.

Mr. Minville also mentioned that business has passed the stage of economic risk, and is presently subject to social risks. But a manufacturers organization is necessary in order to enforce social security plans. If it were otherwise, employers with the best of intentions would be penalized. Finally, Mr. Minville wished the P.A.I. an ever-increasing success in its task.

Father J. B. Desrosiers, p.s.s., Director of the Institute of Pius XI, spoke on professional organizations in pontifical documents. This is a very timely subject, for we know how the employer, left on his own, might be inclined to thwart in every manner possible the right of assembly and

the right to unionize, of his employees. The P.A.I. is a denominational association based on the social doctrine of the Church, and recently, in congress, passed a resolution in this regard: "The P.A.I. reaffirms the necessity of maintaining intact the right of workers to work and their right to unionize."

A member of the congress who attracted much attention was Mr. W.J. Whitehead, Managing Director of the Wabasso Cotton Co., Ltd. His lecture was entitled: "The Social Experiments of the Wabasso Cotton Co." In very good French, Mr. Whitehead explained how the Rucker Plan functioned in his factories, in which the worker shares in the receipts from conversion: "After much study and experience, I have come to the conclusion that only a system of sharing — keeping in mind what may be obtained from the consumer, what is necessary for the stability and progress of the enterprise, and the real value of the efforts of labour — can permit us to accomplish our obligations and assure us social peace. I have discovered this system in the plan of sharing in the receipts from conversion, conceived by Mr. Rucker."

Mr. Whitehead explained and answered questions for an hour, in connection with the technique of the plan. We hope that the students of Laval in those departments immediately concerned, might have the advantage of hearing this model employer, who, although of a different religion from ours, has not neglected, and wisely enough, to post the Letter of the Catholic Hierarchy of the Province of Quebec. "All christian employers will agree with us, he states, that we should not only welcome it (the letter) with respect, but should also study it and imbue with it our work as citizens with grave responsibilities toward society."

The P.A.I. may well be proud of the Congress it has just held. Mr. J. L. Heon, president of the Provincial Recruiting Committee, appealed with insistence to present members to recruit two hundred new members for the P.A.I. during the coming year.

The new president of the P.A.I. is Mr. Horace Boivin, President of the Granby Elastic Web of Canada, Limited, and mayor of Granby.

The Industrial Relations Department of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Laval was represented by its Secretary.

FR. L. MOREAU,
Industrial Relations student.