

PRINTERS' HOME AT COLORADO SPRINGS FINE INSTITUTION

(Continued from page 2).

superintendent for which they receive a small remuneration, and were betide anyone who butts in. There is one chap here 92 years of age. He can still kick over his head and delights in taking a fall out of some of the younger fellows. He has been here 27 years. Of course there are a lot of very fine gentlemen among them.

Fine Library

The library is one that is certainly a great credit to the institution. It contains nearly 12,000 volumes of carefully selected books, besides numerous monthlies, weeklies and dailies. On Sunday evenings this room is filled with camp chairs and a moving picture put on, which is much appreciated. A four-piece orchestra furnishes music. There is also a tenorist artist at our service to the extent of two free shaves a week and one hair cut a month. Laundry is free, and all kinds of clothing is furnished as required. Besides all this every resident receives a pension of fifty cents a week. Altogether, I think the Home is a splendid institution, well and economically managed, and is doing a grand work, not only in caring for aged and infirm members but also in assisting many of the younger members to regain their health.

HARRY W. FALCONER.

ST. THOMAS, ONT. GAS EMPLOYEES GET INCREASE

St. Thomas, Ont. Gas Works' Employees have been conceded a twenty per cent increase, retroactive to January 1st. Under the new schedule all employees work on straight time basis, the committee refusing to consider the men's demand for time and half for overtime, Sundays and legal holidays, which was in effect last year. The fifteen stokers under the new system will receive 55 cents an hour, on an eight-hour day, in place of 46 cents, while the yard men, meter readers and trouble men were increased from 35 cents an hour, ten-hour day, to 45 cents an hour, nine-hour day.

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FORCED STRIKE FOR EXCUSE TO BOOST THE PRICE

Strike Leader Declares Big Lumber and Paper Company Created Trouble

(By Federated Press)

International Falls, Minn.—The Backus-Brooks lumber and paper mill interests here forced a strike in their logging railroad in order to take advantage of the strike clauses in their paper contracts and raise the price of paper, it is charged by H. J. Ratelle, one of the striking trainmen, in an open letter to Horace G. Whitmore, state adjutant of the American league.

In the letter Ratelle charges that as soon as the strike had begun, the Backus interests gave wide publicity to false stories of riot and disorder. The company was thus enabled to abrogate the old contracts and make new ones, charging higher prices for paper, he said.

"The Canadian government's answer to this was to take over the Canadian mill, but the governor of Minnesota didn't even nibble, but swallowed the bait and the hook and put the onus of the whole affair upon the innocent worker," said Ratelle.

For many weeks the strike-bound district has been occupied by state troops, at a cost to the state of \$137 a day. The Backus interests own two large paper mills, said by paper men to be making profits of 400 per cent, or a minimum profit of \$70 a ton. They also own lumber, telephone, coal, electric and other companies.

It is well known here that Backus had the 1919 legislature create a judgeship, to which the governor appointed Backus' private attorney.

BALTIMORE WORKERS ARE ORGANIZING A LABOR COLLEGE

Baltimore, Md.—A labor college to bring education to the worker in the shops is being organized here by the unions. Courses in public speaking, economics, current events and English will be offered for the first. Lecturers will be obtained from Johns Hopkins university, Goucher college, and other institutions in the vicinity.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE A.F. OF L. IN SESSION AT JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

The executive committee of the American Federation of Labor began a lengthy session at Jacksonville, Florida, on Tuesday of last week. It is expected that the convention will last till the latter part of this week. The political situation and other urgent questions will be considered, and the action of the committee, it is thought, will stimulate the labor movement for the battle which it must fight on the political and industrial fields in the immediate future.

TEACHERS CAN PROTECT IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY

By Affiliating With Trade Unionism Which Stands For True Democracy.

Teachers affiliated with trade unionism can protect the ideals of democracy, declared Dr. Harry E. Overstreet at a meeting held under the auspices of the Public Education Association in New York.

"The traditional unwillingness of teachers to align themselves with so-called 'partisan' Labor has actually delivered them into the hands of partisan interests," he said. "The schools and the colleges are not public spirited in the sense of being above all partisan attachments. They are flagrantly partisan, being governed in large measure by the ideas and interests of the dominant status quo."

"Radical, even progressive social and educational thought, has little opportunity to express itself. Our 'public spirited' teachers are compelled to teach doctrines which are really in the interest of a very special class."

"Affiliation with Labor connects teachers with one group that is consistently fighting for a real democracy—that is, for industrial democracy. The great need of teachers today is for democracy in their working conditions—security of tenure, freedom of thought and speech, the right to a voice in the organization of their work. Affiliation with labor subjects teachers to the danger of incurring the enmity of the forces of autocracy and junkerism in education. This should be enough to bring out heroic response from the teachers, to save themselves and education from the fomentation of petty oligarchies that are undemocratic both in their outlook and their methods."

CORRESPONDENCE

(The Free Press takes no responsibility for any opinion expressed in letters to the editor. No letters can be accepted for publication, and will not be printed unless accompanied by name and address of writer.)

Edmonton, March 9, 1920.

Sir: In an article by Alex. Ross, M.L.A., appearing in your issue of March 6th, I find the following in regard to the agitation for increased seasonal indemnities:

"The civil servants are largely responsible for this agitation; they prepared a chart showing the increase in the cost of living during the last five years and incidentally the need for increasing their own salaries. The charts were distributed wholesale to the members with the result mentioned. Many of the members seem to have impressed one another favorably with the necessity of raising their own indemnities so the chart has at least served a good purpose."

The facts of the matter are as follows: A chart showing the increase in the cost of living was prepared by the Civil Service Association for use in taking up with the Government the question of increased salaries or bonus based on the present cost of living. The chart was prepared from official figures issued by the Dominion Labor Bureau. One of Mr. Ross' constituents, who is also a civil servant, mentioned in conversation to Mr. Ross that such a chart was in existence, and Mr. Ross expressed his desire to have a copy for his own information. This was given to him, but so far as any member of the Executive of this Association is aware, no copy was given to any other member of the Legislature.

The matter of increased remuneration is at present being taken up with the Government by the Executive of this Association, and an attentive hearing has been given to our representations. The Executive has not approached the members of the Legislature in any way in this connection.

I trust that you will give to this letter the same publicity that was given to Mr. Ross' article.

Yours sincerely,

A. M. KNIGHT, Secretary, Civil Service Association of Alberta.

The fomentation of petty oligarchies that are undemocratic both in their outlook and their methods."

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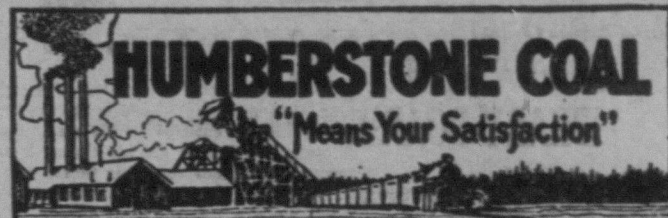
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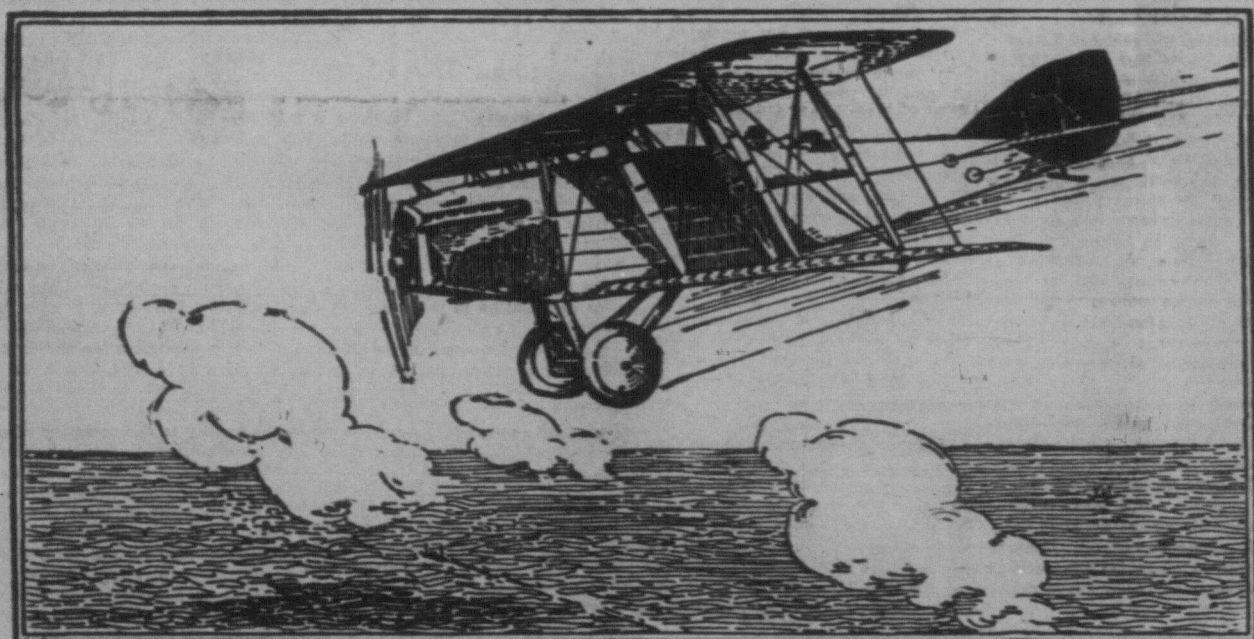
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