

Labor Items of Interest From the Capital City

THE FIGHTING NOTES
 Jack Cameron was kept busy by No. 1 Platoon at their meeting, answering questions on the housing strike. Although no different stand was taken the boys are convinced that labor's interests are in good stead by the selection of Mr. Cameron on the committee.
 No. 2 Platoon used mature judgment in the selection of Guide and the chairman for the meeting according to reports coming from No. 7 station we can look for the guides' duties being carried out in true labor style. Capt. Jacques says he is willing to go sponsor for Ned Shanley and predicts a warm reception to uninvited guests in the city last week with confidential reports on matters pertaining to the Fire Department Workers. It is unofficially reported that our president has had several private conferences with him in company with Pat Green, President of the Trades Council, and Dan McCann, Treasurer of the same body. A full report of these meetings is expected to appear in the next issue of this paper.
 The Fire Department was represented in the P.P.C.L.'s by Eng. Tachibana, who is stationed at the 257th Battalion and later transferred to the former regiment. He was both wounded and gassed while doing his bit, but here in the capital he is in the A1 class again.
 The new switchboard is in operation and will obviate the troubles and confusion which have been experienced in the past. Some members have complained they have been abruptly cut off while using the phone for legitimate conversation. This, we think, must be the new system not working to perfection.
 The bread drivers are now organized. Boys see that the man that brings the staff of life up to your door is a union man. If he is he will have his cards to show until he gets the button. Do to others what you would have them do to you.
 Capt. Beauchamp, who is a great advocate of the superannuation scheme under the two platoon system the boys will take an interest in this very important matter. He has endeavored to see that the fair sex derive benefit from same. The captain has promised in the near future to demonstrate what can be accomplished by co-operation.
 Some live wires have suggested a Fireman's Band. It may surprise some citizens to know that there are quite a number of the fire-ladies musically inclined. It is not anticipated the Chief will object to the move, but rather the contrary, give encouragement to the idea.

PULP, SULPHITE AND PAPER-MILL WORKERS
 Bro. Freeman Rowe put the crux of the work of the wage conference in concrete form when the members were presented with the decision arrived at in the following resolution:
 "It is resolved that the delegates from the local organizations of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers' Union, in conference assembled, ask of the paper manufacturers at the expiration of our agreement with the manufacturers and the National War Labor Board, upon May 31, 1919, an increase in wages based upon the National War Labor Board's award of June 27, 1918, as follows:
 A general increase in wages of eight (8) cents per hour for all classified as tour workers;
 An increase of ten (10) cents per hour for all classified as inside day workers;
 An increase in wages of nine (9) cents per hour for all classified as outside day workers.
 He further resolved that the president's secretary in notifying individual manufacturers of these desired wage increases, reserve the right to ask of the different individual companies a higher schedule of wages for certain classifications that, in his opinion, did not receive in the award of the National War Labor Board a rating in accordance with their skill and value to said companies.
TIPOGRAPHERS TO HOLD ECHURE
 Typographical Union, No. 192, will hold a monster echure at St. Anne's Hall, on Monday, April 1st. A special committee composed of Fred Lee, chairman, Geo. Payette, J. Robertson, J. K. Peppers, F. J. Preece, O. Andrew, A. E. Sheppard, S. Lee, A. Hammer, Ed. Kent, Geo. Duncan, A. Lamont, J. McHale, Earl Buckley, M. Powell and W. Hay, has arrangements well in hand, meeting progress all along the line. A valuable list of prizes has already been secured and in the interval of the echure taking place, it is just possible that the types will hold the prize list echure.
VISIT THE CAPITAL
 Trades Council representatives from Sydney, N.S., were visitors to Ottawa last week, the personnel being J. Steele, A. McLeilan and H. Vandusen. They visited the office of the Canadian Labor Press and were complimentary in their comments thereof.
HULL TRADES COUNCIL'S OFFICERS
 Hull's Trades Council starts off with the following officers: President, C. Paré; Vice-President, A. Simcance; Recording Secretary, E. Zuzana; Treasurer, J. Dostou; Executive Committee, G. Noel, E. Domperre, E. Brassard, G. Villeneuve, E. Rollin.

LABOR AND CAPITAL SOLVING THE JOB
 "By J. Herbert Dorkworth"
 A new thing is happening in the unemployment crisis that faces Chicago, which has 125,000 jobless men. For the first time employers, capitalists and bankers are recognizing an obligation on their part to see that workers have jobs.
 In all previous unemployment crises, the attitude of employers has been largely that of: "Let it alone and it will work itself out all right; the great law of supply and demand will readjust things."
 There is nothing of that spirit now in Chicago. Big business men meet with labor leaders and do their best to work out a plan that will leave no man unemployed who wants work.
 Instead of blackguarding each other in separate halls, capitalists and working men in Chicago are sitting around the same table and thrashing out reconstruction problems with bare knuckles.
 I was at one of these confabs. It was attended by bankers, manufacturers, city officials, college economists, soldiers and labor leaders. In an atmosphere thickly charged with tobacco smoke, men spoke to each other with almost brutal frankness. But progress was made. A joint committee was named, which urged the Governor of Illinois to create an emergency public works commission representative of labor, business and the general public. The idea has been named "the Illinois tea"—to develop a state policy with preference to public works and to co-ordinate state, municipal and federal projects. This gives the spirit of the meeting.
 When H. H. Merrick, president of the association of Commerce, said: "Bolshevism will never show its ugly head and the red flag will never wave in Chicago if we all stand together as we are today," Jimmy H. Walker of union-labor reconstruction board, jumped up and shouted: "That's fine, but remember that food given in charity does no good, I disagree with Hoover that food will stop unrest in Europe or elsewhere. Go ahead with public works—that will help—but unless labor gets a fair deal, Bolshevism will appear right at our door."
 "Migratory workers are useful citizens and human beings and unless they get justice will become destructionists. The men who gather our wheat and cut our ice feed us. They must be recognized, and cheap labor among the unskilled must go."
 Chicago's experiment will be keenly watched all over the country.
 Labor is militant here. It has a new labor party and plans a daily newspaper. With John Fitzpatrick as its representative for mayor the coming Chicago elections have the first time become a matter of moment to citizens outside of Chicago.
FORCED TO TOLL
 "You used to hate work."
 "I hate it yet," replied Plodding Pete. "But I'm going to keep at it. If you get in the habit of loafin' now some member of the I. W. W. is liable to stop you any minute and call you 'brother'."—Washington Star.

LABOR NEWS FROM THE BUSY CITY OF HAMILTON
TRADES COUNCIL MEETING
 There was no lack of interest and debatable material at last Friday's fortnightly session of the Trades and Labor Council. The meeting was a "bummer" from the time President Aid. "Tommy" O'Heir called the big turnout of delegates to order until adjournment. And during the proceedings several of the delegates crossed words. Others displayed a humorous vein sufficient to break the monotony.
 Recording Secretary Harry George Fester questioned the Labor members of the City Council whether there was any truth to the story accredited to City Clerk Kent in a city paper, that there was no housing problem here, and that it wasn't the city's intention to participate in the Government's housing scheme.
 Said Mr. Fester: "My wife for the past thirty days has scoured every nook and corner of the city house hunting. Her efforts have been discouraging. She came across some of the most ramshackle hovels it was possible to cast eyes on, and \$20 and \$25 per month was the rent asked. Some weren't fit for 'bow-wow' kennels. There is truly a house scarcity in the city."
 Some of the delegates looked askance at the president, so up spoke

aid O'Heir: "Were I to engage in correcting statements of some city officials which appear in the press, I'd be kept real busy. I noticed the article referred to, and I intend to make it my business at the next City Council meeting to raise the question. (Hear, hear.)"
 Corresponding Secretary Walter R. Rolfe provided another breezy few minutes' discussion when he stated that many citizens—be they owners were protesting because of excessive gas bills for the period between December and January last. He was supported by other delegates, all of whom cited instances where the bills were almost double those of the corresponding period of the previous year. A letter carrier delegate said his bill called for \$7.20. He went to the office of the United Gas and Fuel Company, and protested. He was told that if he wanted his meter re-read it would cost him an extra dollar. The delegate told the council's officials that he would not pay the dollar or \$7.20. He had burned no gas, for his wife had been away. A re-reading of the meter showed that the meter reader had made a mistake. Other delegates declared several meter readers had apparently made mistakes of the same kind, incidentally, however, favorable to the company.
 "Isn't it about time the city got busy and started to build a gas and

like over-plant of its own" asked a delegate.
 Then Aid. O'Heir mentioned that such an undertaking would cost a heap of money, but still, the city was securing data with the ultimate object in view. The company's franchise expires in 1923.
 There's no more popular trades unionist in Hamilton than past president "Bill" Cassaday! So during the meeting, the delegates showed their appreciation by presenting him with a gold watch, a token for the very able services rendered the council during his two terms of presidency. Controller for the day, Ford made the presentation in an appropriate manner. He eulogized "Bill's" sterling and conscientious traits, and said Mr. Cassaday had done much for the organized labor in general. The recipient suitably responded on accepting the pretty thing.

Victor Croome, machinists' delegate; T. and L. representative on the "get-together" committee, reported that the committee is making great headway of late. Many registrations were being made at the Provincial Labor Bureau, and work was being taken up by returned soldiers and civilians.
 Harry Bourne, moulders' delegate, complained that moulders were being "get-together" Chilled by blowing. Bourne said the International Harvester Co. had made a mistake in only 50 cents hourly, while the union scale was 60 cents hourly. Mr. Croome said the International Harvester plant—which concern has recently acquired the plow works—pays 60 cents per hour was paid to moulders. He proposed to make an enquiry regarding the complaint.
 The communication from the Winnipeg Trades Council, inviting local unions to take a vote calling for a general strike, used the government withdrew its ban on literature relating to a ban on political prisoners was not acted upon.
 A communication from the Finnish organization of Canada which is said to have a membership of 10,000, asked that the privilege be renewed of using their own language at meetings, which at present is prohibited by an anti-in-council. The matter evoked a lengthy discussion. The letter was laid on the table.
 The council upon a receipt of a letter of explanation from President Tom Moore, Trades Congress of Canada, withdrew its opposition to the proposed amendments to the Insurance Act.
 Delegates from the Patternmakers and Journeymen tailors' local unions were seated upon receipt of credentials.
BOSSSES AND PAINTERS "GETTING TOGETHER"
 During last week-end the master painters and their union journeymen painters and decorators held a "get-together" to consider the increase of their employes from 45 cents per hour and the eight-hour work-day. Good feeling was exhibited by both sides' representatives and there's no doubt before April 1, an amicable agreement will have been made.

SAND-RATS HELP STILL STRIKING SMOKERS
 For several months the cigarmakers who were locked out by the patriotic Tuckett Tobacco and Hilda Cigar Companies have been stuck to their guns nobly and unflinchingly. Now however they are beginning to feel the financial pinch. Their strike pay is diminishing, so the big sum of money which President David Walsh and others helped to "gather in" after a speaking tour of Canadian and United States Cigarmakers' locals. Recently the Moulders and coremakers, members C. Local Union No. 26 heard of the plight of the "smokers." So without hesitation the sand-rats determined the practical way was to assess themselves \$1 ahead, for they haven't forgotten that when things went hardy with the moulders on strike several years ago the cigarmakers helped liberally. In fact there was always \$100 and more waiting in the treasury for the moulders. Local No. 26 expects to contribute over \$300 to the strikers as a start-off. So that's not bad! Who's going to emulate the Moulders' example.
"BROOMIES" GET EIGHT-HOUR DAY AND PAY BOOST
 Commencing April 1 not only will the Broom and Whisk makers be employed by the Walter Woods and company receive a wage increase, but the eight-hour day and four hours on Saturdays. First-class "broomies" will benefit. They will receive twelve cents per dozen receive 12 cents per dozen for broom-making and 3 cents per dozen extra for the sewing. The union committee in making its request to the management pointed out that the international union desired to inaugurate the forty-four-hour week, starting September 1. Mr. Woods immediately told the committee that the firm besides considering the wage boost, would grant the eight-hour day starting April 1, instead of waiting until September. The committee thanked the management in behalf of the members of the Whisk and Broom Makers' Union, Local No. 9. The Walter Woods broom factory, which employs a large staff, is stated to be the first factory of its kind in Canada to concede the eight-hour day.
MASS MEETING DECLARES FOR EIGHT-HOUR WORKDAY
 One of the most reputable and level headed Labor men in Canada today is J. H. Ballantyne, Toronto, an official of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. He displayed that he is a Labor leader to be trusted at a largely attended mass meeting held under the auspices of the Hamilton District A.S.E. in the I.O.O.F. temple, on Thursday night, March 28. Time after time was Mr. Ballantyne cheered to the echo during his double-header discourse. He well deserved the ovation. He wants men of Mr. Ballantyne's calibre in its parliaments and legislatures and if the C. L. P. correspondent is any judge, at the next election he will top the poll in some Toronto constituency.
 Among the several hundred people present when A. H. McNamee, A.S.E. general organizer, opened the meeting were trades unionists of all crafts and I.L.P. enthusiasts. Those who were unorganized became full fledged trades unionists before the day closed. The night's arrangements having been made by the officials in charge of the meeting to look after the interests of all local branch unions. Strange to say, however, the newly organized General Workers' Union, which is now a stronghold, gathered in the biggest number.
 The amended resolution also asked that Labor be given a greater measure of control over the industries of this country and a minimum wage rate.
MOULDERS' SPECIAL MEETING
 On Wednesday night, March 26 a special meeting of the moulders and coremakers has been arranged. There's no doubt the moulders' hall at the corner of King and Walnut streets will be crowded. The object will be to discuss the eight-hour day and more important, to discuss an agreement with the foundry men expires on May 1.

FARMERS

For Forty Years We Have Been Allies

Do you remember what farming was like in Canada forty years ago? We remember very well what manufacturing was like, what there was of it. The farmers were struggling on farms and getting low prices for their produce. The few manufacturers were also struggling, for the most part unsuccessfully. For forty years we have worked together. Have we not both prospered? We buy from you most of what you grow. You buy from us most of what we make. That has been and is the basis of our alliance.

The manufacturing establishments in Canada employ nearly 700,000 people. Their wage-roll is about \$700,000,000 a year. Moreover, they buy annually nearly \$2,000,000,000 worth of raw material, mostly in Canada. Around these factories are congregated a hundred other forms of business. All these are your customers, and statistics show that this home market is four times as valuable to you as your entire foreign market. Decrease its buying powers, and your sales lessen and your prices drop.

How A Minority Seek to Sever Our Alliance

The Prairie Grain Growers are urging the Government to throw down the tariff wall between Canada and the United States because they want to save a little money (mainly on freight rates) by buying from the United States manufacturers just south of them. They, who constitute about 20 per cent. of the agricultural population of Canada, ask all the other farmers, who constitute the remaining 80 per cent., to change the policy which they have supported for forty years.
 Furthermore, to raise the Dominion Government revenue, they would substitute for the tariff, which collected last year about 60 per cent. of that revenue, an increase of income taxes, inheritance taxes, corporation taxes and taxes on unimproved land values. As it is quite obvious that such taxes would affect the farmer but little, this is the inducement they are using to get you to forsake us and follow the free trade prophets no one knows where.
 We think this appeal will fail. First, because it seems to be founded on the assumption that the farmers of Canada want to slip out of paying any increased taxes that may be needed for soldiers' pensions, gratuities and

re-establishment. We have found in all our experience that the farmers of Canada are not this class of men. Second, because the argument is unsound. It requires little reflection to see that if our market is thrown open and flooded, many of our manufacturers, caught in the struggle to re-adjust themselves from war to peace conditions, will not be able to keep going. Would this not result in many of our people, unless they were able and willing to take up farming, leaving for the United States? Would not the rest of the population then, which might consist chiefly of farmers, have to pay all the taxes?
 The Grain Growers do not represent the entire population of the Prairie Provinces. They do not represent the business population; they do not by any means represent all the farmers. The Prairie Grain Growers' Associations are dominated by a group of free traders whose one idea seems to be to get free trade all over the world. Unfortunately for their theories, just at the present time all the rest of the world seems desirous of getting protection.

Tariff Policy of Other Nations

GREAT BRITAIN is shutting out the goods of other countries (except the Dominions). **FRANCE** and **ITALY** are shutting out the goods of other countries by import restrictions.
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY in the United States, which advocates low tariffs, seems to be going out of power, and the Republicans, who always support high tariffs, have now a majority in both Senate and Congress. Do you think that this means that the United States' tariff is going up or down?
 In opposing the demands of the Grain Growers, we do not in any sense intend, as they sometimes say, to show hostility to them. They are our customers. Is not our prosperity affected by theirs? Beyond all this, if the farmers do not prosper, neither we nor the country can prosper. Agriculture and industry are the basis of the country's strength. But we feel that these demands of the Grain Growers aim a deadly blow, not only at industry but at the whole farming community.
 What justifies the Grain Growers in demanding that their personal grievances be cured at the expense of the rest of the country? Are they in a desperate position? Have they been losing heavily? Are they suffering from too much adversity or too much success? Are they in any danger comparable to the one great danger in Canada now?—

SOUTH AFRICA is increasing its tariff. **Australia**, **New Zealand**, **Newfoundland**, **Japan**, **Brazil** and **Portugal** are all jealously maintaining their tariffs.
 Why is this wave of protection sweeping over the world? In a word, because the various countries are trying to produce all they need at home, in order to provide work for their own people—many of them returned soldiers.
 Why then is this Western minority of the farmers of Canada determined to go in the exactly opposite direction?

THE DANGER OF UNEMPLOYMENT

the danger which may place thousands in need of shelter, food and clothing? Most Canadians feel strongly that until this danger is avoided, and the country safely restored to a peace basis, the nation should not be disturbed by any tariff controversy at all.
 When this danger is passed, and the country knows where it stands, and what other countries of the world are going to do, then the tariff question should be taken up and such a tariff should be framed as will suit, not the manufacturers merely, nor the farmers merely, but the country as a whole, and by adding to the prosperity of the nation, and to the prosperity of each and every class—the only safe path to prosperity for any country or any class in that country.

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CIVIC EMPLOYEES

The meeting on Tuesday night, March 25th, at Peterkin's Hall was attended by a good crowd of the boys—about one hundred in attendance. Alderman Ford was the centre of attraction, who has been appointed by Council as chairman of the superannuation scheme. He also has the support of Aldermen Denison and Balharrie, who are his appointees on this committee. Also Controller Plant, Alderman Laroche and Alderman Forward, with Dan McCann, took the platform. Alderman Ford spoke on this subject for a good length of time and treated several different schemes in a very able manner. He had, we think, three different schemes in which it would be possible to commence with. The first was, for the city to subscribe all necessary funds; second, the employes to subscribe all necessary funds; third, the city and employes to subscribe half and half to the funds. Also the methods of distribution carried out by other cities was explained, as far as possible, which was very interesting. The Montreal superannuation scheme for its employes appears to be favorable to the worker in general, but much depends on the security of these schemes if they are passed and O.M.U. through the proper channels, viz. actuarial report. Alderman Denison also treated the subject, but more from a financial point. Although he would like to see the superannuation scheme put through, his advice was that it needed careful consideration before it could be launched. He passed a remark, that among the audience he could see a familiar face, which he well remembered, when he was a boy, and the thought came to him, how long some of the employes have been giving their services to the city.
 Alderman Balharrie stated that he was going to support Aid. Ford in every possible way in aid of this scheme. He had been thinking this himself, before it was brought before the Council, and trusted that it would become law, so that the workers in general could have something to look forward to in their old age.
 Controller Plant also supported Aid. Ford, and advised the committee to see if it would be possible to insure every member of the staff. He also spoke a few words on the eight-hour per day. Controller Plant was a little late in arriving, but got a rousing welcome from the boys.
 Alderman Forward and Alderman Laroche also spoke very favorably on the subject. Dan McCann agreed on the members of the Council to push this matter forward. He was sure that it would be a success, as they had chosen a good man to initiate the scheme and he was sure that Alderman Ford would make it a success. Several questions were put to Alderman Ford by the members. One member mentioned an employe who had worked for the corporation for 45 years, and owing to his old age and feebleness could not very well follow his employment. But, however, he was not recognized in any shape or form by the city, even when the union wrote on his behalf to the Board of Control.
 The President and others warmly thanked the members of the Council for their kindness, and appreciated the remarks made by them all.
 We anticipate, as is likely, that Alderman Ford will give us a visit again very soon when the scheme has reached its maturity. Six new members were enrolled.
DIV. 93, CAN. BROS. RD. EMPLOYEES
 The regular meeting on the 17th inst. we had a fairly good night. The boys were very surprised on us, saying they were 100 per cent strong, and starting a local on their own and on behalf of the C.P.R. brothers we wish them the best of luck. We might say we put seven C.P.R. candidates through the same meeting. We are hoping shortly to boast 100 per cent strong of the C.P.R. Freight Clerks and Freight Handlers. (tend. Robson, general organizer, address. President E. S. Peck holding the reins of office in usual capable manner.)

MOULDERS STILL ON STRIKE

Secretary Wm. McEwen stated that the moulders at the Beach Foundry were still on strike, with a determination to stay on the strike until their demands had been conceded their demands. These demands are similar to what has been in operation throughout the province as adopted by the Ontario conference held in Toronto. No trouble is in evidence with any other com-