



Dept. of Labor April 12-20 (Circulation Branch)

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

EDITED, CONTROLLED AND PUBLISHED BY THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

VOL. 2, No. 9.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1920

\$1.00 Per Year; 5c Per Copy

FRENCH STRIKE DID CAUSE OF LABOR HARM

Unfortunate Affair Ended in Complete Failure to Accomplish Desired Purpose

The general strike in support of the railway workers in France, which came officially to an end on May 21st, was a most unfortunate affair, and one which did inestimable harm to the Labor movement in France.

From its very inception, the strike seems to have been a series of misjudgments and blunders. Until almost the last moment there was a general impression abroad that May Day would be celebrated, this year, in France only by a twenty-four hour strike at the very utmost.

Over night, however, a new council, appointed by the railway men's congress some time ago, decided on a dramatic move. The congress had conferred upon this council the right to fix the day of any railway strike that might be called in conjunction with the General Confederation of Labor. The council decided, however, to act on its own initiative. A general railway strike for the purpose of obtaining the nationalization of public services, was called for May Day, and strike notices affecting some 350,000 men were sent out before the confederation was informed as to what was proposed.

At first, it was thought that the confederation would simply repudiate the action of the new council, which had clearly acted beyond its powers, and if this course had been taken, all would have been well. The confederation, however, although with evident reluctance, decided to "take over" the strike, and on May 2 called out the miners, sailors, dockers, and transport service workers in support of the railway men. Nowhere, however, was the response really complete. Enormous numbers of men came out, but from the first the press, which was largely against the movement, asserted that the response to the strike call had been comparatively very small. As a consequence, the strikers took alarm, and many of them returned to work, after having been out only a very short time.

So matters dragged on from day to day. The work of the country was everywhere seriously interrupted, but nowhere actually brought to a standstill, and every call issued by the confederation for fresh strikers seems to have had much the same results. The response was hesitating and incomplete. At last, on the tenth day, the confederation, faced with the fact that unless some drastic measures were taken, defeat was certain, made a tremendous effort to revive the strike. It threatened that unless the government granted "a minimum satisfaction," in the form of a commission to study the question of nationalization, the confederation would "broaden the movement still further." This threat was understood to mean the calling out of the gas and electrical workers, which would have left Paris in darkness, closed most of the factories, and rendered the re-ventilating of the city a matter of great difficulty. The government replied by announcing the dissolution of the confederation. The confederation rejoined by issuing fresh strike calls; but, in spite of orders, the majority of the men remained at their work. A week later, although no formal order for resumption of work at the docks, mines, or on the railways had been given, the strike was over.

Thus, from first to last, the General Confederation of Labor had been unable to exercise any effective authority over the situation, and as a consequence, it is held in certain quarters that the power of the confederation is broken. This, however, the future alone can show. The government dissolution order does not, of course, amount to anything. Dissolved tomorrow, as the General Confederation of Labor, it would re-appear next day under a new name.

PRINTING PRESS FUND BOOSTED BY DETROIT WORKERS

Detroit, Mich.—Eleven thousand dollars has been advanced by local unions toward the printing press fund for which a campaign has been started by the Federation of Labor. Many out of town labor organizations are sending in donations to assist Detroit labor.

It is planned to raise at least twenty thousand from among unions in this city. The plant will be in operation within four or five months. A large press, capable of printing a 12 page paper, has already been purchased, and contracts for other machinery and print paper are being negotiated.

The operation of a labor owned and controlled printing plant is the opening gun in the campaign to make the week by "Labor News" a daily organ. John Deutelbaum, its editor, is directing the campaign for labor's printing plant.

MACHINISTS REACHING SETTLEMENTS WITHOUT INDUSTRIAL STRIKE

Representatives of the Machinists locals in Toronto are reaching settlements with the employers without industrial strike, and during the past week the Hawdon Wood and Machine Co. and the Banfield & Sons Co. have agreed to pay the new rate of wages. Negotiations with the Baldwin Locomotive are progressing favorably.

BITTER CONFLICT BETWEEN CAPITAL, LABOR TO CEASE

Dr. Bland Says Capital Will Cease to be Factor in Affairs of Men

"The bitter conflict between capital and labor will cease to be a factor in the affairs of men and only labor in the broadly inclusive sense of the term will remain," says Dr. Salem G. Bland, pastor of Broadway Methodist tabernacle of Toronto.

Dr. Bland, whose advanced labor views brought him into collision with some members of the quarterly official board of Broadway tabernacle last year, who vainly tried to have him removed from the pastorate of that church, has published a book entitled "The New Christianity."

"Capitalistic control," says Dr. Bland in his book, "has, no doubt, played a necessary and useful part in the social evolution. It has shown courage and enterprise, but it has been, on the whole, rapacious and heartless and its sense of moral responsibility has been condemnatory. When the managers, on whom it depends, desert to the side of the workers, it will be patent how little capacity or service is in capitalism and how little it deserves the immense gains it wrings from exploited labor and skill."

TORONTO PAINTERS APPOINT THREE MORE ORGANIZERS

The Toronto Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers' Union, with its six hundred members now enrolled has decided to make another big drive upon the ranks of the unorganized fraternity, and with that purpose in view have appointed three more organizers. The big drive will not cease until the membership has reached the one thousand mark. The initiation has been raised to \$20.

The Ontario Provincial Conference of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, held in Brantford on May 24, was a pronounced success, and much important business in the interest of the craft was transacted.

The University of the People

BY PROFESSOR ALBERT E. OTTEWELL, M.A.
Director Department of Extension in the University of Alberta

As indicated in the concluding sentence of the preceding article of this series, the Workmen's Educational Association of Great Britain originated because of the suspicion which some of the working men had of the motives actuating University Extension Work of the regular type. This suspicion was voiced in the quotation from the speech of Mr. MacTavish, the dock-worker.

This new organization grew very rapidly, so that in four years time it had 1541 branches including Trade Unions, Trades Councils, Co-operative Committees, and many other kindred organizations.

Its purpose is to stimulate the demand for education and to organize the supply in the interests of those who are largely occupied by manual labor. It is non-political and non-sectarian and through its organization consisting of a Central Council, eight District Committees, and more than 150 branches, it has exerted and is exerting a profound influence in freeing the minds of the people from suspicion of each other and other influences which retard true educational progress. Its proud boast is that it has brought together on its platform men of every position and calling in life, from the agnostic to the Salvation Army Officer and from the student to the day laborer.

Its chief accomplishment, however, is so far as the purpose of this discussion is concerned has been the initiation of the Tutorial Class Movement. At a Conference held at Oxford in August, 1907, between representatives of the University and the working classes the establishment of Tutorial classes beyond the limits of the University was recommended.

The Tutorial Class, while retaining many of the characteristics of the ordinary Extension Class, has some pec-

INVESTIGATION BOARD APPOINTED BY MIN. OF LABOR

To Deal With Demands of Toronto Hydro-Electric Employees

A Board of Investigation and Conciliation has been appointed by the Minister of Labor to deal with the demands of the Electrical Workers in the employ of the Toronto Hydro-Electric Commission. Fred Bancroft is representing the men on the board, and A. R. Ewart the Commission.

Negotiations are also being conducted with Mr. R. J. Fleming, representing the Niagara Power Company and the Toronto Electric Light Company with a view to the new schedule for the men employed by these companies. James T. Gunn was in Niagara Falls last week conferring with representatives of the Electrical Workers.

RETAILERS MAKE 500 TO 1,000 PER CENT ON SUGAR INVESTMENTS

Seattle.—Twenty-eight cents a pound is the retail price for sugar set by the Fair Price committee here. The retailer is supplied at 27 cents. Sugar wholesalers pay 23.2. On the basis of turning their supplies over once each week, the wholesalers and retailers can make 500 to 1,000 per cent per annum their sugar investment—this under government sanction. The increase to the consumer is two cents a pound.

CARPENTERS' LOCALS IN TORONTO ARE PROGRESSING NICELY

Toronto and immediate vicinity now has eleven branches of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, with a total membership of 2500. The intensions at recent meetings of the branches have exceeded all expectations, owing chiefly to the fact that the Brotherhood have a signed agreement with the employers for the first time in many years. Foremen and superintendents are applying direct to the business agents and secretaries of the branches for men, and the stewards on the buildings are making sure that all the men who work belong to the union. The District Council of Carpenters has now a membership of twenty-four, and is the largest in the history of the Brotherhood.

TORONTO SHEET METAL WORKERS STRIKE SETTLED

After having put up a strenuous fight since May 1st to enforce a minimum wage of 90 cents an hour, the Toronto Sheet Metal Workers have arrived at an amicable settlement with the employers, and the strike was called off with the union having practically gained the object for which the strike was declared.

Under the new agreement the strikers will receive 85 cents an hour, until September 30th, after which the minimum will be raised to 90 cents an hour. The former scale was 65 cents an hour.

TWO PRINTING TRADE UNIONS MEET IN "HAT"

The Western Canada Conference of Typographical Unions met in convention at Medicine Hat on Wednesday of this week and will continue in session until tomorrow. The Western Conference of Printing Pressmen are also meeting in the Hat at the same time. Both organizations are dealing with very important questions affecting the printing industry west of the Great Lakes, one of the chief matters before the conference being the adoption of a uniform scale of wages for the entire west.

J. H. Acheson, D. K. Knott and A. N. Wright are representing the local Typographical union, while Leon Mercer, Secretary of the Allied Printing Trades Council, represents the local Pressmen.

STREET CAR MEN OF DETROIT ASK LIBERAL RAISE

Demand Flat Minimum of 95c, 98c and \$1 an Hour and Eight Hour Day

Detroit, Mich.—A street car tie-up is threatened unless the local traction company is willing to grant the men a liberal pay raise. An ultimatum has been forwarded to the company.

The street car men are demanding a flat minimum of 95c, 98c and \$1 an hour over the prevailing scale, an eight hour day and time and a half for overtime. The present wage scale ranges from 65 to 85 cents an hour, which compels many men to work overtime to eke out a living.

The company offers to arbitrate the men's wage demands, and it is believed the street car corporation will meet the men half way. But the company will make the public pay for the additional pay by increasing the fare from 5 to 6 cents. This fare raise has been anticipated and the company has seized upon the present situation as the best excuse to put the fare boost into effect.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE ASKS FOR SPECIAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS

A meeting on Monday of the "triple alliance," made up of the railwaymen, miners and transport workers, passed a resolution which was referred to the laborite parliamentary committee, urgently requesting the convening of a special trades union congress to decide on what the attitude of labor shall be toward the production and handling of munitions for Ireland and Poland.

LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

- MEETINGS IN LABOR HALL
Sunday, June 6th
Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employers No. 99.
Monday, June 7th
Trades and Labor Council.
Tuesday, June 8th
Dominion Labor Party.
Bookbinders No. 188.
Wednesday, June 9th
Garment Workers No. 120.
Electrical Workers No. 544.
Thursday, June 10th
Civil Employees No. 30.
Stationery Engineers and Firemen.
Friday, June 11th
Machinists No. 817.
Civil Service Union No. 52.
Saturday, June 12th
Typographical Union No. 604.

TORONTO STREET RAILWAYMEN ASK NEW AGREEMENT

Ask Union Recognition, Eight Hour Day and 86c Per Hour Schedule

The Toronto Street Railway Employees' Union is negotiating a new agreement with the officials of the Toronto Railway Company. This agreement provides for the recognition of the committee of the union to deal with all matters of grievance or dispute which may arise from time to time, and guarantees protection to the union by compelling all employees to join the union if kept in the service of the company at the end of six weeks' probationary period.

The Street Railway Employees claim that the cost of living for a family of five has reached the high mark of \$1,919.92 and they are now asking union recognition with an eight hour day with time and a half rate for overtime. The wages asked in the agreement are 85 cents an hour.

The Toronto Street Railway Co., through R. J. Fleming, general manager, has declared that they cannot pay the wage increase demanded by the men and has applied for a Board of Investigation and Conciliation under the Industrial Disputes Act, to consider the terms of the new agreement submitted by the Union.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE WILL MAKE INQUIRY INTO H.C.L. CAUSE

London.—The Triple Alliance of miners, railwaymen and transport workers, have passed a resolution calling upon the parliamentary committee of the Trades Union Congress, the Labor party and the Co-operative movement to join with the Triple Alliance in making an exhaustive inquiry into the reasons for the high cost of living and to work out a plan for its substantial reduction. This plan, it was proposed should be submitted to the government as soon as possible.

EDITOR SELLS HIS OWN NEWSPAPER ON STREET CORNER

Seattle.—Frank Turco, local president of the Plumb Plan League and delegate to the Central Labor Council, is declared in local liberal circles to be the only newspaper director in America who believes in industrial democracy to the extent that he will sell his own newspaper on the streets.

Turco, who is one of the trustees of the Seattle Union Record, holds down one of the busiest corners in the downtown district where he meets circulation problems at first hand, later to bring actual knowledge of these problems before directors' meetings.

NEW TAX ON SHOES AFFECTING ADVERSELY PRODUCTION OF SAME

The new tax imposed upon boots and shoes sold for \$9.00 a pair and over is affecting adversely the production of that very necessary commodity, declares Walter Brown, business agent of the Toronto Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. The classification of boots and shoes with luxuries is recognized as an absurdity, and the manufacturers and consumers are both dissatisfied.

SEATTLE MAYOR MAKES STAND FOR ORGANIZED LABOR

Plays Associated Industries For Their Fight on the Unions

Seattle.—Mayor Hugh Caldwell has issued a statement flaying the Associated Industries for their fight on the unions. Caldwell declares that as a result of their anti-union activities and senseless rage against the unions he has been unable to effect a conciliation between the master builders and executives of the international building trades unions who have been meeting with him for several days.

Caldwell asserts that the Associated Industries refused to consider a tentative agreement arrived at in spite of the fact that a compulsory arbitration clause was inserted which in the mayor's belief would put an end to industrial strife.

"Under the proposed agreement," said the mayor, "the employers would have been dealing with responsible organizations instead of with whoever comes along looking for a job."

NATIONALIZATION OF MEDICAL PROFESSION IS BEING ADVOCATED

A series of articles advocating the nationalization of the medical profession is being carried in the Toronto Industrial Banner, by Dr. J. E. Hett, ex-mayor of Kitchener, Ont. Dr. Hett, who has had twenty-nine years of active service as a physician and specialist, claims the profession has become commercialized. Thousands of unnecessary operations are performed simply because they pay, charges are exorbitant, hospital service should be free to all patients, and maternity benefits should be paid to mothers. Under nationalization, fifty per cent of existing diseases would be wiped out, declares Dr. Hett.

Legislation Asked by Alta. Labor

Seventh of a Series of Articles Written by Walter Smitten, Secretary of Alberta Federation of Labor

AN "ACT RESPECTING INJUNCTIONS IN TRADE DISPUTES"

What Was Asked

1. In this Act the expression "trade dispute" means any dispute,
(1) Between employers and workmen;
(2) Between workmen and workmen, which is connected either directly or indirectly (a) with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment, or with the conditions of labor, of any person, or with the refusal by any person or persons to do or perform any particular work or service, (b) and the expression "workmen" means all persons ordinarily (c) employed in trade or industry whether or not in the employment of the employer with whom a trade dispute arises.

2. No restraining order or injunction, whether interlocutory or permanent, shall, in any case of a trade dispute, be issued or granted by any Court or Judge thereof, to restrain or prohibit any person or persons, or trade union, whether singly or in concert:
(1) From terminating any relation of employment; or
(2) From ceasing to perform any work or labor; or
(3) From recommending, advising or persuading others, by peaceful means to do or refrain from doing anything mentioned in clauses (1) or (2); or
(4) From attending at or near a house or place where any such person or persons may lawfully be for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating information, or of peacefully persuading any person or persons to work or to abstain from working or for any other purpose enumerated in this section; or
(5) From ceasing to patronize or to employ any person, persons, company or

corporation, or from recommending, advising or persuading others by peaceful and lawful means so to do; or
(6) From paying or giving to, or withholding from, any person or persons any strike benefits or other moneys, or things of value; or
(7) From peacefully assembling in a lawful manner and for lawful purposes; or
(8) From doing any act or thing which might lawfully be done in the absence of such dispute by any party thereto; (a) nor shall any of the acts specified in this section (b) nor the agreement by two or more persons to do or perform or to refrain from doing any such acts, be considered or held to be contrary to law.

3. An act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable on the ground only that it induces some other person to break a contract of employment or that it is an interference with trade, business or employment of some other person to dispose of his capital or his labor as he wills.

4. That your Committee recommends: That payment of wages at least semi-monthly be made compulsory by law in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, such payment to be made by cheque or currency. Payment of wages on hotel premises and the cashing of pay-cheques in or at a hotel or bar where intoxicating liquors are sold to be prohibited by law in all provinces.

5. That your Committee recommends: That legislation providing for miners' liens be enacted in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, providing that no amount may be retained from wages of an employee except sums due for powder, coal, oil, rent, and such doctors' and hospital fees as may be approved by the Workmen's Compensation Board, and supplies necessary to the execution of the work carried on by such employee, nor shall an employer apply the wages of an employee to payment of

(Continued on page 7).

(Continued on page 7).

CONFERENCE ON CO-ORDINATION OF LABOR LAWS

Proceedings of the Sittings of the Conference Given In Brief

Report of Committee on Factory Laws

1. In view of the limitation, in certain provinces, of the operations of the Factories Act to the industrial establishments where not less than a certain number of persons are employed, we would recommend:
"All industrial establishments in which one or more persons are employed where articles are manufactured, altered, cleaned, repaired, ornamented, finished, adapted for sale, broken up or demolished, or in which materials are transformed, shall be subject to inspection."

2. Employment of boys and girls.
No boy under 14 years of age or no girl under 15 years shall be employed in an industrial establishment.

3. Hours of employment for boys, girls and women.
In keeping with the draft convention of the Washington Conference limiting the hours of labor, we recommend that women, girls and boys shall not be employed for more than 48 hours in any one week, nor before six o'clock in the morning nor later than ten o'clock in the evening, nor more than ten hours in any one day, including overtime.

4. Boy shall mean a male person between the ages of 11 and 16 years.

5. That all laws at present existing in any Province dealing with the improvement of sanitation or the protection of life should be made general to such other industries as may be possible throughout the Dominion.

Report of Committee on Mines and Mining Laws

Your Committee, appointed to investigate the regulations of mines in Canada, and keeping in mind P.C. 722, being our guidance, have investigated the folio on mining laws, item by item for each and every Province, and after very extended deliberations, and considering the interests of all concerned, beg leave to report the results of our investigations and deliberations.

We find that many minor provisions exist in the various Acts throughout Canada which are made necessary by local conditions and concerning which no practicable uniformity is possible. The Committee have, therefore, directed their attention to those principles or provisions of a general character which are applicable to all Provinces.

We are pleased to report that we have been unanimous in all finds with the exception of one, and also pray that the Commission may approve of our work.

That we recommend that the mining laws be unified as follows:

1. That the age of 14 be the minimum age for boys working around mines (above ground), and that no boy be allowed to work beneath the surface unless he has attained the age of 16.

2. That we recommend:
That no boy under 18 years of age shall be in charge of or operating any power machinery used for moving material in a mine, and no person other than a man of 21 years of age or over shall operate any power machinery used for raising or lowering persons in a mine.

3. In order to bring uniformity in mining laws, we recommend that all provinces should insert regulations in mining laws providing for not more than 8 hours as a legal day's limit of the work, as incorporated already wholly or partly in the existing laws of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and the Yukon.

4. That your Committee recommends: That payment of wages at least semi-monthly be made compulsory by law in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, such payment to be made by cheque or currency. Payment of wages on hotel premises and the cashing of pay-cheques in or at a hotel or bar where intoxicating liquors are sold to be prohibited by law in all provinces.

5. That your Committee recommends: That legislation providing for miners' liens be enacted in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, providing that no amount may be retained from wages of an employee except sums due for powder, coal, oil, rent, and such doctors' and hospital fees as may be approved by the Workmen's Compensation Board, and supplies necessary to the execution of the work carried on by such employee, nor shall an employer apply the wages of an employee to payment of

6. That your Committee recommends: That payment of wages at least semi-monthly be made compulsory by law in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, such payment to be made by cheque or currency. Payment of wages on hotel premises and the cashing of pay-cheques in or at a hotel or bar where intoxicating liquors are sold to be prohibited by law in all provinces.

7. That your Committee recommends: That legislation providing for miners' liens be enacted in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, providing that no amount may be retained from wages of an employee except sums due for powder, coal, oil, rent, and such doctors' and hospital fees as may be approved by the Workmen's Compensation Board, and supplies necessary to the execution of the work carried on by such employee, nor shall an employer apply the wages of an employee to payment of

8. That your Committee recommends: That payment of wages at least semi-monthly be made compulsory by law in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, such payment to be made by cheque or currency. Payment of wages on hotel premises and the cashing of pay-cheques in or at a hotel or bar where intoxicating liquors are sold to be prohibited by law in all provinces.

9. That your Committee recommends: That legislation providing for miners' liens be enacted in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, providing that no amount may be retained from wages of an employee except sums due for powder, coal, oil, rent, and such doctors' and hospital fees as may be approved by the Workmen's Compensation Board, and supplies necessary to the execution of the work carried on by such employee, nor shall an employer apply the wages of an employee to payment of