

OVER NINE HUNDRED DELEGATES ATTEND DOMINION TRADES CONGRESS CONVENTION AT HAMILTON, ONT.

Growing Power and Influence of Trades and Labor Congress Have Been Amply Demonstrated As the Year Progressed—One Big Union Methods Were Declared Futile—Workers Gaining Equilibrium

Over nine hundred delegates are in attendance at the thirty-fifth annual Dominion Trades Congress convention which opened at Hamilton, Ont., last Monday morning. Addresses of welcome took up practically the whole of the first morning session, the speakers being Sir William Hearst, Premier of Ontario; Hon. Gideon D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, and Mayor Booker of Hamilton.

The real business of the congress was commenced at the afternoon session, when resolutions regarding the Irish question and the extending of clemency to defaulters under the military service act were under discussion. The committee on resolutions substituted "that Ireland be granted a full measure of home rule, such as that enjoyed by Canada and other overseas dominions." After a lengthy debate, the resolution was adopted by a small majority.

In the question of clemency for defaulters and deserters, discussion at times became bitter as delegates spoke of their personal sufferings through the loss of relatives at the front. Vice-President David Reek, referred to the consistency of conscientious objectors in opposing military service. He intimated that he held no brief for deserters—men who had enlisted of their own free will and then deserted from the army. He thought that conscientious

objectors were honest in their expressed horror of war and now that the conflict was terminated should not be kept in confinement. The resolution of the committee was sustained.

Among the non-contentious resolutions carried was one urging that legislation be introduced to make it possible to (Continued on Page 2)

GREAT BRITAIN MAY HAVE LABOR GOVERNMENT SOON

Ben Tillet, M.P. and British fraternal delegate to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, now in session at Hamilton, prophesies the election of a labor government in a few years' time. Mr. Tillet said he thought the labor party would ultimately win the adherence of the former liberal party. "British labor is now settling down and has decided to pursue its interests through a peaceful parliamentary pressure, rather than by direct action," said Mr. Tillet.

LABOR CONFERENCE WILL MAKE MANY THINGS CLEAR

Will Be Shown That Radicals and Revolutionists Are Not Authorized Spokesmen of Labor

The counsel of moderation which the President addressed to the railway workmen had the country's hearty approval. The announcement made in his Labor Day message that he is to call a conference of representatives of labor and those who direct labor will have equally wide approval. It is time for taking counsel, a time when those who can speak with authority as representatives of employers and employed may well sit down together to consider present problems in which they have a common interest and in which the interests of the whole people were never greater. The most urgent problem of all is this great question of demoralizing to employed and employer alike that their interests are one. It is an old controversy and will not be settled by one conference. But if reason rules, and she is visibly reasserting her sway, a long step will be taken by making it plain that radicals and social revolutionists who are so much to the fore just now are not authorized spokesmen of labor. No man has greater interest in this demonstration than Samuel Gompers. For years Socialist agitators have been seeking to destroy him, to remove him from the high post where his leadership of labor has been so wise and so fruitful of advantage to wage-earners. They have put forth plans and policies which times without number he has publicly denounced as dangerous and destructive. Against his enemies he has the President's aid, he has the sound opinion of the whole country. The Washington conference ought to strengthen his position.—New York Times.

FEDERAL SEAMEN GET IMPROVED ACCOMMODATION

The conference appointed to settle the federal seamen's dispute at Melbourne, Australia, has arrived at an agreement providing for improved accommodation for the men, time off in home ports, payment of wages to sick seamen until the home port has been reached and an increase in wages by thirty-five shillings per month, according to an announcement made by Hon. Mr. Millen, minister for repatriation. The agreement, Mr. Millen added, will remain in force until December.

MEAT CUTTERS GET NEW AGREEMENT AT PUEBLO, COLO.

A new agreement has been signed by Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union No. 565 at Pueblo, Colo., and the Retail Butchers and Grocers association. The minimum rate for butcher workmen is \$25 a week; extras, 86 a day for less than a full week's work, and \$7 for Saturday.

ENGINEERS GET WAGE INCREASE AT OMAHA, NEB.

Stationary Engineers' Union No. 38, Omaha, Neb., is now working under a new agreement which calls for 75 cents an hour for low pressure heating plants and 85 cents for plants of more than 15 pounds pressure.

WASHINGTON LABOR CONGRESS MAY NOT BE HELD OCTOBER 29

Unless the United States ratify the peace treaty before October 29th, the Labor Congress, which President Wilson has called for that date at Washington, D.C., will be postponed to a later date, according to statements made by officials of the Department of Labor. It was stated that less than half a dozen nations have ratified the peace treaty so far, and there would be no object in holding the congress unless the treaty is ratified by that date.

ENQUIRY INTO SUGAR SITUATION NEXT TUESDAY

S. W. Field, Examiner Appointed By Board of Commerce Will Hear Complaints

S. W. Field, the examiner appointed for Edmonton by the Board of Commerce, will hold an enquiry into the sugar situation on Tuesday next, September 30th, in the School Board room at the Civic block, commencing at 10 a.m. Mr. Field is desirous of having the hearty co-operation of the citizens in this matter and would urge those having complaints to make to be present at the hearing.

The notice of the meeting, which is sent out by Mr. Mustard, who is co-operating with Mr. Field, is as follows: An enquiry will be held by the Examiner appointed by the Board of Commerce, into the alleged infraction of the Combine and Fair Prices Act, made thereunder, with respect to sugar, at the Committee Room of the School Board at the Civic block, at the city of Edmonton, on Tuesday, the 30th day of September, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Any person having any complaint is requested to appear at the above-mentioned time and place for the purpose of giving evidence in substantiation of his complaint, and is also requested to communicate in writing with W. J. A. Mustard, 606 McLeod building, who is representing the Attorney-General for the Province of Alberta.

OVER TWO MILLION DOLLARS BACK PAY FOR MACHINISTS

Committee Wishes Names and Addresses of Employees of Bethlehem Steel Co., August, 1918

Representatives of the National War Labor Board and Ordnance Department of the War Department are now at work computing the retroactive pay of the machine shop employees of the Bethlehem plant of the Bethlehem Steel Company for the period from August 1, 1918, to March 1, 1919.

Approximately 9,000 machine shop workers who have pay coming under this award have been laid off since the armistice was signed, and the employees' committee wants to get the name and address of every machine shop employee who was employed during the period stated above, so that a claim can be put in for the wages due, and all cases be properly taken care of.

Between two and three million dollars will be paid by the government to settle the claim of these machine shop employees, and all former machine shop employees of the Bethlehem plant are urged to send their name and address at once to David Williams, care of Int. Assn. of Machinists, 605 Hamilton street, 3rd floor, Allentown, Pa. All information concerning the award and forms governing the disbursement of the money allotted under the award will then be forwarded by the committee.

United Mine Workers Demand Sixty Per Cent Increase, Six Hour Day And Five Day Week

The convention of the United Mine Workers of America, which has been in session at Cleveland since September 9, finished its labor Tuesday. The center of interest is transferred to the joint wage committee of the international union which opened at Buffalo, Thursday morning.

Should a satisfactory new agreement be reached by the representatives of the miners and operators at this conference, the convention will be reconvened at Indianapolis to accept or reject. Should no agreement be reached in time to be ratified and come into effect by November 1, a general strike of all bituminous coal miners in the United States will automatically ensue on that date, which may extend to the Canadian coal fields if the international executive board and the representatives of the Canadian districts so determine.

NEWS OF THE CIVIC UNIONS

CIVIC SERVICE UNION No. 52

Five candidates were initiated at Friday night's general meeting. Mr. Peter Forbes was especially welcomed as a new member, being an old member of the Waterworks staff, who has done his bit overseas and returned safely.

The letter from the Cigarmakers' Union dealing with the kind of cigars a good union man should smoke, was endorsed by the meeting. In future, when the wife gets instructions to buy the week-end smokes, this list will be handed along with the two bits.

The matter of appointing a business agent was discussed at some length, but was left over till next meeting.

A very full report was received from the Social Committee re the Basket Picnic at Alberta Beach. Instructions were given to pay the outstanding bills against this. The report was a very satisfactory one, being quite in accord with the picnic in this respect.

Civic Service Union No. 52 is going strong these days, and we are looking for quite a number of new candidates.

Alec. Templeton, the amiable Scot from the Assessor's Department, was made the recipient of a small token of esteem from the Executive and other friends the other evening. Alec. had made his annual holiday the excuse to go to Winnipeg and get married.

The President appointed a committee of three to look into the question of accident and sickness insurance for the members.

The 23rd of the month is known as "Skidoo-Day," the day when the dead beats move. A day allotted to the one who wishes to avoid his legal responsibility. Diary, September 23rd, 1919: Alliance Power Suspend Operations.

Miss McGregor has returned to her duties in the treasury department, after spending a very enjoyable holiday with her friends at Calgary. She had the pleasure of seeing the Prince when he visited the Southern City. If he had known that the "wee lass" had won the beauty prize at the Civic Picnic at Alberta Beach we feel confident that the honor of a dance would have been extended.

FIRE FIGHTERS

The members of Local 209 regret to report a rather unfortunate accident which befell one of their members in the person of Charles Price, of No. 5 Hall. While playing in a football match for the Veterans F.C. against Seena F.C. he had the misfortune to fracture a small bone in his right ankle. Charlie is a spartan and played right through the game, no one being the wiser of the extent of the injury until the finish of the game. Being a veteran and an all-round man, he is missed in sporting circles, and as a strenuous fire fighter, with the busy season ahead the Fire Department will need him at the nozzle. His many friends wish him a speedy recovery.

It was a fitting climax to a splendid season's work of the freeman athlete, E. Williams, of No. 2 fire hall, to bring home the bacon by winning the half-mile race at Calgary last week. This young athlete, of whom more will be heard in the field of sport, was also one of the relay team which won for Edmonton second place in the relay race, which gave Edmonton both first and second places.

For the purpose of standardizing wages and working conditions in the metal trades, these workers at Richmond, Va., have formed the Metal Trades of Virginia, which will hold annual conferences.

ORE BOAT SEAMEN WILL SYMPATHIZE IN STEEL STRIKE

Union seamen employed on the ore-carrying lake boats of the United States steel corporation have voted almost unanimously to strike in sympathy with the steel workers, according to a statement made by Patrick O'Brien, secretary of the local. He said the executive board would meet soon at either Detroit or Chicago to canvass the votes and decide on a date for the strike.

DRASTIC ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST H.C.L.

Cost of Living Probes About To Be Instituted In Several Western Cities

Judge Robson, chairman of the Board of Commerce, declared that drastic action will be taken by the Board of Commerce just as soon as the evidence at the different probes has been taken. No advances on necessities will be tolerated, he said. The board aims to prohibit the sale of all fancy bacons. The retailer who takes a profit in excess of one cent per pound on any sale of sugar is liable to prosecution. This rule applies to all dealers and is not limited to the east, Mr. Robson emphasized.

Regulations covering all packing plants and including such products as butter, eggs, cured meats and cold storage products in general will be drafted shortly. The board will deal with all necessities of life, including boots and clothing. Prosecution will be made in every case, where there is violation of the set profit by dealers. The board itself may impose the fines or institute criminal proceedings against the guilty parties.

Mr. Robson was not ready to give an outline of the provisions to be made for checking up on violations of the board's orders, but declared that every complaint brought to the board would be fully investigated and dealt with immediately and to the full extent of the law.

Cost of living probes are about to be instituted in Calgary, Edmonton, and Regina. Mr. Robson has wired the appointment of men to take charge of these probes. Major Duncan Stewart will conduct the hearing in Calgary, S. W. Fields in Edmonton, and James Rankin in Regina.

CONDITIONS IN DIST. 18 U.M.W.A. NEARLY NORMAL

Prominent Citizen of Drumheller Says More Peace There Now Than For Past Four Years

John Houston, one of the international representatives that is helping reorganize the miners in District 18, says conditions in district 18 are rapidly coming back to normal. Mr. Houston is now at Coleman organizing the miners, and with this camp completed the work of getting the men back to the mines will be pretty well concluded. Mr. Houston said that he was speaking the other day to an influential citizen of Drumheller, who stated that there had never been such peace there for the past four years as there is at the present time, and that the men were taking up questions in a more businesslike way than they ever had during that period.

Drumheller is now shipping out coal at the rate of 4,500 tons per day, according to figures given out by F. E. Harrison, of the department of labor branch at Calgary.

City authorities at Hibbing, Minn., have established the three-plateau system for municipal firemen as a result of agitation by the organized workers.

WEEK OF FRUITFUL DEBATE AT THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE HAS RESULTED IN MANY AGREEMENTS

Senator Robertson Says "The Government Now Has the Views of Both Capital and Labor to Work On"—Many Important Resolutions Passed—Two Classes Come Closer Together Than Ever

A week of fruitful debate at the national industrial conference, has resulted in agreement of the two sides on many points, and while on others it was impossible to reach unanimous decisions, the two parties to such agreements came closer together than they had ever previously done, and as Senator Robertson, minister of labor, said, "the government now has the views of each to work on."

BRITISH TRADE UNIONS SHOW GREAT INCREASE

A trade union congress report just recently issued shows an enormous increase in membership in British trade unions. The report gives the present total membership of bodies affiliated with the unions as 4,895,000, as compared with 2,232,000 just before the war, and 4,532,000 in 1918.

The most startling increase is noted in the membership of the Agricultural Laborers' Union, which was only 26,000 last year, but at present is 100,000. Seventeen other unions have made increases during the past year of more than 10,000.

BIG STEEL STRIKE NOW ON IN THE UNITED STATES

Nearly Half a Million Workers Are Out in Effort to Force Union Recognition

The big steel strike is on. Monday, only the Gary mills of the United States Steel corporation, some small plants in East Chicago, and five independent mills in Hammond attempted operation. In the Youngstown district, strikers achieved their most marked success, causing complete suspension of work in every plant in the Mahoning valley by calling 44,000 men away from their posts.

Union leaders say that nearly all of the half million workers affected are now out. It is stated that 284,000 marched out on the opening day. Some rioting took place in the Pennsylvania mines, while at Buffalo the first night one man was killed and four wounded when guards at the Lackawanna Steel company are alleged to have opened fire with shot guns on 3,000 strike sympathizers massed near the gates.

William Z. Foster, Secretary of the National Committee of Steel Workers, who had previously stated that no picketing had been ordered, charged that much of the disorder was due to the presence of state troops, who, he alleged, had made "unprovoked assaults upon innocent strikers."

Congress has ordered the Senate Labor Committee to investigate the industrial struggle to ascertain "if the situation can in any way be relieved by federal action." E. H. Gary, directing head of the United States Steel Corporation, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and John Fitzpatrick, organizer of the steel workers, appeared before the commission.

Both sides are claiming victories, with the side of Organized Labor, getting a bit the best of it. The first agreement between mill owners and strikers was reached Monday, when the Wheeling Steel & Iron Company at Martin's Ferry, Ohio, posted notices informing its employees that operations would be resumed within a few days under a union agreement.

AUTO DEALERS ARE OPPOSING EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Automobile dealers in Chattanooga, Tenn., are attempting to check the eight-hour day and have signed a declaration that this demand of their mechanics is "entirely impracticable."

GARMENT WORKERS ESTABLISH THE 44-HOUR WEEK

Organized garment workers in Newark, N.J., have established the 44-hour week and secured substantial wage increases.

TELEGRAPHERS AND TEXTILE WORKERS CONVENTIONS IN OCT.

The Commercial Telegraphers Union of America will hold their annual convention at Atlanta, Georgia, on October 6th. The United Textile Workers of America will hold their annual convention October 20th, at Baltimore, Md.

In so far as securing the viewpoints of the two classes generally referred to as capital and labor was concerned, the industrial conference has been a success. The eight-hour day, right of workers to organize and the application of the royal commission's report to government work, recommendations of unions and collective bargaining were the subjects before the conference on which it was impossible to reach unanimously. However, it was stated by the commission chairman that in each case there had been advice made by either side, which it was confidently hoped would lead to settlement without strife.

Among the more important resolutions adopted at the Industrial Conference were the following:

Minimum Wage

The industrial conference recommends to the Government and Province which have not adopted minimum wage laws for women and children, the speedy investigation for the necessity for such laws and if so found, the enactment of such legislation.

The various provinces throughout the Dominion adopt uniform law and method and application, but that in all cases the minimum of wages for women and children is to be determined (Continued on page 2.)

AMALGAMATION OF VARIOUS UNIONS IS RECOMMENDED

Former Labor M.P. for East Durham, Eng., Tells of Labor Movement in Old Land

"The essential qualification that is required of men in the labor movement may be described in the one word—'quality,'" said Tom Richardson, former Labor member of the British Parliament from East Durham, England, in the course of his address in Labor Hall on Monday evening.

"The characteristics of the men whom we should choose to represent us," said Mr. Richardson, "must be fitness, ability, and enthusiasm, but above all, personal integrity and sterling character."

Mr. Richardson was for eight years a member of the British Parliament, representing East Durham, England. He has been in Canada four months and now makes his home in Vancouver, from where he will carry on his work as Canadian Field Secretary of the Christian Brotherhood Society.

Mr. Richardson spoke on Monday under the auspices of the Dominion Labor Party at the first of the Fourth Tuesday propaganda meetings, which will be continued throughout the winter.

Mr. Richardson referred to the beginning of his address to the tendency in the Old Country toward amalgamation of various unions. He mentioned specifically the case of the miners' federation and spoke of some of the difficulties met with in the accomplishment of amalgamation.

B.R.T. STRIKERS ARE EXPELLED BY ORGANIZATION

Fifty-one Members of One Canadian Lodge Already Have Been Expelled

All members of the International Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen in the Winnipeg (Manitoba) district, who participated in the recent general strike, which the brotherhood considers illegal, will be expelled from the union, James Murdoch, vice president of the organization, said. This policy will be maintained, he declared, even if it means the elimination of every lodge in this district.

Fifty-one members of one Canadian lodge already have been expelled. Some of the men have been members of the brotherhood for 25 years.

They may, in six months' time, make application for readmission and if permission is given by the grand lodge they may again become members of the organization.

Trials of other members in this connection are proceeding.

LABOR LEADERS' PREDOMINANCE AT CONFERENCE

Superiority of Labor Leaders' Arguments Is Cited by Large Daily

On another page will be found a quotation from the Toronto Telegram regarding the superiority of the Labor leaders in the debates which took place at the National Conference on Industrial Relations. The Ottawa Journal also adds its appreciation of the Labor leaders' intellectual predominance with the following eulogistic paragraph: "One of the interesting features of this 'Parliament' is the intellectual predominance of the Labor leaders in debate. In their grasp of the fundamentals of social and economic questions, in their capacity to marshal and express ideas, and, in fact, in their general knowledge of legislation, they appear to be much superior to the men who speak for the employers."