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## FINAL SESSIONS I.T.U. CONVENTION

Power was given the executive committee of the International Typographical Union to recommence negotiations with the American Publishers' association relative to the contract governing hours of work and wages, and to submit a tentative agreement and to submit the same to the rank and file of the union in a referendum at its afternoon session of the I.T.U. annual convention. This decision was reached by a discussion of the forty-four hour proposition and after such power had been asked for by President John McFarland. The convention also decided to start a propaganda campaign among all labor unions in favor of a general boycott in the United States and Canada of the production of all firms which had not recognized the forty-four hour week and which were running open shops.

The convention went into committee of the whole to discuss the report of the 44-hour week committee, which was submitted by P. J. Corcoran, of New York. It recommended that the convention be asked to pass a resolution which would place the delegates on record as in favor of a continuation of a vigorous campaign to secure general recognition of the 44-hour week, that the ten per cent assessment being levied for the strike pay to those men out of work in shops where this proposal had not been accepted be continued, and that the executive committee be empowered to render assistance wherever required in this connection. Mr. Corcoran said that the 44-hour committee had found that the morale of the workers towards the strike was splendid and its attitude loyalty personified.

President McFarland outlined the history of the movement to secure a 44-hour week. He claimed that it was not really a fight for the acknowledgment by printers for the 44-hour week, but a struggle in favor of the publisher who was willing to sign up, but wanted to do so in secret. He suggested that a species of terror was in operation on the streets over this question. \$9,000 were working under the 44-hour week agreement. To that extent the union could claim to have been successful in this regard.

President McFarland said that he would place before the convention a very plain statement of the situation. In New York the commercial contract of No. 6 local ran out on September 30. The proprietors of that city had already made demands upon the union for reductions. It followed that a reduction, topped by the ten per cent assessment, would not be acceptable to the members, and the officers must take into consideration the possibility of trouble in New York city. It was to be hoped that an amicable adjustment would be made today to go to arbitration meant to lose. If 1,000 men went on strike that would mean an addition of \$87,000 per month to the strike pay. The union was not financially able to carry an extension of hostilities. In Chicago the situation was somewhat different. The commercial contract in that city ran out in November. Sixteen local shops had settled with a reduction. A demand for another cut seemed likely. It was hardly to be expected that it would be looked upon with equanimity, but they must be prepared to take into consideration the financial situation and prepared to make the necessary sacrifices. If there was a settlement in New York and Chicago the danger would be passed and the union would be thoroughly competent to handle the situation. Mr. McFarland said that there were two factors in the situation that were threatening the organization. One was its ability to keep the strikers on the streets and the other was its ability to give them a competence. The kicking against the ten per cent assessment must cease. They must keep up their spirits. Any man preaching concessions or preaching a reduction of the assessment was preaching a defeatist doctrine similar to the strike question by Germany during the war.

## MOVEMENTS OF THE ONTARIO LABOR PARTY AT TORONTO

The anticipated increase in the ranks of the unemployed during the coming winter and methods of affording them relief formed the principal topic of discussion at the meeting of the Independent Labor Party at the Toronto Labor Temple. It was suggested that in every municipality in the province there should be immediately formed an organization composed of representatives of employers, of employees and of the municipality as a whole, this body to be empowered to deal with the unemployment situation as it sees fit from time to time.

The party discussed proposals for federal legislation aimed at age insurance and unemployment. President J. W. Buckley was in the chair. Others present were: Controlled Cameron, of Ottawa, George Halcrow, M.P.P., South Westworth, Dr. Hett of Kitchener, and the Secretary.

At a conference of labor members of the Ontario Legislature and the executive of the Labor party a decision was reached to urge the government to aid manufacturers with loans where needed in order to get any plants now idle operating again before the winter. This course they believed would go far towards solving the unemployed situation. It was assumed that one of the big difficulties was the lack of funds which banks would not supply. A commission to pass on all applications for loans was also suggested. A committee was appointed to put the lion proposition to the Ontario cabinet.

The executive committee of the Independent Labor Party of Ontario decided to retain its present name. The resolution adopted concludes with:

Therefore, we, the executive of the party deem it would be inexpedient and probably fatal to the success of the political movement to relinquish our permanent position until such time as the Canadian Labor Party is properly organized."

## Are Not Reducing Wages

W. J. Gibbons, Nashville, said the salary of the first vice-president was ridiculous. He would not take the job for \$20 a day and be subjected to the vilification of the members of the union. He deprecated the politics behind the move to reduce Mr. Barrett's salary.

Michael Powell, Ottawa, made the convention laugh by suggesting that if they went on in this way they would be providing hampers and cheap boarding houses for their officers when they went on trips.

Mr. Barrett lives in Indianapolis. He receives a salary of \$75 a week and expenses. The proposal was considered by the convention as a political measure and the house lined up on party lines—the administrative officers behind the objection to a salary cut, and the anti-administrative officers or progressives, behind Mr. Barrett. The vote was 168 against the proposal and 99 for.

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## Employment Service Council to Meet

The third annual meeting of the Employment Service Council of Canada is to be held at Ottawa from August 31 to September 5, when the employment situation as affects the Whole Dominion will be well canvassed and measures outlined for meeting the situation as far as the Employment Service can assist. Delegates will be here from several provinces. It is expected, and one of the subjects for discussion, under the heading of "unemployment and organization of the labor market," will be consideration of the present employment situation and the drafting of an employment program. Representatives of both employers and employees will be in attendance, as well as delegates from the returned soldier organizations who are represented on the council.

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