

LABOR HAS OVERCOME ATTACKS

PRESIDENT TOM MOORE URGES ONLY INTERNATIONAL SATISFACTORY

At the Provincial Convention of Firefighters of Ontario held at Ottawa, the president of the Trades Congress, Mr. Tom Moore, was one of the honored guests along with International President Baer from Washington.

The report under discussion when President Moore took the floor was as follows:

"The resolution that was submitted and adopted by our last convention, and brought before the 1920 convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress for action, was looked after by the Federation president and secretary. The congress recommended and adopted that this matter be referred to the incoming executive of the congress, with instructions to take the matter up with the International Union affected and the American Federation of Labor, but in no case to interfere with the autonomy of the International Association of Fire Fighters. Naturally when this question was taken up with the international body, they were opposed to it as we are paying out good money to get moral support, and all that we can report is that the congress has given no ground in this respect and we wish to decide on this matter."

President Heer who occupied the chair, in introducing Mr. Moore, briefly outlined the stand taken by the Fire Fighters of Ontario that a charter under the Trades Congress would help to better conditions.

Mr. Moore, who was cordially received, reminded the delegates that the first step taken by the Ontario Federation was through its Local 113, Toronto. That body had sent a resolution to the Trades Congress convention in Windsor last year asking that the Congress assume jurisdiction over the Canadian Fire Fighters as it did in the case of Civil Service employees, and by so doing enable them to function in the best interest of Canadian Trades Unions. At this session it was given a resolution which was referred back for action by the incoming executive committee.

Ottawa Trades Council Elections

The semi-annual election of officers of the Allied Trades and Labor Association resulted in practically all the old slate being returned with the exception of the executive committee, to which for the first time in the history of the association a lady delegate was elected, who headed the poll.

President J. A. P. Hayden, Vice-President A. A. Aubrey, Recording Secretary Rod Plant, Treasurer Dan McCann, Corresponding Secretary, Wm. Lodge and Sergeant-at-Arms John Robertson were all accorded acclamations.

There was a spirited contest for seats on the executive committee. Mrs. A. J. Johnson, representing the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union, getting the highest vote, the other three delegates elected being C. Lewis, F. W. MacRae, and N. P. Quette.

The auditors are: Delegates W. T. McDowell, W. P. Jennings and J. D. Robertson; municipal committee, D. McCann, O. Potvin and H. Cain; union label committee, J. A. P. Hayden, M. Beaudet and M. Messick.

Principal interest centered in the election of two delegates to represent the association at the forthcoming convention at Winnipeg, out of the five who were nominated, viz.: Delegates C. Lewis, W. Lodge, P. Leekie, F. Rowe and J. D. Robertson. The result of the ballot gave Lodge 77 votes, Lewis 55, while the other three were only in the teens.

In acknowledging the honor conferred upon him Secretary Lodge humbly remarked that the big vote he had received was a source of great satisfaction to him, after he had stood the "battering ram" for fourteen years. He pointed out that fourteen years ago it had only required a majority of 21 to elect a convention delegate, whereas the present election had required 44, indicating the greater interest taken and the growth of the association.

Delegate Lewis, the other successful candidate, expressed appreciation of the support he had received and stated that "Charlie Lewis would act in the future as he had in the past, in the best interests of the labor movement."

The semi-annual report of the executive presented by its chairman, W. Lodge, showed that 55 locals are affiliated with the association, some of which were bent but not broken during the strenuous times through which labor had just passed. He believed the Ottawa locals had weathered the storm with few setbacks, and that the greater interest on both sides. He believed, however, the employers think twice before they adopted similar tactics.

The auditors' report, submitted by Delegate J. D. Robertson, showed the finances of the association to be in fine shape with a substantial surplus in the bank.

The executive committee extended congratulations to the Plumbers and Sanitarians on their victory over the employers, who had in the past master to those employers who had joined the ranks of the union smashers.

A diversion in the evening's session was provided in the expelling of a delegate who refused to withdraw statements made at random reflecting on the movement and its officers.

"FIGHTING BACK" SPEECH BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS

Labor had halted the shock troops of its enemies, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, announced in his speech to the International Typographical Union annual convention. Mr. Gompers said that all over the world, just before or soon after the armistice, capital made up its mind that it must secure the master hand over the working people of the world. In the United States there had been a premeditated decision to crush the spirit of the working class.

Mr. Gompers referred to the sacrifices of labor during the war for the conquering of imperialism and autocracy. That fight had transformed the men of labor and given them a new concept of their position. They now knew their worth. They knew that without them civilization would perish from the face of the earth. When the war was over the men of labor were no longer regarded by capital as patriots. They were to be forced back into the position of drudges. Their aims and aspirations for better things were all wrong. It was now proposed to establish an industrial autocracy in the United States and Canada. The labor movement was a protest against autocracy, whether it were political or industrial.

Mr. Gompers said never in history had the slave owners put up much of a fight to liberate their slaves. It was therefore strange that employers today were spending millions to protect the liberties of their non-union employees.

The employers in their platform of principles argued that non-union labor had to be protected from unions. He reminded the delegates that when non-union men were locked out they always appealed to the Federation of Labor for help—assistance which had never been refused when the cause was just.

Labor was engaged in a defensive fight. It was standing surer than ever to take advantage of improved conditions when the industrial pendulum swings back.

Discussing the strikes now going on in some cities over the forty-hour week, the proposition of the Typographical Union, Mr. Gompers said this matter had been agreed to and he should have expected the publishers to be "good sports" and stand by their bond. They had not, however.

Mr. Gompers denounced the anti-picket legislation introduced into Congress, and after saying that attempts to break down the Chinese exclusion law by Hawaiian interests had been stopped by the opposition of labor, said he was not going to take anything for granted until "the damn thing" was unquestionably dead. Mr. Gompers said that the attempt to get Chinese labor into Hawaii was only a forerunner to attempts to introduce it into the United States.

Dealing with the relations between the American Federation of Labor and Canada, Mr. Gompers said these relations were characterized by mutuality. Autonomy in internal affairs was respected. Attempts now being made to divide them would fail if they stood by their principles.

In conclusion, Mr. Gompers spoke approvingly of the Washington disarmament conference, but contended labor should be represented at it.

Teachers Favor Strike if Necessary

Strike action to enforce fair conditions for teachers was endorsed and urged by Harry Charlesworth, president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, at their first annual meeting Toronto. He said it was vitally necessary to protect the interest of teachers in each province and the federation was a step towards cooperation. It was hoped, he said, that where teachers were making a decided stand, by strike or otherwise, they would be supported by teachers in other provinces refusing to fill the vacant positions.

Teachers had been slow to organize, said Mr. Charlesworth, but rapid progress had been made in the last year. They were not wholly concerned in getting salaries up but were aiming also to raise the status of teachers in the social life of the country. Delegates from most of the provinces were here for the opening. The federation was organized at Calgary last year with the object of securing better recognition of the teaching profession.

Miss Helen Arbutnot, secretary-treasurer, said many teachers from the east were accepting positions in the west at lower salaries than western teachers were willing to accept.

H. C. Newlands, of the Alberta Teachers' Alliance, complained of the undue proportion of permit teachers employed in his province.

Speaking of the strikes that had taken place in Alberta during the past year, Mr. Newlands said they had resulted in the school boards taking the teachers more seriously and respecting their interests. He said the teachers had to fight both the boards and the department of education, and he regretted that an unfair propaganda had been carried on by the government against the teachers, who were, in some instances, represented as radicals and bolsheviks.

J. R. Bowllie, speaking of conditions in Saskatchewan said there were 6,000 teachers in that province, two-thirds of whom were female. Like Alberta, his province had a large proportion of permit teachers, and some with no permits at all. He was glad to report that the two brief strikes in Moose Jaw and Regina had resulted in the recognition of the alliance.

The delegates were entertained at dinner on Saturday night. The conference will resume tomorrow.

Among the subjects considered the question of registered headquarters for the federation with permanent officials, the establishment of a Canadian teachers' journal as an official organ of the profession.

Resolutions from various provinces include proposals for the appointment of a minister of education to the dominion cabinet, the establishment of a national council of education and a dominion bureau of education.

Manitoba Teachers' Federation asks the conference to call upon the government to prohibit the entrance of the Hearst newspapers into Canada, and that immigration be restricted.

Hull Firemen's Board Completed

Mr. S. Larose, a returned soldier, and a well-known citizen of Hull, has been chosen as chairman of the board of arbitration to settle the dispute over wages between the Hull fire fighters and the city. Mr. M. J. Lavender, the city's representative on the board and Mr. Eugene Reinhardt, the firemen's representative, met and agreed to submit Mr. Larose's name to the minister of labor, which was acceptable and the board is now in session. Donald A. Dear, international vice-president watching the men's interests in the International's behalf.

PRESIDENT HANNA OF NATIONAL RAILWAYS ABOVE FEDERAL LAW

The application of the five railway brotherhoods of railway employees for a Board of Conciliation, to deal with wage reductions on Canadian railways, reached the Minister of Labor from Toronto. The application is being given consideration at the present time and there will be further announcements from the Labor Department on the matter.

Claiming that the time is not opportune for the submission of the question of wage reductions, as affecting the employees of Canadian railways, to a Board of Conciliation, President D. B. Hanna, of the Canadian National Railways has notified the Minister of Labor that the management of the national lines cannot agree to the invoking of the Industrial Disputes Act for that purpose.

Mr. Hanna has pointed out that the agreement which the men have been asked to concur in is only tentative and is subject to revision. He suggests that if the usual meetings and conferences consequent upon permanent agreement on the question, next schedule adjustments fail to meet the needs of the situation, it might be then necessary to resort to some form of arbitration.

Mr. Hanna, in his statement to the Minister of Labor, in response to the notification that the employees had asked for a board, pointed out that the Canadian National Railway Company has not as yet been brought actually into existence, and that the collective title "Canadian National Railways," authorized by order-in-council, included among others the Intercolonial Railway, the Prince Edward Island Railway, the National Transcontinental Railway. These railways, he stated, are not within the scope of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act except by consent, and in the present instance the management did not agree that they should be brought under the act.

He claims that as the question of wage reductions affects all railway employees, the granting of a board of conciliation to one particular group would give that group an advantage over other classes and groups in delaying the tentative agreement.

Mr. Hanna suggested that a committee might be appointed under the Labor and Conciliation Act as a temporary measure, but further declares after the expiry of the notice required for the opening of negotiations, and ten days prior to the date of application for a board, no changes could legally be made as a result of any decision made by a board.

Officials of the Railroad Employees, who made the application for the formation of a Board of Conciliation, point out that in past years when applications have been made by the employees for wage increases, the question has always been discussed and a decision made before any changes were made in the permanent schedules. They consequently claim that no reductions should have been made effective till after an agreement had been reached by conference or arbitration. They further state that in anticipation that some objection would be raised towards the invocation of the Industrial Disputes Act, application for a board was also made under the Labor and Conciliation Act, which was passed to provide for disputes arising on government-owned railways.

In anticipation that the matter will ultimately be submitted to arbitration, invitations had been sent out to all organizations representing the railway employees of Canada to form a joint board in order that the question of wage reductions could be decided without re-submission to several boards dealing with the particular classes of different classes of employees.

the valley voted to send the men back to work Monday, with the understanding that the grievances which caused the suspension shall be taken up by the anthracite conciliation board. The decision was reached after a conference with the superintendent of the coal company, who agreed to submit the issue to the conciliation board.

ONTARIO FIREFIGHTERS CONFERENCE

The report of legislation, read at session of the convention of Provincial Federation of Fire Fighters was the first step taken by the Ontario Federation's activities from the inception of the permanent platform system, the pension and superannuation fund act, and the volunteer insurance act. The progress of the various acts is traced through their parliamentary careers, which were uniformly stormy though eventually successful, and the amount of work involved in obtaining a favorable issue is graphically indicated by the fact that nearly 4,000 day-of-inactivity act was given its third reading on May 13, 1921, the "two-plant act" was read a third time on April 13, by a majority of 13, in a year when the figures added together made 13.

The report was debated clause by clause, the section dealing with superannuation and pension fund being amended and referred back for re-consideration, and the findings were directed to be sent out for referendum vote. The rest of the legislation report was adopted as being a favorable and progressive one.

The report on fire training colleges was adopted as read, and it was unanimously agreed that letters should be sent to the organizations of Fire Marshals, the Bureau of Safety and the Dominion Association of Fire Chiefs, strongly urging them to forward the scheme, which would make for more efficient men, and departments.

The reports regarding the obligations of officers and members, the convention city, per capita payments, mutual salary positions, and order of business and rules of debate were referred to the committee on constitution and law on the motion of Delegate McGrattan, seconded by Delegate Bourke. The recommendation of an executive committee regarding the books and buttons was sent to the committee on resolutions for report.

The report on promotions was debated at some length, as were suggestions of the executive, which were that the rank of lieutenant be abolished, the holders of that rank being made captains, and that all rank officers and members be numbered in order of seniority in their respective classes. In the event of a vacancy occurring, should no one be called upon to fill it, if competent, and if in the opinion of the chief, he was not competent, he was to be so informed in order that he might have the chance to improve before a further vacancy occurred. Should no improvement take place, and the man lose a second chance of promotion, he was to lose 20 places in the seniority list. The discussion disclosed the opinion that examinations for promotion were not practicable in fire departments, and the report was not concurred in.

Fire prevention by empowering fire chiefs to bring a person before the magistrate for refusing to clean up premises was strongly endorsed, but great difference of opinion was manifested on the suggestion that fire commissioners should take the place of the direct fire chiefs. Sprinkler systems in the basements of all manufacturing and business houses being made compulsory was heartily endorsed.

It was heartily and unanimously resolved that each branch association of the federation call the attention of the chief and municipal council to the executive report which recommended that vacancies be filled by returned soldiers who are physically fit to do fire duty, and in the same connection the convention took strong occasion to voice its deep obligation to the various soldiers' organizations for much assistance in the work of the federation. The report showing that there was nothing to warrant any decrease in the payment of firemen was endorsed unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the executive officers and to the secretary-treasurer for their reports and for the general advance in the affairs of the federation.

Another 1000 to the Line

Toronto.—General Manager Thomas Bradshaw of the Massey-Harris Co. in a statement issued tonight announced the closing of the works, which will be reopened as soon as conditions justify. The statement declares that the company has been greatly affected by the sudden and heavy drop in the value of farm produce. Wages must come down, says the statement, but great hardship would be caused by too sudden a drop and "we think the consumer should recognize this, and give labor time to adjust itself to new conditions."

Mr. Bradshaw advised the members of the industrial council that before re-opening there would have to be an adjustment of wages, "as it will be impossible next season to sell goods without a substantial reduction in the cost and price." The management will be guided by conditions as they prevail at the time of reopening.

The company is reported to have been decreasing its staff for some weeks, but the definite closing of the works means lack of employment for over 1,000 workers.

Same Rates of Wages to Continue

Toronto.—Wages of the platform men in the employ of the Toronto Street Railway will be continued until March 31 by the Transportation Commission when it takes over the operation of the system on September 1.

This was the offer of the commission to the officials of the Toronto Street Railway Employees' Union, which was put to the men at a meeting in the Gayety theater by Controller Joseph Gibbons, business agent of the union. It was readily accepted.

Under the terms of the agreement the employees of the civic railway will lose six cents an hour. The agreement embraces both systems, the wages rate having been six cents an hour higher on the civic railways than on the Toronto Street Railway.

The rate paid is \$5, 57 1/2 and 60 cents per hour. The lower rate is paid for the first three months' service, the intermediate rate for the next nine months, and the full rate after twelve months' service. In addition, the men are paid at the rate of time and one-quarter per hour for Sunday work, and time and a half for public holidays, and the same rate for overtime. Men operating single cars receive an extra five cents an hour.

Montreal Street Railway Men Granted Board

Hon. Gideon Robertson, minister of labor, this afternoon notified J. L. Bourbonniere, secretary of the Montreal Tramways Employees' Union, at the department of labor had granted the tramway men's application for a board of arbitration to deal with the dispute with the Montreal tramway company with reference to the company's proposal to reduce wages twenty per cent., effective next Monday.

Arthur Sauve, leader of the Quebec Conservative Association, has been definitely chosen to represent the union in the arbitration. Mr. Sauve has accepted the charge and his nomination has been approved by the department of labor.


The company has five days in which to nominate a representative, failing which, he will be nominated by the department of labor. The meetings of the board will be in Montreal.

A referendum vote of the 3,500 members of the Montreal Tramways Employees' Union was held in the various depots and shops of the Montreal Tramways Company to ascertain the will of the tramway men as to what action shall be taken by their negotiating committee with reference to the impasse which has developed between the officials of the Montreal Tramways Employees' Union, the representatives of the parties to come to an acceptable understanding in the dispute which has arisen over the proposed cut of twenty per cent., which is slated to come into effect on August 10th.

Three alternatives will be proposed to the members as follows:

- 1.—To accept a reduction in wages of twelve and one half per cent., both parties to enter into a contract to remain in effect until January 1.
- 2.—To accept a reduction of fifteen per cent., with a contract to remain in effect until June 30, 1922.
- 3.—To submit the dispute to a board of arbitration, appointed under the authority of the Department of Labor.

A vote against the reduction resulted in the granting of the Board.



P. M. DRAPER
Secretary Trades and Labor Congress of Canada
meeting in Convention at Winnipeg

Machinists to Elect International Officers

Eight new vice-presidents of the International Association of Machinists, seven in the United States and one in Canada, were chosen by referendum vote of local lodges, as follows:

Ed. Nolan, Lodge 68, San Francisco.
F. J. Conlon, Lodge 144, Washington, D.C.
James Taylor, Lodge 74, Seattle.
Dave Williams, Lodge 236, Allentown, Pa.
J. J. Connolly, Lodge 264, Boston.
J. T. Thorpe, Lodge 33, Sacramento.
H. W. Brown, Lodge 240, Newark, New Jersey.

For Canada James Sommersville, Lodge 639, Moose Jaw.

These new officials are now on the job. They hold office for one year when their terms will expire with the present vice-presidents. The incumbent vice-presidents were J. F. Anderson and J. A. McElieas, the latter representing the Canadian districts.

Newspaper Publishers Favor Arbitration

The American Newspaper Publishers' Association is in favor of the principle of arbitration in settlement of industrial disputes, but it contends that all relations should be arbitratable, it was said at the office of H. N. Kellogg, chairman of the special standing committee of the association.

It was explained that the publishers desire that laws of the International Typographical Union, as they affect working conditions on newspapers, should be subject to arbitration.

At a recent meeting in Chicago of a publishers' committee and members of the executive council of the Typographical Union, the publishers' committee explained its instructions from the 1921 convention to the effect that no contract be made except one that provides for the arbitration of any or all differences. The executive council members are said to have declined to agree to this proposition. It was decided that as comparatively few of the laws of the International Union relate to working conditions on newspapers, that representatives of the union should submit to the Quebec convention a proposal that efforts to agree respecting the application of these laws shall be made and if the agreement is reached as to any of them they will be included in the contract, but those upon which there is disagreement will be subject to arbitration. The members of the executive council did not indicate whether or not they would recommend to the convention that it approve the course outlined, it was said at Mr. Kellogg's office.

Court "Ends" Strike

New York.—Striking bookbinders employed by the T. F. Tapley company at Long Island City, were surprised to learn that their 44-hour week strike is over. Supreme Court Justice Gannon made an announcement, and issued an injunction against picketing. The company made the usual claim to Justice Gannon that its plant is running at top speed, the court, thereupon, ended the strike and affirmed that picketing is unlawful. The only difficulty with the decree is that the bookbinders reject the honorable court's discovery.

"Class Legislation" Cry Is "Bunk" Says Editor

Washington.—The cry of "class legislation"—a favorite of special interests—is "bunk," says the Washington Herald, which suggests that eastern bankers and congressmen abandon this term.

The Herald gives this advice in discussing the plan to create a corporation that will extend credit to dealers in agricultural products. The Herald is opposed to this particular plan, but insists that arguments and not calling names, is necessary, for if the latter plan is to be followed, the farmers will ask what class has benefited by the nation's tariff and banking systems.

"It is time we got through with this class bunk," says the Herald. "It is not argument. It is irritating and settles nothing. This, and every country, consist of vocational groups, all interdependent. No one of them can prosper, or even survive, essentially, unless the others prosper. They form a closely interlocked whole, which is our country."

Miners in Lehigh Valley for Conciliation

Lansford, Pa.—The strike of approximately 8,000 mine workers of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co. in the Panther Creek Valley, came to an end when the grievance committee of number 6 colliery and the executive board of the United Mine Workers in

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