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### RUNNING TRADES MAKE PROPOSAL R. R. OWNERSHIP

#### United Brotherhoods Make Far-reaching Proposal of Co-operation.

Organized Labor in the United States has come out with the un-equivocal formal demand that private capital be retired from the railroads.

A tripartite control composed of the public, the operating management and the employes is demanded instead.

Addressed to the American public and signed by the engineers, the firemen, the conductors and the American Federation of Labor, a formal statement was issued announcing this proposal which has been carried before Congress. "It marks," says the statement, "the step by which organized labor passes from demands for wage increases to demands that the system of profits in industry be overhauled."

This sentence sums up in a few words the proposal of which there have been hints and indications, but which is now laid before the country for the first time. Everywhere in official Washington it is recognized as the most serious and far-reaching proposition the country will be called upon to face.

Characterizing the proposal as "labor's bill," it is put forth as a remedy for the high cost of living, because the railroads are the key industry of the nation. It demands the "geniufic co-operation and partnership based on a real community of interest and participation in control," of which President Wilson spoke to Congress, and, which, the statement says, has been ignored by labor and the private owners of the railroads.

"We ask," it says, "that the railroads of the United States be vested in the public; that those actually engaged in conducting that industry, not from Wall street, but from the railroad offices and yards and out on the railroad lines, shall take charge of this service for the public."

Briefly, labor's plan demands:

That private capital be eliminated from the railroads.

That the private owners receive for them Government bonds, "with a fixed interest return for every honest dollar that they have invested."

That the tripartite control, heretofore referred to, be established, in corporations which shall lease the roads, and in which the public, the operating managements, and labor shall be represented equally.

That the public, the operators and the wage-earners share equally all revenue in excess of the guarantee to private capital, by granting to the operators and the employes one-half the savings which are expected to be made by such a perfected organization, and to the public the other half, as consumers, either by increasing the service, without adding costs, or by reducing costs.

"This role originates with labor," says the statement, "because labor happens to have firm organizations, through which it may become articulate."

The trainmen are not represented in the statement, because W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood, was out of the city, but it was said that they will join in it.

### BRITISH MAKE USE ODDS AND ENDS OF WAR MATERIAL

Odds and ends of war material, mountains high, which in other days would have been destroyed, are being turned to good account by the British Munitions Inventions Department.

Here are instances of what is being done:

Ladies' shoe heels, ear trumpets for airplanes, and other articles are being made from sawdust.

An 18-pounder shell, minus nose and copper band, after lathe manipulation, makes an excellent shafting coupling.

Containers from shrapnel shells are being turned into lamps.

Discarded airplane engines are used for commercial purposes. An alteration in the carburetor makes them available for coal gas, and with couplings made from shells they have been connected with dynamos, with good results.

### REVOLUTION PLOT IS DISCOVERED IN ENG.

The existence of a plot to incite a revolution in England is proved by documents of which the Daily Mail claims to have photographs. These documents were discovered recently by the police authorities and enquiries prove that numbers of them have been circulated to trusted agents of the conspirators in different parts of Great Britain.

A leaflet containing the words: "Put no trust in Parliament" and "Get ready for the revolution" was brought to the notice of Parliament recently.

### MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS EXTREME MEASURE

The city council at Minneapolis, Minn., last week adopted a resolution empowering the Mayor to seize and take control of all food storage warehouses in the city, with a view of undertaking a distribution of foodstuffs stored there at cost to the consumer. A second resolution adopted ordered the Public Welfare Commission to make a thorough investigation of living costs.

Register at the Civic Block.

### CORNER STONE OF NEW MACHINISTS' BUILDING LAID

The corner stone of the new International Association of Machinists' Building at Washington, was laid by officers of that organization. All grand lodge officers located now in Washington, officers of lodges Nos. 174, 193, business agent of district 44 and a large number of other members of the Machinists' union, were present at the ceremony. Wm. Keeler, president of lodge No. 174, acted as marshal and the other principal officials were General Secretary-Treasurer Davison and Assistant General Secretary-Treasurer Newham.

It is expected the building will be finished in the late fall. It will be a beautiful seven-story granite and pressed brick structure and will be a credit not only to the International Association of Machinists but to the entire trade union movement. The building is located across the street from the A. F. of L. building.

### AUSTRALIANS SAY O.B.U. IDEA IS NOTHING NEW

#### Present Agitation is Merely Labor History Repeating Itself

The One Big Union idea is old, say officers of the powerful Australian Workers' union in a manifesto against the O.B.U., imported from the United States.

The manifesto states that about 80 years ago this movement started in France and a crusade began on syndicalist lines. "It ran its course of madness, direct action and sabotage and died."

"In our own time, in 1905, the I.W. W. was formed in America. Then followed the same madness, direct action sabotage, dissension, disruption and destruction of the trade union movement." In tracing the policy of O.B.U. advocates in the United States, the manifesto says:

"A campaign of slander and abuse of union officials was continuously kept going. It did not seek to build, but to disrupt and destroy unions. Disastrous strikes and disorganizations followed. In their whole history only one temporary success of any note was gained. "Then the propagators of distrust and suspicion fell out among themselves and two organizations, each claiming to be the 'simon pure' I.W.W., was formed. "In Australia at the present time there are two O.B.U.'s, the W.I.L.U. (Workers' International Industrial Union) and the W.L.U. (Workers' Industrial Union of Australia.)

"Already those two bodies are at cross purposes. Shall American history repeat itself here?"

The manifesto treats in an extensive manner the democratic formation of the legitimate Australian Workers' Union, and concludes:

"The Australian Workers' Union's Constitution is sufficiently elastic to meet the needs and circumstances of the numerous callings and industries embraced within its fold. The constitution is the gradual work of 30 years of experience, practical toilers, and is molded to meet the needs of the members of the day. The constitution can be amended at will in any direction that circumstances demand and when experience demonstrates the value of the change.

"We urge our members to apply their energies to further improvement of the constitution, build up and keep on building and avoid the pitfalls of the propagators of the policy of dissension, disruption and destruction."

### WHITLEY COUNCILS DO NOT MATURE FOR SOME REASON

A Cotton Factory Times' correspondent at Manchester, Eng., complains of the failure of basic and other industries to form Whitley councils. To date such industries as pottery, silk, furniture, vehicle building and about a dozen other industries have formed these councils, which grew out of recommendations made to the government by a commission headed by J. H. Whitley, member of parliament. It was proposed that the various industries establish machinery by which disputes between employers and employes would be settled.

This machinery reached down to shop organizations, and are to only include representatives of the employers and employes.

The Cotton Factory Times correspondent calls attention to a letter written two years ago by the minister of labor to leading employers associations and trade unions asking for their views on the report of the Whitley commission. The replies favored the acceptance of the recommendations, "but up to the present time no serious attempt has been made to comply with their proposals.

The government, however, has ordered the application of the report in its industrial establishments and a draft of a constitution for departmental joint councils, trade joint councils and for committees in shops, departments, works or yards has been prepared by representatives of trade unions having members directly employed in these establishments and officials of the departments.

The man who by honorable methods gains the confidence of the people can rise to any height.

### TRADES' COUNCIL PROVIDES EDITOR FOR FREE PRESS

(Continued from Page 1)

men's Federation. This matter came up in connection with the reading of the convention call of the Labor Congress of Canada. The congress meets in Hamilton, Ont., on September 22nd, and the executive will report on the advisability of sending a delegate, at the next meeting of the council.

P. J. Manahan's Case. P. J. Manahan, who was recently dismissed from the fire brigade by its chief, wrote to the council asking for its influence in getting him back on his job, claiming that he had been wrongfully dismissed. On motion, the president was authorized to appoint a committee of three to look into the case and report.

No Labor Day Demonstration. The committee on Labor Day sports reported that the joint meeting of the Labor party and the council held last week, to decide on the action to be taken, had been so poorly attended that it was then and there concluded to go no further in the matter. So there will be no special Labor Day sports this year.

Under the head of reports from committees President McCreath urged the committee men to be more diligent in taking up their respective fields of work and that they should always have a report of some kind to hand in to regular meetings of the council. He had attended a recent meeting of the Garment Workers, where he found no less than 150 women in attendance.

Next Meeting September 2. The next meeting of the council falling on Labor Day it was resolved to hold the meeting on the evening following, which would be Tuesday, September 2nd, in Labor hall.

A report from the executive committee recommended that there be more frequent social intercourse among the labor organizations and that the general meetings of the executives of all the city locals be held as often as every two months. On motion these recommendations were referred to the organization committee. A delegate from Calder, supported the more frequent visits of council officials among the unions, and invited any who could go to attend the meeting of the Boilermakers next Monday night in the I.O.O.F. hall, Calder.

Del. H. J. Smith extended the appreciation and thanks of the Old Fort lodge members to the council for the assistance of its officers in negotiating an advanced scale of wages with the city.

Ald. Kinney, member of the Workmen's Compensation Board, gave an instructive review of the Act and its workings, and cleared up a number of points on which questions were asked by delegates. The act is being dealt with fully in this issue of the Free Press.

Standing Committees Are Appointed. Secretary McCormack called attention to the action of the executive in re-organizing the standing committees of the council. These committees now were composed as follows:

Legislative—Roper, Heron, Yule, Porter and Field.

Organization—Cairns, McCormack, Greene, Grant, H. Clark, Halley, Branhams, Hawthorne and Daly.

Credentials—Waters, Waine and Irvine.

Del. Cairns announced that he would be in attendance at the Labor hall every evening from 8 to 10 to take the names of any who had not yet registered at the city hall in regard to the voters' list.

A delegate from the Civic Employes' Union No. 52, intimated a special train had been chartered for their picnic to Alberta Beach on August 23, and that all excursionists, although taking their own provisions, would be supplied with hot coffee and tea with sugar and milk free.

Del. Owens made an appeal for the meetings of the Labor party, which are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

### AMERICAN AND BRITISH SEAMEN CAUSE OF STRIKE

The higher wage strike of seamen and their refusal to go before the compulsory arbitration court of Australia has stirred Mr. Justice Higgins of that court, who blames American and British seamen for this trouble.

"What has really stirred the union to make such a claim an abnormal rise in rates for seamen in America as well as in Great Britain," says the court. "On the Pacific coast, as well as on the Atlantic coast, the rate for able bodied seamen is £15 (\$75) per month, as contrasted with the Australian rate of £11 (\$55), and when the men meet in ports the contrast is disturbing."

Justice Higgins is also opposed to some of the working conditions demands of the seamen, who are asking for electric lights and decent sleeping quarters. The seamen say they are no longer satisfied with a bare living wage and they want some of the \$75,000,000 excess profits the ship owners made during the war.

Eighty thousand women clerks, stenographers, accountants and other office workers have joined trades union organizations during the past year, according to the Washington office of the National Women's Trade Union League. Many of these women are employed in railroad offices, others in the various branches of the federal civil service.

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