

## BUSY SESSION OF TRADES' COUNCIL MONDAY EVENING

### Auditor's Report and Reduction of Per Capita Tax Were Subjects of Discussion

The presentation of the auditor's report and the decision to reduce the per capita tax from ten to seven cents per member per month were subjects of discussion at a well-attended and interesting meeting of the Trades' Council on Monday last.

Credentialed were received from Messrs. Cottrell and Driscoll of the Painters' organization and the delegates were duly obligated. Secretary McCormack read an interesting communication from the American Federation of Teachers which expressed the appreciation of the teachers for the assistance rendered them by the Labor movement. The communication requested the local council to co-operate with the Edmonton teachers, and the letter was handed over to the Organization Committee. A communication from Secretary Frank Morrison of the A. F. of L. contained a table showing the increased cost of living. The letter quoted the Government Labor review to the effect that the cost of necessities in the United States from May 15, 1913, to May 15, 1919, had increased 91 per cent.

The Executive Committee reported that they had arranged a meeting with the Labor Party Executive to discuss the matter of placing candidates in the field at the coming civic elections.

Delegate Roper spoke on the question of the Edmonton Free Press and expressed his desire to make the paper truly representative of Edmonton Organized Labor and appealed to the delegates to co-operate in making the Free Press interesting and instructive as well as of real value to the movement.

## PRESIDENT U.M.W.A. MAKES SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

John L. Lewis addresses delegates in Biennial Convention U.M.W.A. at Cleveland

John L. Lewis, acting president of the United Mine Workers of America, made the following specific recommendations in his address to the delegates in the biennial convention of that organization in session at Cleveland.

"First: The United Mine Workers of America are in no way responsible for the failure of the senate of the United States to ratify the treaty of peace within a reasonable length of time and this officially terminates the Washington wage agreement in the bituminous field. We have, as an organization, demonstrated our good faith and exhibited every moral desire to liquidate our responsibilities. We are today, however, face to face with the situation wherein we cannot justify any further delay as concerns our own affairs. I accordingly recommend that this convention take action declaring the Washington wage agreement officially terminate at a date not later than November 1st.

## PRESIDENT WILSON INTERVENES IN POLICE SITUATION

President Wilson, last week, intervened to prevent the discharge of union policemen in Washington, D.C. The chairman of the board of commissioners had ordered all police to sever their affiliation with the policemen's union under penalty of dismissal. The President's request forwarded by Secretary Tammully follows:

"The President suggests the great advisability of postponing any issue regarding the police situation until after the forthcoming industrial conference at Washington and hopes that the postponement can be effected.

(Signed) J. P. TUMULLY.

When good roads day was celebrated recently at Leocompton, Kas., the women of the community, with pick and shovel, took their places on the highways along with the men.

Out of the 140,000 teachers in common schools in France, 120,000 belong to trade unions.

## DEL. HAWTHORNE IS RECALLED TO WINNIPEG BY C.N.R.

Labor men in the city will hear with regret of the departure from Edmonton of Delegate Hawthorne of the Trades and Labor Council. Mr. Hawthorne, who was a member of the Boilermakers' Union was transferred by the C.N.R. to Edmonton about two years ago. Finding, however, that Winnipeg could not spare him longer, the company has recalled Mr. Hawthorne to the Manitoba city.

Mr. Hawthorne took an active interest in union affairs and his presence will be greatly missed in the city. He takes with him, the best wishes of his many acquaintances in Edmonton.

## LOCAL MACHINISTS RECEIVE REPLY TO COMMUNICATION

### Much Disputed Question Is Now Settled By Letter From Headquarters

The letter printed below which was received from headquarters of the International Association of Machinists in reply to an inquiry by local lodge No. 817, is in connection with a much disputed question. The communication is given without comment and is self-explanatory.

Mr. I. N. Phelan, Lodge 817.

Dear Sir: Brother: In response to your letter of July 20th, asking for a statement of all money paid to the Grand Lodge from the Canadian membership, and the amount of money the Grand Lodge has paid to the Canadian membership, organizers and business agents, beg to advise that it would require considerable time to tabulate this data, and in view of the tremendous amount of business at headquarters at the present time in connection with strikes, etc., we cannot give you this information in detail, but on looking over the auditors' reports and our ledger accounts, it is safe to say that the Grand Lodge has returned to Canada \$2.00 for every \$1.00 received during the past year or so. Therefore, in case an argument should arise as to the amount of money sent in from Canada, you will be safe in quoting the above statement.

With best wishes, I am, Fraternally yours, R. S. NEWHOMY, Asst. G. S. T.

## THOS. RICHARDSON AT LABOR HALL NEXT TUESDAY, 8 P.M.

Thomas Richardson, former Labor member of Parliament for the Durham, England, miners will speak in Labor Hall on Tuesday, September 23rd, at 8 p.m. Mr. Richardson will also speak at the Allen theatre on Sunday, at 7:30 p.m., September 21.

## BOSTON POLICE TAKE ADVICE OF PRES. GOMPERS

Will Return to Work and Await Outcome of Labor Conference in Washington, October 6

The Boston Police, who went out on strike last week, have accepted President Gompers' suggestions that they return to work and await the outcome of the labor conference at the White House on October 6th, according to an announcement made by Frank McCarthy, New England organizer of the American Federation of Labor.

When Police Commissioner Curtis was informed of the action of the union, he said he had issued orders Friday afternoon that no strikers applying for reinstatement should be taken back. He said he could not change his order before hearing from the attorney-general. This statement was interpreted to mean that the attorney-general would be asked to decide whether the patrolmen were "employees" who had the right to strike, or "officers" of the government who had no such right.

## BRAZIL WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAW

The Republic of Brazil is one of the latest additions to the number of jurisdictions adopting the principle of workmen's compensation. The decree to this effect bears date of January 15, 1919, and became effective 30 days later.

The act does not preclude criminal procedure in cases involving such action at common law. Agreements made contrary to its provisions are null and void. Claims under it have the same priority as wage debts, and awards are exempt from attachment or other legal restraint. Aliens are entitled to benefits only if residents within the national territory at the time of the accident.

## Alberta Teachers Take A Leaf Out Of Trade Union Book and Demand Wage Schedule with Minimum \$1200

### VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN OF PROPAGANDA WORK HAS BEEN DECIDED UPON AND PROVISIONS MADE FOR ORGANIZING WHOLE PROVINCE; ALLIANCE DECIDES TIME HAS NOW ARRIVED FOR IT TO MAKE USE OF ITS STRENGTH BY ORGANIZATION—CAN NOW PRESENT REASONABLE DEMANDS WITH ASSURANCE THAT WHOLE PERSONNEL OF PROVINCIAL TEACHERS ARE BACK OF THEM.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Teachers' Alliance, held last Easter a vigorous campaign of propaganda work was decided on, and on Saturday last the Provincial Executive met at Calgary and drew up a comprehensive scheme for giving effect to the policy endorsed by the delegates from the various locals. No section of the Province is to be left unorganized and District Secretaries have been appointed for Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Camrose, Vegreville, Stettler, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, whose duties will be to relieve the General Secretary and to ensure a more intensive organization to reap full benefits of labor already expended on publicity work, a permanent highly paid organizer is being appointed to give his entire time to organizing locals throughout the Province.

The Executive is evidently convinced that, as a result of the wave of enthusiasm in the cause of organization which is sweeping over the teaching body, the time has now arrived for the Alliance to make use of its strength—to take a leaf out of the Trades Union book, perfect its organization and once and for all put an end to the methods heretofore adopted by the teachers: no longer will it be necessary to go, cap in hand, to the employers, and Oliver Twist-like "ask for more," but present reasonable demands with an assurance that the whole of the personnel of the provincial teachers is behind the demands and prepared to back them up.

The Executive, at Saturday's meeting, dealt with three other items of business which are of great significance. They finally passed upon a Provincial Wage Schedule, drew up a Model Form of Contract for adoption by School Boards, and also authorized H. C. Newland, of Edmonton, the acting Vice-President of the Alliance, to be present at the meetings of the Law Committee of the Legislative Assembly to watch the interests of the teachers when changes in the School Ordinance are under consideration.

The Provincial Wage Schedule sets the minimum wage for Public School Teachers at \$1200 per annum, rising by annual instalments of \$100 until a maximum of \$1500 is reached. This is taken as the basis for providing extra remuneration for responsibilities in the way of official routing work and supervision of the other rooms of the school. A one-roomed school calls for the minimum of \$1200 and \$100 is provided for supervision of each other room in the school in schools up to ten rooms, and \$50 additional for each additional room above ten rooms. Certain exceptions are set down in computing the salaries of Principals in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary because of peculiar local conditions, and the same is true of the salary requirements for High School teachers also in these cities.

In fixing the minimum wage the Executive took into consideration the fact that in 1914 the minimum wage of a teacher was \$720 per annum, but rising prices since then have bisected the teachers' pay. The Government has set the minimum wage at \$840, but this only applies to Rural Schools, and the town and city School Boards have given such meagre increases to offset the increased cost of living that will be scarcely a man left in the profession except the derelicts, and the work of education will pass into the hands of boys and girls and elderly ladies.

The Model Form of Contract has been drawn up with a view to bettering, more especially the conditions of teachers in Rural Schools. It embodies the Provincial Wage Scale and makes it difficult to move the teacher from his own school or to fire him except on the grounds of inefficiency or misconduct established after due investigation on the part of the School Board and an Inspector of Schools, and the teacher is at liberty to appeal in such case to the Minister of Education.

The watching of proceedings of the Law Committee constitute a new departure of policy on the part of the teachers, since, never before have they been in evidence at the Legislative Buildings for the purpose of bringing their influence and professional knowledge to bear upon the extremely important matter of changes in the School Law.

## CARPENTERS AT WINNIPEG GET STRIKE MONEY

### Over \$25,000 Has Now Been Received From International In Connection Winnipeg Strike

The Secretary-Treasurer of the Winnipeg District Council of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners reports that Carpenters' Union strike money amounting to \$25,000 has now been received from their International in connection with the recent strike in Winnipeg. A sum of \$17,000 was received Friday, while a cheque for \$8,000 had previously been received. These facts were announced at a meeting of the carpenters' union at the Labor Temple.

The carpenters' strike was not on the "sympathetic" basis. They only quit work after full consultation, and with the consent of the international body. The number of men affected was over 600.

At a meeting held Tuesday night September 2nd, the agreement between the general contractors' section of the Builders' Exchange and the District Council was accepted by the members and conditions contained in agreement are now in force: 44-hour week, 75c per hour.

Clause 2A reads as follows: In the event of the cost of living increasing during the latter part of this agreement by the Dominion Government report and printed in the Labor Gazette the wages herein agreed to be paid shall be raised and the amount of such raise to be determined in the manner provided in Clause 15 of this agreement.

Clause 15. Both parties agree to meet during the month of January prior to the expiration of agreement to formulate a new agreement.

## ONTARIO WILL HAVE SEVERAL LABOR CANDIDATES

In at least twenty-one ridings outside of Toronto, labor candidates will run in the coming election, according to a statement credited to Joseph Marks, provincial secretary of the Independent Labor Party, and there will be several labor candidates in Toronto. In two or three ridings labor and U.F.O. may unite on a joint candidate.

The national council of women in Canada has declared itself in favor of the substitution of the electric chair for the gallows as a method of execution.

## FIRE FIGHTERS BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS COMES TO CLOSE

Edmonton Fire Fighters Federal Labor Union 29, having now become affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters will now be Local 209 of the International.

All Labor men will be pleased to know that Brother J. H. Jamison has thoroughly recovered from his serious illness, and is again at his post, No 8 Fire Hall.

A well known member of the Fire Brigade in the person of Lieut. Donald Forbes of No. 1 Hall is now on his honeymoon trip to Eastern Canada and the Eastern States and is expected back by the end of the month.

Driver Jack Elliott is expected back on the 1st of October, having been called to Markdale, Ont. to attend the funeral of his mother.

Captain Whitehouse, No. 8 Hall, has received an addition to his staff in the shape of a Java monkey imported from "Prisco."

## PREPARATIONS FOR LABOR CONGRESS GOING FORWARD

### Committee of Four Is Named to Represent American Federation of Labor

Following action by the Senate in authorizing the United States to summon the international labor congress provided for in the treaty of peace, preparations have been going forward rapidly. The Congress will be held in Washington in October.

A committee of four has been named by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor to represent the federation in co-operation with the international organizing committee which is arranging for the congress. This committee is composed of Secretary Frank Morrison, Hugh Frayne, eastern representative of the Federation; William Green, A. F. of L. Vice-President and Secretary of the United Mine Workers of America, and Matthew Wolf, A. F. of L. Vice-President and President of the International Photo Engravers' Union.

This committee held its first meeting in New York recently and will meet again in the near future.

## RE-AFFIRM RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH AND PROTEST AGAINST DEPORTATION OF ALIEN TRADES UNIONISTS

The British Trades Union Congress which was in session at Glasgow all last week came to an end Saturday. Resolutions re-affirming the right of free speech and protesting against the arrest and deportation of alien trades union officials for alleged connection with Bolshevism, were passed. The resolution also expressed belief in the necessity for continuing control of food prices.

A resolution expressing sympathy for the brother trades unionists of Ireland was also passed. James Henry Thomas, acting together with Robert Smillie, the miners' leader, moved an emergency resolution deprecating military rule in Ireland and declaring that the only solution of the Irish problem was through the method of self-determination by which the Irish people could work out their own salvation.

Questions dealing with the labor situation in all branches of industry ranging from increases in pay and reduction in hours of work, to nationalization of coal mines, railways and shipping, were taken up and discussed.

Mr. Bunning, the presiding officer, made the opening address, in which he condemned the warfare in Russia as "unpopular with the British working classes." Mr. Bunning also exhorted his hearers to eliminate trivial inter-union disputes and hatreds, declaring that "our function is to construct."

Virtually the entire labor party of the House of Commons were present at the Congress and participated in the various debates, including those affecting nationalization of the banks, short or working week, mothers' pensions, a capital levy for paying off the war debt, recognition of police union, housing reforms, and the problem of the industrial output.

The action of the congress on the resolutions, it is said, in political circles, will be the most valuable indication of how the thinking working men are represented by the trades unions, will act in the coming political campaign as the congress was made up of representatives of 5,250,000 organized workers.

Many of the factory women workers in Great Britain are widows of soldiers or sailors killed in the late war.

## CANDIDATES FOR CIVIC OFFICE TAKE NOTICE

At the joint meeting of the Executive of the Trades' Council and the Labor Party, held September 17, it was unanimously agreed that it should be permissible for any member of any union or of the Labor Party to place the name of any other member in nomination for candidacy in the civic elections. The names should be sent in writing to Rev. F. E. Mercer, 12619 69th street, preferably before October 1. All names thus sent in should be accompanied by a guarantee that the candidate is eligible and that he or she is prepared to run. The names will be placed before the joint Executives and before each of the two bodies before any candidates are finally endorsed.

## F. D. SHANKS IS NEW BANDMASTER CITIZENS BAND

### F. Parks Retiring Bandmaster Is Presented With Gold Watch By Band Members

At the last meeting of the Citizens' Band, which is composed of all union members, their bandmaster, Mr. F. D. Shanks, was presented with a large photo of the band. Mr. F. Parks, the retiring bandmaster, was also presented with a gold watch.

Mr. Shanks, in thanking the band for the photo, remarked that it reminded him that he had a pleasant duty to perform. Going back a few years he could appreciate Mr. Parks' difficulty in maintaining a band among those who were unfortunate in not being able to go over seas. From past experience he knew Mr. Parks' task. Presenting the token of appreciation on behalf of the band, he knew did not relieve the members of the band from their obligation to Mr. Parks for his untiring efforts when the band situation was very blue looking. But he assured the retiring bandmaster that the band appreciated his services and he congratulated him on keeping such a splendid aggregation together. He then presented, on behalf of the band, the gold watch, on which was engraved, "To F. D. Shanks, from the Citizens' Band, November 15, 1919."

Mr. Parks was taken entirely by surprise and thought he was not deserving of anything for past services, as the success of the band was due to the splendid co-operation of the members. He was sure that with such co-operation given to Mr. Shanks, the band would be second to none.

## ANOTHER LOCAL TURNS DOWN THE ONE BIG UNION

The O.B.U. question was brought up for discussion at the regular meeting of the Sheet Metal Workers' Local No. 271, last Tuesday night, but was turned down. The Corresponding Secretary of this local is George Tomlinson, Box 4061, and the Recording Secretary, A. M. Campbell, 10329 78th avenue.

## CONVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN

### Delegates of Atlantic Coast District Numbering 102 Meet at Baltimore, Maryland

The annual convention of the Atlantic Coast District of the International Longshoremen's Association was held recently at Baltimore, Md. There were present 102 delegates, representing local organizations from Halifax to the Gulf of Mexico. Among the resolutions adopted by the convention were the following: That when handling bulk cargo, two extra men be allowed in the hold; that there be no difference in the hourly rate of coastal and deep water workmen; that the office of president and secretary-treasurer be located at New York instead of Buffalo; that there be a uniform wage scale on the Atlantic coast; and declaring that the principles of the International Longshoremen's Association are opposed to any form of lawlessness for the purpose of improving industrial conditions.

## WITHHOLDS FACTS IN MOONEY CASE

On the ground that publication of such information would be incompatible with the public interest, Secretary of Labor Wilson has declined to furnish the House of Representatives with a report on the present activities of the Department of Labor in the case of Thomas J. Mooney. The report was requested in a resolution by Congressman Blanton of Texas.

The Secretary of Labor said that his department has developed clues that lead to the Mooney case and that these inquiries were being continued.

## J. W. FINDLAY TELLS OF TRIP IN EASTERN CAN.

### Active Worker in Local Labor Movement Recently Returned From Five Weeks' Trip

J. W. Findlay who has been active in the labor movement in Edmonton for some years, recently returned from a trip of five weeks through Eastern Canada. Mr. Findlay naturally enquired into labor conditions in the east and the Edmonton Free Press requested him to write his observations for the benefit of our readers. We regret that Mr. Findlay's article, which follows, was not received in time for last week's issue. Editor Free Press.

Dear Sir: Your request for a statement from me of how I found conditions in Eastern Canada, finds me unprepared with data to give details as I did not take notes, but rather gathered an idea of conditions generally.

The crops throughout the country from Humboldt east were good, so there should not be any kick from the farmers if good crops is what is required to remove unrest throughout the country. On my way east I spent part of the day in the court house in Winnipeg, where the labor leaders were being given their preliminary trial. Myself Gray was on the stand. The gist of his evidence was that between certain dates he did not know who was in control of the city.

In Toronto I found the Metal Trades all on strike. They had been on strike since May first, with conditions about the same as had prevailed in Winnipeg during the strike all except the ones who had come out in sympathy had gone back to work.

In Montreal the conditions are about the same as in Toronto. It costs the same to eat in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

## ROBB ENGINEERING PLANT GET JOINT WORKS COMMITTEE

### Committee Consists of 14 Members Appointed by Workers and 14 Representing Management

A joint works committee has recently been created by the management and employees of the Robb Engineering Works, Limited, Amherst, N.S. This committee consists of fourteen members appointed by the workers and an equal number representing the management. The employee members are appointed from each of the departments, including the draughting department and the office staff, and the manager is represented by the general manager, chief engineer, chief draughtsman, chief accountant, superintendents of foundry, boiler shop and machine shop, and the foremen of the various departments. The objects of the committee are outlined in the constitution as follows: (a) That the workmen be given a wider interest in, and a greater responsibility for, the conditions under which their work is performed; (b) The settlement of general principles governing the conditions of employment, including the methods of paying and adjusting wages, having regard to the need for securing to the workmen a share in the increased prosperity of the industry; (c) The establishment of regular methods of settling differences between employers and workmen, and to their better adjustment when they appear; (d) Better utilization of the practical knowledge and experience of the workmen; (e) Improvements of processes, machinery and organization (f) technical education and training; (g) consideration of sanitary conditions, and the study of comfort for workmen; (h) the institution of safety committees for the introduction of safety devices and methods; (i) Organization of Robb Engineering Works, Relief Society."

It might be stated that the Robb Engineering Works and its employees, of whom there are some 550 at the present time, were not involved in the recent industrial disturbances in Amherst and the surrounding district.

## ELECTRICAL MEN AT VANCOUVER ASK NEW WAGE SCALE

Inside wiremen of the Electrical Workers' Union at Vancouver, to the number of 150 went on strike last week because Vancouver contracting firms refused to grant the new wage scale demanded by the union. Negotiations on the wage agreement have been going on for some time and was brought to a head by the walkout. Several firms are already signed up and the prospects of the remainder coming through at an early date looks good. The old wage scale was \$6 per day.