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AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY'S PLANS FOR REFORMS

Proposes to Abolish State Government and Invest Federal Gov't With Powers

(By W. Francis Abern, Australian Correspondent, The Federated Press)
Sydney, N.S.W.—At the present time there is one federal parliament in Australia, consisting of a house of representatives and a senate, in addition to six state parliaments in the place of each. There is one governor-general for the commonwealth, and six state governors for the six respective states. The personnel of the six state parliaments and the federal commonwealth parliament makes up nearly 600 parliamentarians, all of whom are paid high salaries.

The Australian Labor party has on foot a scheme for doing away with this elaborate development of Australia, efficiency in legislation, and definite determination for the guidance of Australian citizenship, the Labor Party proposes to abolish the present form of state government and to invest the federal government with full sovereign powers and thus make its enactments complete and supreme.

The Labor Party proposes to create thirty-one provinces in the place of the six present states in Australia, so that the principle of interests would be conserved. In each of these provinces a provincial legislature would be given by the commonwealth parliament a uniform written constitution, giving it powers to legislate on matters of domestic concern, where such will not conflict with commonwealth concerns. It is intended that the commonwealth shall also give a written constitution for municipal government within the provinces.

It is proposed that these provinces shall be governed by from ten to fifteen members in provinces of fewer than 100,000 population, and fifteen to twenty members of provinces of 100,000 to 200,000. The total number of provincial legislators would not exceed 400, whereas there are 575 members in the existing state parliaments.

It is proposed to abolish the senate and increase the number of members in the house of representatives to 100. The proposed scheme will mean efficiency in government upon national questions, while there will be a decentralization of such powers as are necessary to comply with the wants and requirements of communities of interest. Also, there will be economy in the actual number of legislators. The population of Australia at the present time is largely confined to the coast line of the continent, centering mostly in the capital cities. A form of government as proposed would assist in the development of Australia and its natural resources, ultimately giving the country the protection of an added population, and a form of government free from the complications as exist today with a commonwealth parliament and six separate state parliaments.

LABOR REPORT FOR MONTH OF MAY IN BRIEF

Cost of Weekly Family Budget of Staple Foods Averaged \$16.65

According to the Labor Gazette the cost of the weekly family budget of staple foods averaged \$16.65 at the middle of May as compared with \$15.99 in April, and \$14.21 in May, 1914. The index number of wholesale prices reached 256.6 for May as compared with 353.1 for April, 284.1 for May, 1919, and 126.3 for May, 1914.

At the beginning of May the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions was 2.83, as compared with 2.44 at the beginning of April.

According to returns received from nearly 4,900 firms, the increase in employment reported for the latter half of April was continued during May. This was largely accounted for by increased activity in building and in railway construction.

The time loss during May due to industrial disputes was greater than during April, 1920, but much less than during May, 1919. There were in existence during the month 73 strikes, involving about 12,005 workpeople, and resulting in a time loss of 145,168 working days. At the end of the month there were on record 27 strikes involving about 4,502 workpeople.

The London Daily Herald charges that Lloyd George is trying to wreck the negotiations with Krasin, trade commissioner of the Russian Soviets, by his persistence in introducing political affairs in the negotiations when Krasin is authorized to take up only commercial matters.

TORONTO PLUMBERS GET MINIMUM WAGE OF 90c AN HOUR

As a result of peaceful negotiations the minimum wage of plumbers and steamfitters at Toronto will after July 1st be advanced to 90 cents an hour, an increase of 15 cents an hour, on the old scale.

The United Association was never since its inception in as good shape as it is today or as solidly organized, and is just about 100 per cent organized. The best of feeling prevails between employers and their union employees. During the last three years agreements have been reached between the employers and the representatives of the union, with but little, if any, friction.

BRITISH DELEGATE DENIES REPORTS OF ASSO. PRESS

Made No Reference To the International of Soviet Russia

(By The Federated Press)
Montreal, Can.—J. W. Ogden, fraternal delegate representing the British Trade Union Congress at the A.P. of L. will not so soon forget the kept press of America.

In his address to the convention he had spoken of the "greater efforts toward international organization" made by the British labor movement during the past three years, and had explained the word in this way:

"When I speak of internationalism I mean that we deal as trade unionists and as representatives of the workers that we should not only link up with the American Federation of Labor, we should not only link up with the Canadian representatives of labor, but we should link up with all organized workers the world throughout. We believe that the only way to prevent wars and to prevent misunderstandings is for the workers and their representatives in all countries to get together, to keep in close touch with each other, and prevent misunderstanding, and we believe by that method, my friends, we should not only make greater progress as workers of the world, but we shall have a means of preventing future wars."

Next morning the New York Times printed an Associated Press dispatch containing this sentence: "Mr. Ogden warned the Federation that it must ignore any 'international' similar to that formed in Russia and other countries."

When shown this alleged quotation, Mr. Ogden appeared disgusted.

"This is monstrous—it is damnable," he said. "You can make that denials as strong as you choose. I said nothing of the kind."

"I did not refer to Russia, directly or indirectly, in this connection. I have at no time said anything of the kind."

"I suppose I can do nothing about it, as a guest here. But what is unfair and unfortunate is that the remark may be quoted in England, and I shall be busy for months in denying the statement to one person after another. Anything you care to do in your country to deny the statement I shall be grateful for."

"Please understand me clearly: I said nothing—absolutely nothing—of the kind. It is absurd and impossible that I could make such a remark regarding the Russian situation."

This is just another incident in the long list of mistakes made by the Associated Press, through the inaccuracy of the attitude or spirit of British labor, sentiment attributed to the British labor spokesman would be gratefully acknowledged as genuine. It was not pre-meditated. It merely proved once more the difference in purpose and the consequent difference in effect of news service owned and run by and for big private employers, and the news services owned and run by and for organized labor.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HOTEL RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES

Amsterdam—International war upon the tipping system by the waiters of the world was declared at the third international conference of the Union of the Hotel, Restaurant and Cafe Employees which was held in the De-Kroon Cafe in this city.

The conference also embodied in the statutes of the international union provisions to the effect that, while no worker should be barred from seeking legitimate employment in any country, he must join the union in that country within four weeks, no entrance fee being required; furthermore, all attempts of the employers to import labor to break strikes must be fought, and there must be no division fomented among the hotel workers through the organization of branches of foreign unions in a country which already has an hotel workers' union.

BRICKLAYERS AT CALGARY GO ON ONE DAY STRIKE

Help the Contractors Along in Negotiations for a New Wage Scale

Last Friday the bricklayers at Calgary decided to "go on a fishing trip" and see if that wouldn't help the contractors along in the settlement of negotiations for a new wage scale. The contractors, however, were not content that it should be so, and the "fishing trip" lasted only one day.

The bricklayers have been negotiating for a new agreement since January, but owing to the contractors hanging back on several minor clauses the agreement has been hanging fire since that time. The two parties were in accord as to the wage scale, the principal part of the agreement, but differed in one or two, other less important clauses, one of which being the question of the expenses in cases where a union man was sent on an out of town job.

However, after waiting for six months for the contractors to make up their minds on the matter, the bricklayers decided they would take a rest and give the contractors time to think it over, which they did with the result that the vacation lasted but one day. The rates now are \$1.25 an hour with the 44 hour week.

CONDITIONS OF LABOR IN THE FIJI ISLANDS

White Paper Issued Recently Gives Some Startling Facts About Indentured Laborers

(By Dr. N. S. Hardiker, writer for The Federated Press.)

A White Paper has been issued recently on the conditions in 1918 of the indentured Indian workers, by the Legislative Council in Fiji. It contains some startling facts about the methods pursued by the government in the treatment of these to all practical considerations—slaves of the system that flourishes at Fiji. Some of the facts brought to light are:

1. The extension of indentures. A number of indentured laborers whose terms were to expire in 1918, were again turned over to their masters, to make up "for all the time lost to the employers by reason of breaches of the Immigration Ordinance and for criminal offenses." This is in line with the policy that is being pursued in the Fiji Islands for the past ten years, of constantly seeking and finding ground for the retention of indentured servants whose term of service is about to expire.

2. Conditions of indentured immigrants on plantations, the average earnings in 1918 being in the case of males 15 pence (30 cents) per day and females 8.33 pence (17 cents) per day. In 1917 the amounts respectively were 13.72 pence (about 27 cents) and 7.17 (14 cents). In other words, the increase in the case of male workers has been 3 cents per day, and in the case of females, the same. This is a victory indeed!

3. Health and sanitation. "The number of deaths in 1918 from influenza among the Indian population is estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000." In the same report is a statement that "particular attention has been paid to complaints by indentured immigrants."

Improvement in the sanitation of the various districts is satisfactorily maintained.

ORGANIZED LABOR IN DETROIT WATCHING SOME INJUNCTIONS

Detroit, Mich.—Organized labor is eagerly watching the injunction proceedings undertaken by the master plumbers and steamfitters of this city against the strikers' pickets. The application of the employers for an injunction has been the subject of a court harangue the past week and has received considerable notice in the daily press.

There have been no injunctions issued in labor disputes since organized labor decided a year ago to pay no heed to court orders depriving them of the right to exercise their constitutional liberties. This attempt to revive the injunction is therefore watched keenly by union workers.

Picketing of any kind has been declared illegal by the state supreme court about five years ago in the Lengyel case of Grand Rapids. In that instance Lengyel, a striking molder, undertook to stand in front of a struck shop with folded arms and speaking to no one. This act was held to be in contempt of court and the supreme court then decided that picketing was illegal and upheld the decision of the judge who sent Lengyel to prison.

MONTREAL BARBERS STRIKE TO ENFORCE INCREASE DEMANDS

Two hundred barbers, members of the local union, went on strike Wednesday morning, following the refusal of the Master Barbers' Association Tuesday night it was decided that it would be impossible to meet the men's demands of \$25 a week wages and half of the receipts of each man over \$35 a week, under the present scale of charges to the customers. Six hundred barbers are still at work.

LOCAL MOULDERS OUT ON STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES

Men Are Asking 92 1/2 Cents Per Hour For An Eight Hour Day

On June 26th the members of Edmonton Local No. 373 of the International Moulders' Union went on strike for higher wages and shorter hours. The action of the men was the result of the refusal of the employers to agree to any reasonable request on the part of the men.

The agreement between the moulders and the local contract shops expired on June 25th. One month prior to that date the union submitted a new scale to the employers, which the latter refused to consider. The men had been receiving 75 cents per hour for a nine hour day, and in the new agreement requested 92 1/2 cents per hour for eight hours.

The only offer of any kind made by the employers was 80 cents for nine hours. This the men felt they could not entertain and when the employers refused to make any better offer the men decided to cease work.

The shops affected, and which are now unfair, are the Western Foundry and Machine Works; Edmonton Iron Works, Nicholls Bros., Jackson Bros., and the Imperial Brass and Iron Works. The Coutts Machinery Co. have agreed to the terms of the union.

The moulders are in receipt of the following letter from the Master Foundrymen:

Corresponding Secretary, International Moulders' Union No. 373, Edmonton.

Dear Sir: The following is a copy of a resolution passed by the Master Foundrymen of Edmonton at a meeting held last week:

Resolved that the local corresponding secretary of the Moulders' Union No. 373 be notified that all moulders having left the Edmonton shops during the present strike will not be re-employed for a period of thirty (30) days, commencing July 1st, 1920.

Further that no moulders will be re-employed after duration of the thirty days mentioned, unless under the scale of wages prevailing up to the time of the strike, viz.: seventy-five (75) cents and eighty (80) cents per hour, with a working day of nine (9) hours, and four (4) or five (5) hours on Saturday.

No agreement will be signed with the moulders, neither will any organized body of moulders be recognized by the Master Foundrymen of Edmonton.

Unless the moulders notify the Master Foundrymen of Edmonton, on or before July 15th, 1920, their intention to return to work under the above mentioned conditions, it will be taken for granted that they do not intend to return, and the Master Foundrymen of Edmonton will be free to act accordingly.

(Signed), E. TOPPING, for Sec.-Treas.

W'PEG TRADES AND LABOR WILL LAUNCH CAMPAIGN ON O.B.U.

At a meeting of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council Tuesday evening, it was decided to immediately launch a campaign with the object of crushing the One Big Union. W. H. Hoop was appointed temporary organizer.

Challenges thrown out by the One Big Union to open debate will be accepted and every effort will be made towards winning all unorganized labor into the camp of the internationalists.

The union label saves time and talk in making sales. It sells itself, and it never deceives the purchaser.

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY EVENING

A special meeting of the Trades and Labor Council will be held Monday evening, July 12, in Labor Hall, corner of First and Jasper. All delegates are requested to be present.

RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WILL SAVE FARMERS

Farmers National Council Advocate Government Ownership As Saving To Workers

Washington.—A reconstruction program which, it is asserted, will save American farmers \$2,000,000,000 annually has been made public by the farmers' national council. The program includes:

Government ownership and democratic operation of the railroads for service and not for profit.

Government ownership and democratic operation of the people's ships for service and not for profit.

Thorough going federal control of meat packers, with the object of eliminating uncontrolled profits.

According to the statement, if this program were carried into full effect, it would save \$75 annually for every man, woman and child of the 40,000,000 farmer population. The statement adds:

"This program will save the other workers fully as much as it will save the farmer, and it is to the common interest of at least 95 per cent of the American people to have the program carried into effect at once."

The council estimated that government ownership of railroads would save the farmers \$1,500,000,000 annually.

COLORADO LABOR ENDS PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTION

State Federation Endorses The Trade Union Non-Partisan Political Program

Denver, Colo.—A conference called by the Colorado State Federation of Labor and railroad brotherhoods has ended partisan political action by workers in this state and has endorsed the trade union non-partisan political program.

In its declaration of principles, the convention said:

"In general we affirm the absolute right of the toiling masses to work out their own destiny unhindered by legal interference of any character. In particular we declare our unalterable opposition to the '30-day involuntary servitude clause' in the Colorado state industrial commission law and the Kansas court of industrial relations, and any other law of like nature and character which has for its purpose the placing of the workers of any part of this nation in involuntary servitude."

The conference demanded free speech and assemblage and declared that Prussianism, under the guise of compulsory military service "shall not be transferred to American shores."

On the Mexican situation the conference said:

"We condemn the attempt of capitalists to involve us in a war with Mexico in order that oil and smelter magnates may secure unreasonable dividends on their investments, and we demand that Mexico be allowed to settle her own internal differences in her own way without interference by any foreign interests or governments."

LABOR GOVERNMENT HOLDS OUT HELPING HAND TO FARMERS

Sydney, N.S.W.—One of the first acts of the Labor government on securing control of the parliament in New South Wales recently was to hand out a helping hand to the farmers who, because of a long drought season, are hard up against it. In order to tide them over their difficulties, save their stock, and provide help for their families, the Labor government has floated a ten million dollars loan to be used exclusively for the farmers.

Under capitalist governments no help would be given and their chattels would be seized by mortgagors as soon as they were down and out. But under the Labor government, assistance of a practical nature is afforded them.

BRITISH DOCKERS' VICTORY BRINGS FORWARD NEW POINT

The victory of the British dockers and the report of the enquiry concerning their demands and the conditions of their work brings forward for consideration a new point, viz.: the "de-casualization," as it is called, of labor, which simply means this: unemployment due to "casual labor" in any industry ought to be a charge upon that industry. The man whose particular kind of work will not permit steady employment ought, according to the demands of the British dockers, to receive during periods of enforced idleness a wage which will ensure a bare subsistence, at least. This is a deadly thrust at our present system, which itself subsists on a "margin of unemployment."

TORONTO HYDRO ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES' CASE BEING HEARD

The Board of Investigation and Conciliation appointed under the Canadian disputes Act to investigate the differences existing between the Toronto Hydro-Electric Commission and the electricians in its employ has completed the taking of evidence and the report is now being prepared and the announcement of its findings and the award to be handed down will not be delayed, but given out at the earliest possible moment. The electricians are hoping that the decision arrived at will be of a favorable character. No serious difficulty or friction has arisen during the sittings of the board and no hard feelings of any kind have been engendered between the representatives of the union and the Toronto Hydro-Electric Commission.

TAX SYSTEMS OF TORONTO, ONTARIO AND SYDNEY AUS.

Sydney Has No Tax On The Products of Industry Or On Business

The taxpayers of Toronto who pay nearly three per cent in taxes should compare their position with that of the citizens of Sydney, New South Wales, the most populous state in Australia. In that city there is no tax on the products of industry or on business. The man who puts land to its worst use is taxed as much as the man who puts it to its best use. There is no penalty for improving.

Toronto taxpayers pay nearly three per cent taxes on the assessed values of their houses, shops, factories and offices, and also on their business.

Sydney taxpayers pay no taxes on houses, shops, factories, workshops, offices or business.

A Toronto manufacturer puts up a factory at a cost of \$50,000 and pays a tax of \$1,500 on his improvement, besides a tax of \$750 on his business.

A Sydney manufacturer puts up a factory at the same price, and pays not one cent on the improvement or on his business.

A Toronto merchant rents a shop costing \$10,000 and pays a yearly tax of \$300, besides his business tax, which varies according to the business.

A Sydney merchant pays not one cent tax on his building or on his business.

A Toronto resident erects a house costing \$2,500 on a lot costing \$1,000. On the house he pays a tax of \$75.00, and \$20.00 on the land.

A Sydney resident pays no tax on his house and only about \$20.00 on his land.

All municipal expenses are met in Sydney by a tax rate of two per cent, whether the land is kept vacant or used for a factory, a store, a home, an office, or a workshop.

For more than sixty years the Toronto method of taxation existed in Sydney. Then a partial application of reduction of taxes on improvements was tried with such success that on April 13th, 1916, the city council, with only two opposing, abolished all taxes on improvements.

As the city of Sydney grows, instead of allowing the speculators to appropriate the increased value of the land and thus impoverish industry, the value of the land will be taken for the public benefit. No one will be taxed for exercising beneficent honest industry and no one will be allowed to appropriate wealth he has not produced. The taxation will be imposed on the bare value of the land, and each will then pay, not according to the benefit he confers, but according to the benefit he receives.

In Toronto the total assessment amounts to \$620,000,000, made up of \$300,000,000 on the land and \$320,000,000 on buildings, income and business. The assessment on the land is notoriously low. It should be approximately \$600,000,000; but let us assume that it is only \$300,000,000, instead of the Assessment's figure, \$300,000,000.

If the assessment were placed on the value of the land alone, \$300,000,000 as it should be, the rate would be approximately 36 mills on the dollar. On a lot valued at \$600, and a building valued at \$2,400, at 25 1/2 mills the tax on the \$3,000 would be \$85.50. But if on the land alone, valued at its proper amount, \$1,000 instead of \$600 as at present, and a rate of 36 mills, the tax would be \$36.00 instead of \$85.50, a reduction of \$49.50, less than one half.

Increased taxes and increased assessment on the land alone would so far discourage speculation and force the land into the market, that there would be a very substantial reduction of the price of the land. At the same time there being no taxes on buildings, there would be every stimulus to increase the number of houses and thus reduce the rents. This would increase the demand for labor, thus increasing

R. R. BROTHERHOOD OFFICIALS THINK RADICALS ACTIVE

The Large Organizations Too Solidly Built For Agitators To Accomplish Anything

Among the officials of the railroad brotherhoods belief has been expressed that a radical element, for its own gain, was stirring up the younger men in the service of the railroads to join radical organizations.

But they can't back the brotherhoods," said General Chairman Musser, of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

"The large organizations have been too solidly built, our dealing has been conducive of too much good to our members, and we have always acted too fairly and above board for these agitators to accomplish anything."

"There is a certain class of agitators with whom we have come in contact who are stirring up the men to join organizations, out of which the organizers make their money. These are the men at the bottom of the trouble."

The statement of the brotherhood's stand, addressed to "All members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and others working under the schedule held by the brotherhood on the Pennsylvania line east of Philadelphia," and signed by Mr. Musser, General Chairman, is as follows:

"Sirs and Brothers—For a great number of years the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen has negotiated with the company rates of pay and conditions of employment for the classes we represent. During the period of government control we negotiated with the United States railroad administration for certain increases in pay and changed working conditions for the men we represent.

"At the time the railroads were returned by the government to their owners there was then pending a request of the organization for certain increases in pay and changed working conditions, and the final decision to this request has not as yet been made known by the board provided by law to handle matters of this kind.

"During the time this request was pending certain members of the brotherhood and others employed on the Pennsylvania system participated in an illegal strike. Many of these men were returned to the service with their seniority unimpaired and without prejudice.

Destructive Propaganda
"There is now existing on our system a certain fixed propaganda of the part of certain men which is intended to destroy the continuity of service. These men are endeavoring to enlist the support of the members of our organization and others in the belief that an illegal strike at this time should again be brought about.

"If the brotherhood wishes to live on this railroad as a labor organization, bargaining for wages and conditions for our members, the men who affiliate themselves with our organization must be bound by its laws. The laws of the brotherhood provide how a strike of its members will be called. The brotherhood has not sanctioned a strike of its members and will not sanction a strike of its members until it is determined that we cannot hope to negotiate a favorable settlement with existing agencies set up to adjust matters of dispute between ourselves and the company.

"If we wish to uphold our standard as one of the foremost labor organizations in the world, we must respect our agreements which are made with the company in good faith."

"The wrecks of labor organizations are directly traceable to the lack of self-control within the organization, due in a great degree to its loss of self-respect, caused largely by the agitation of the traitors who are not interested in the success of any labor and willing to poison our honor and integrity.

"Information indicates that the railroad labor board is using its best efforts to make an early decision to our wage request and that the decision of the board will become effective as of May 1, 1920.

"And may I hope that you, the reader of this communication, will continue in the service, thereby showing that you are willing to live up to the obligations you assumed as a member of the brotherhood; and should it occur that the reader of this communication is not a member of the organization, may I not hope that you will assist the organization in maintaining regularity in the service.

"C. E. MUSSER,

wages. At the same time it would compel a number of parasitic speculators to become active producers. All these influences mean greater prosperity—less for the parasites and more for the producers."

With this same system applied to our federal taxation, it would so benefit industry and stop monopoly that there is no reason why every man should not have a home of his own without a mortgage.