

LABOR NEWS FROM COAST TO COAST

OTTAWA.

STREET RAILWAY MEN'S REQUEST FOR BOARD GRANTED.

Some few days ago the local street railway employees, members of Division 279, Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, through application to the Labor Department for a Board of Conciliation, negotiations with the Ottawa Street Railway Company having failed, the men quit last week, and the men have named A. E. Fripp, M.P., as their representative while the company has named Geo. D. Kelly, M.P., as theirs. A chairman has not yet been agreed upon and this will probably be done before the week is out.

The men are asking for a substantial increase in wages to combat the ever soaring cost of everything. An eight-hour day is also sought and working conditions, generally prevailing prior to the strike of 1917.

CARPENTERS' AGREEMENT.

Following is the agreement of the Ottawa District Council of Carpenters with employers for the ensuing year.

Agreement entered into between the Contractors of the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa District Council of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Party of the Second Part.

Eight hours shall constitute a day's work, to be worked between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. except Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. When mutually agreeable to the men and employer on any job, half holiday may be taken for lunch, when the time shall be 4:30 p.m. No member of this union in the employ of any recognized contractor will be allowed to work after any private party.

2. The minimum rate of wages from May 1, 1920, shall be 35 cents per hour, for men 35 cents per hour, but any man incapacitated by old age, accident or other cause may work for such shorter hours as he may arrange for himself and his employer, provided same is approved by the District Council.

3. No overtime shall be worked except by permit from the District Council or business agent, and then only for the saving of life or property, except in offices and stores where the regular working hours during the regular working hours. The overtime shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Starting time, Double time Saturday afternoon, also the following holidays: Dominion Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, including Sundays.

4. All men to be paid on the job before quitting time. All waiting time to be paid at the rate of double time.

5. This agreement to become effective from May 1, 1920, and to remain in force until April 30, 1921, and thereafter from year to year unless three months' notice of cancellation in writing is given by either party desiring such change.

6. No member of the Carpenters' Organization will work for any contractor who does not comply with the above agreement, and no contractor will employ any carpenter known to have been expelled or fined by the United Brotherhood for violation of same.

7. That we agree to the International Union Closed Shop.

8. The accredited representative of the Union shall be allowed access to all jobs at all times.

TYPING ELECTIONS.

At a meeting of Union 102, International Typographical Union, held on Saturday last, the annual nominations for the various offices were held. The delegates to the different conventions and conferences were also chosen. P. M. Draper, who has been the able president of the union for a number of years, refused to allow his name to be put in nomination and for the office of president a contest will take place between J. W. Jefferson and R. E. Lee. Having entered business on his own behalf, A. E. Sheppard, who has untrillingly filled the office of corresponding secretary and chairman of the executive, retired from that office and has been succeeded by W. D. Martin.

A hearty vote of thanks for their valuable services was passed to Messrs. Draper and Sheppard. As a further mark of appreciation to Mr. Draper, the members of local 102 returned him unopposed as one of the delegates to the annual convention of the International Typographical Union, which will be held in Albany, N. Y., in August. Mr. Michael Powell was selected as the other delegate.

The full list of candidates nominated, including those elected by acclamation, follows: President, J. W. Jefferson; Secretary, R. E. Lee; Vice-president, Charles Bourdreaux (acclamation); secretary-treasurer, K. Peffer (acclamation); recording secretary, G. F. Duncan and P. G. Hall; corresponding secretary and chairman of the executive, W. D. Martin (acclamation); sergeant-at-arms, W. H. Stevens (acclamation); executive committee, W. D. Martin, chairman (acclamation), Fred Prence, R. T. Goods, D. E. Haddock, G. Mastie and C. Hammacott. Four members are to be elected to the executive committee. The members of the executive committee are: Louis Molan, chairman; A. Morel, and P. G. Hall (acclamation); and Messrs. J. I. Dion, J. J. McCann, and Martin O'Brien (acclamation).

At the meeting of the Ottawa District Printing Trades' Council, J. A. P. Hayden, A. Desjardins, W. D. Martin, and P. M. Draper were elected to the Allied Trades and Labor Council; P. M. Draper, William Lodge, J. W. Patterson, J. A. P. Hayden, G. L. Payette, and J. T. Prence, four to be elected. As Messrs. Payette and Prence have withdrawn their candidatures since the nomination meeting, Messrs. Draper, Lodge, Patterson and Hayden are elected by acclamation. Of the seven candidates for the executive committee, Mr. Fred Prence is the only member of last year's

executive who was again nominated for office.

Balloting for the posts for which incumbents were not selected by acclamation, will be held in the different chapters, under the supervision of the chapter chairman, on May 16, the date of the fourth Wednesday in May, being set by the laws of the I. T. U. The central voting booth will be at Court Royal, Albert Hall, 15 O'Connor street. A poll for the benefit of members who are not formed into a chapter will be kept open at 15 O'Connor street, between 9:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on May 25. The result of the balloting will be announced on the evening of May 28.

GAS WORKERS APPLY FOR BOARD.

The employees of the Ottawa Gas Co. who number 110 or thereabouts have applied to the Department of Labor for a board of conciliation to settle the differences between them and the company.

The Ottawa Gas Co. is a public utility company it is only necessary for either the employers or the employees to apply for a board in order to have it established. Both sides have to apply for a board before the same can be granted.

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GAS WORKERS GET BOARD.

William Lodge will represent the local gas workers on the Board of Conciliation established at the request of the men by the Labor Department in the matter of the dispute between the Ottawa Gas Company and their employees. The company has named George D. Kelly, M.P., as their representative and with the time of writing a chairman had not been agreed upon. The men are asking an increase in wages.

BUTCHERS SEEK INCREASE.

Although their agreement with the local employers does not expire until August 1, the local Meat Cutters' Union has taken advantage of a clause in the agreement which allows for the re-opening of negotiations on thirty days notice and have submitted to their employers a copy of the proposed new agreement. The hours, working conditions and wages rates were adopted by the Interprovincial Council of Meat Cutters and all employers in the province of Quebec are in agreement with the new agreement calls for a work-week of 44-hours and a minimum wage of \$40.00.

Two meetings of the local union were held during the past week and enthusiasm was in evidence, and on both occasions President A. Mackie occupied the chair. There were some talk of the union in making a permanent business agent in office.

TORONTO.

AMENDMENTS TO COMPENSATION ACT SUPPORTED.

The fear expressed by the manufacturers' association that the amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act may cause malingering impresses Louis Braithwaite, business agent of the Packing House Union, as an insult, and J. T. Gunn, electrical workers, says: "Increased compensation will not induce malingering at all."

The proposed amendments are reasonable," is the view of Herbert Lewis, machinists' representative. "The Labor movement will support them heartily."

TORONTO NEWSY BRIEFS.

Inside woodworkers have decided to refer the question of wages to the Fair Wage Officer, E. N. Compton, for adjustment with the furniture men. The union is demanding 15 cents an hour.

On the advice of the six members of their negotiating committee, and having heard the opinion of Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, who doubted if a board of conciliation would grant them more than six cents an hour, three thousand additional employees decided at a meeting in the Arena last week to accept the increase offered by representatives of the packing interests of six cents an hour to male labor and five cents an hour to female and boys. It is to be retroactive to April 10.

Secretary W. D. Robbins, of the T. S. R., announced last week that the new agreement had been presented to the Toronto Suburban Railway Company. The agreement calls for a scale increase of 50, 60 and 70 cents an hour," said Mr. Robbins.

James T. Gunn has been appointed by Hon. G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, to represent the Teamsters' Union of Toronto on a board of conciliation appointed by the union to adjust matters between the men and their employers.

General Organizer John Noble, of the International Electrical Workers' Union, was in conference last week with St. Adam's Dock regarding the wages of the electrical workers in the eastern towns of the province.

Business Agent John T. Vick, of the Bricklayers, reports that the demand for men in the city is so great that it is difficult to meet all the jobs. "The situation has changed rapidly during the past week," said Mr. Vick, "and I have been in receipt of repeated requests for men during the past few days."

At a meeting of the Drug Clerks' Union held at the Caris-Bite last week it was decided that before asking for higher wages all members of the union would pledge themselves not to work for any drug store or company who sells goods below the ordinary retail price.

Mr. Fred Turney has gone into his new store with a complete line of imported worsted; my business method is to give perfect satisfaction.

MILTON TEXTILE WORKERS.

United Textile Workers No. 1184, Milton, N.E., writes that they have a flourishing union in the town with a membership of over 500. It is a new organization, but is going strong and will give a good account of itself when occasion requires.—Union Worker.

AMHERST WEAVERS ON STRIKE.

A strike was officially declared last week in the weaving department of the Amherst Woolen Mills. A hitch occurred in the negotiations between employees and management. As a result the strike call went into effect Monday, and only seven or eight of the 45 weavers turned up at the mill. At the same time the mill was in operation with wages, hours or working conditions. The difficulty arose on the point of employing and discharging an employe that went from one department to another, following the orders of the man, Mr. Corey, overseer, in the weaving department.

ST. THOMAS TO HAVE CO-OPERATIVE STORE.

St. Thomas laborers and a representative delegation from the U. F. O. discussed last week the details for the opening of a co-operative store in that town. The store will be owned by the workers of St. Thomas. Mr. Willoughby gave a lengthy explanation of the working of the stores in other centers, and showed that in every instance, where the places of business were under proper management the outcome was favorable to the stockholders. The smaller orders were handled by individual grocers, greater profits must accrue to the company. The dividend does not come from the sale of the products on a general business of the association.

The association has also a commission department, which disposes of the smaller orders on a general business of the association. The managers of the stores are paid on a commission basis.

The movement for establishing a branch store in St. Thomas met with no opposition from the gathering, and the union of interest of the laborers and the U. F. O. in the proposition would look to the business will not suffer for want of customers.

ST. JOHN SAW MILLS OPEN.

St. John sawmill men's demand for higher wages, which caused delay in the starting of operations of the big mill and others has been satisfactorily adjusted. The men have received an increase in wages of 25 per cent. Wages last season ranged from \$2.50 to \$5.00, the last named sum being paid to saw millers.

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WESTERN CANADA

EDMONTON BUTCHERS ORGANIZE.

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All packing plant employees with the exception of members of the office staff and foremen are eligible for membership in the union, the latter being excluded by a clause in the constitution of the International Union and not through any opposition on the part of the local men to keep them out.

The members of the new organization are enthusiastic over the successful consummation of their union, and new members of both sexes are rapidly being added to the rolls. It is expected that the new union will be one of the leading of the city locals in a very short time.

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At a meeting of the city council last Friday it was decided to inform the men that the new schedule had been adopted and that the positions held by the men would be both increased and the city engineers have notified the council that the union has set a new rate for a 56-hour week, and the council will take up the discussion of this notice at their next regular meeting.

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It is understood that the meeting decided to confirm the previous resolution made by the city council for a Conciliation Board for the settlement of the dispute, unless the council is willing to concede what amounts to 70 cents per hour and an eight-hour day.

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BOARD'S AWARD NOT SATISFACTORY AT SYDNEY MINES.

The mass labor meeting of the United Mine Workers, held in St. Mary's Hall, Tuesday night, resembled one of the old-fashioned war-time gatherings, that packed the building to the doors, many being unable to get further than the sidewalk, so great was the interest centered in the Patterson award, which was the question under discussion. Mr. Charles McMillan occupied the chair and on the platform, besides the local officers, were President Baxter and Board Member MacPhee, who spent a busy three hours answering questions shot from every corner of the hall, relative to the merits of the Patterson award accepted by the employees of the Dominion Coal Company, and the Patterson award, which at the outset of the meeting was denounced by a dozen speakers as inadequate and not sufficient.

The U. M. W. officers held their ground against considerable opposition and advised the men to move cautiously as it was their intention to make a general demand in the near future for a 37 per cent. advance in contract rates and \$1 per day for fatal hands, after a prolonged discussion, a motion to refer the award back to the subordinate locals for further consideration was voted down, and an amendment to accept the Patterson award was carried by a large majority.

In the meantime the executive will endeavor to induce the contractor to make certain adjustments in the wage schedule, which is retroactive from the first of March.

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BOARD'S AWARD NOT SATISFACTORY AT SYDNEY MINES.

The mass labor meeting of the United Mine Workers, held in St. Mary's Hall, Tuesday night, resembled one of the old-fashioned war-time gatherings, that packed the building to the doors, many being unable to get further than the sidewalk, so great was the interest centered in the Patterson award, which was the question under discussion. Mr. Charles McMillan occupied the chair and on the platform, besides the local officers, were President Baxter and Board Member MacPhee, who spent a busy three hours answering questions shot from every corner of the hall, relative to the merits of the Patterson award accepted by the employees of the Dominion Coal Company, and the Patterson award, which at the outset of the meeting was denounced by a dozen speakers as inadequate and not sufficient.

The U. M. W. officers held their ground against considerable opposition and advised the men to move cautiously as it was their intention to make a general demand in the near future for a 37 per cent. advance in contract rates and \$1 per day for fatal hands, after a prolonged discussion, a motion to refer the award back to the subordinate locals for further consideration was voted down, and an amendment to accept the Patterson award was carried by a large majority.

In the meantime the executive will endeavor to induce the contractor to make certain adjustments in the wage schedule, which is retroactive from the first of March.

ALEXANDRIA STRIKE OVER.

The strike at the Munro & McIntosh Carriage Works at Alexandria is at an end, and the men after being out for a week have returned to work on the promise of Hugh Munro, vice-president of the Canada Carriages Co. that they would at once receive a fifteen per cent. increase in wages with a further raise of ten per cent. on August 1st. The vice-president also stated that no employes would be discharged for taking part in the strike and that if present conditions continued the strike might have to be enlarged. He explained to a meeting of the men that on account of the great advances in the cost of raw material that the company was operating with little or no profit.

BRANTFORD BY MEN'S PAY.

Officials of the Brantford railway men's union state that the amounts of their wages had been misreported to the public. The figures which the railway employes now receive are 35 cents an hour for first year men, 41 cents for second year men, 43 cents for third year men. The men work nine hours a day. Their wages per week would therefore be \$31.05 for first year men, \$22.14 for second year, and \$23.22

LEATHER WORKERS DISPUTE SETTLED

The dispute between the leather workers and their employers regarding wages and working hours was satisfactorily settled on Wednesday. When a large meeting of the members of the Leather Workers' Union in St. Anne's Hall unanimously decided to accept the offer of the employers for increases from 10 to 25 per cent. over former wages.

On Monday the members of the union asked the Department of Labor for a Board of Conciliation, but Capt. Farrell and Mr. Gerald Brown, of the department, decided to make a last effort to effect a settlement. A conference was arranged and resulted in an offer of 10 per cent. increase to all employees receiving \$25