

LABORERS' WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFILIATE WITH ORGANIZED LABOR

New Association Will be Conducted on Similar Lines to National Federation of Civil Servants in the United States—Charter Has Been Issued.

Civil servants at Ottawa have at last taken the plunge. Last week, following a series of meetings and conferences, a representative group of civil servants made application to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress for a trade union charter. On Tuesday a charter was issued and the new trade union will be known as the "Association of Federal Employees of Ottawa and Labor Movement."

It does not interfere with the Civil Service Federation, said Mr. Moore, and does not carry any obligations for sympathetic action in industrial disputes.

In the United States some years ago the Federal civil servants organized themselves into a trade union with affiliation to the American Federation of Labor and the new organization in Canada is along the same lines, except that it is not a purely national organization with affiliation to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.

A central office will undoubtedly be established as a headquarters for the federated civil servants of Canada.

The only bar to membership otherwise will be in the case of heads of departments or deputy ministers in whose power lies the hiring or the semi-confidential relationship which the Civil Service enjoys at present with the Government.

The new and somewhat unexpected move is the outcome of the strong sentiment which was voiced by a large number of the delegates at the Civil Service Federation Convention held last August, which was favorable to at once joining up the Civil Service with the organized labor movement.

AGRICULTURE TO BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT CONFERENCE.

Unless anything unforeseen occurs, the 1921 conference of the International Labor Office will be held in Geneva. The most important question dealt with at the conference will be agriculture, which will be considered from various points of view, i.e. hours of work, unemployment, employment of women and children, and so on. Other questions which will be considered are: prohibition of white lead in painting, the prevention of anthrax, and emigration. The governing body may perhaps add still other subjects later on.

ONTARIO'S MINISTER OF MINES GETS ACCLAMATION.

Hon. Harry Mills, Ontario Minister of Mines, was declared elected by acclamation to a seat in the Provincial House for the constituency of Fort William, rendered vacant by his elevation to Cabinet rank. There was no opposition, and returning Colonel Brown, a close of nomination proceedings, declared Mills elected by acclamation.

FARMERS ARE FACING SHORTAGE OF LABOR.

With the haying season close at hand, the farmers are facing a shortage of farm labor. J. R. Johnson, of the Ontario Employment Bureau for Carleton, Russell and Lanark counties, says that the applications for work on farms is above the average, but that the number who sign up for this work is below normal. He attributes the cause to the unsettled conditions. He stated to The Labor Press representative that they were sending away about 15 men each week, and that many men sign up and later change their mind and do not go to the farm, leaving the farmer short-handed. The average run of wages is from \$10 to \$15 per month with board, and in some cases \$3 a day has been offered.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS SEEK BETTER WAGES.

In the hope of obtaining uniform wages and working conditions throughout Ontario, a conference of local unions in the Province of Ontario of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was held at Toronto on Saturday, when it was decided to place two organizers in the province. At present the average rate for 8 cents an hour in Ottawa to \$1.25 an hour in Windsor.

Congress Head Has Always Consistently Advocated Public Ownership Public Utilities

President Tom Moore, the official head of the organized workers in Canada, in taking a stand on the side of public ownership, is being criticized not only by those outside the ranks of the movement, of which he is the head, but also by a certain group of individuals inside the trade union movement, who, apparently, are unimpressed by the policies the organized workers themselves formulate.

PAINTERS' CAMPAIGN IN ONTARIO.

The Painters and Decorators are perfecting plans for a widespread organization throughout the Province of Ontario. John M. Hopkins is travelling over Ontario organizing new locals in the cities and larger towns.

Another Independent Union Joins International

Fish handlers at Halifax, who have been operating an independent local union in that city have, thrown in their lot with the International Trade Union movement and have joined the International Longshoremen's Association of America. This action was decided at a mass meeting on Saturday last. After listening to an address by the A. F. of L. organizer, Wm. Varley, who had been in the city for some time, the local has a membership of about two hundred.

SUGAR PRICES WILL GO HIGHER.

As a result of the lapsing of the restrictions upon the export of refined sugar from Canada, hundreds of tons are being shipped to the United States, with the consequence that higher prices are almost certain to obtain in the near future, it is said.

Russell Appeal To Privy Council Is Dismissed

In the appeal of the Winnipeg strike leaders to the Privy Council, the petition of Russell was dismissed without the respondents being called on Wednesday.

STEEL MERGER ATTEMPTING TO CRUSH LABOR

The new steel merger, known as the British Empire Steel Trust, despite all announcements to the effect that Labor would be given a voice in its administration, is waging war on the organized workers in many parts of Canada.

Winnipeg Defence Committee to Assist O. B. U.

All doubts as to the close affiliation of the One Big Union and the Winnipeg Defence Committee are dispelled by unity during the past week at Winnipeg.

Why Flirt?

"The Independent Labor Party is committed to the cause of electric radial development under public ownership, and will stand for that principle unflinchingly. Hence we support Premier Drury in his efforts to secure information of the fullest facts in carrying out the projects contemplated."

DRURY'S HYDRO PROPOSAL DELIBERATE STOPPAGE AND RETARDING OF WORK OF HYDRO ELECTRIC COMMISSION

President Tom Moore, of Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, Delineates Organized Labor's Stand on the Hydro Radial Development—No "Stalling" Commission Wanted.

A delineation by President Tom Moore of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, of his attitude in taking issue with the Ontario Government's action, in withholding sanction for the Hydro-Electric Commission to proceed with the purchase and development of hydro radials throughout Ontario, occupied the major portion of the meeting of Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Council, last Friday night. Delegate McDowell stated that he endorsed the action of Premier Drury relative to the appointment of a commission in order to determine with some degree of accuracy the expenditure involved in the proposed project.

These who see in this conflict of opinion between the organized labor movement and Premier Drury and his Government, a possible disruption of the solidarity of the work of Farmer and Labor in progressive government are doomed to disappointment. Both members of this progressive party are big enough to state clearly and fearlessly their own views and yet maintain a solid front on the general programme of social advancement.

"I am a supporter of the Farmer-Labor Government," said Moore, "but I am a trade unionist. I do not believe in the Government attempting to thwart trade union policies, I, as head of the trade union movement in Canada, must take issue with the Government."

"Drury's act the commission was a creature of the Government," said Mr. Moore. "He should have had the courage to supplant the members with men who would bring in a proper report. He accuses his commission of having failed to give a report, and yet he asks the ratepayers to pay for it. A new commission. When the Hydro-Electric Commission refused to consider an award of an eight-hour day, Premier Drury's report was appealed to for a board, that he had every confidence in the commission, and he could not permit the possibility of a report which would replace him. But when it comes to a question of radials, he can appoint a commission, if the commission has been re-formed by Drury, as requested by Labor and the municipalities interested, there would have been no need for the Hydro Radial Commission, because Moore was inclined to place little confidence in so-called 'expert' evidence."

"It is important that not only the Premier of Ontario but the public generally, should be acquainted as to the decision of organized workers in great public questions, such as this, and if the clear statement as to their decision means a divergence of opinion with our closest friends, it is nevertheless to the public interest that it should be made."

"It is well known that expert testimony could be obtained upon a question favorable to whichever party was willing to pay for it. The Hydro-Electric Commission had proved its worth in the case of Hamilton."

"When I, as a citizen of Ontario, voice my opinion regarding an Ontario project, and am taken to task or so doing by the Montreal Gazette, you must look for some reason for such an attack," he said. "This paper has previously stated that it was none of labor's business whether the Hydro radials were publicly or privately owned."

"For Those Who Pay. It was well known that expert testimony could be obtained upon a question favorable to whichever party was willing to pay for it. The Hydro-Electric Commission had proved its worth in the case of Hamilton."

ANTI-LOADING LAW OPPOSED BY LABOR

Any attempt to reintroduce the war-time anti-loading law will be strenuously opposed by Labor. This was amply illustrated at the last meeting of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association, when a resolution was unanimously adopted protesting against the proposal to reintroduce the law by the Chief Constable of the Dominion of Canada.

N. S. MINERS' LEADER CREATES SENSATION

Claims N. S. Gov't Backed Worthless Mine.

Strong denunciation of the Murray government formed the chief features of the labor meeting held at Gloucester Bay last week, addressed by the labor candidate, and Sibby Barrett and J. R. MacLachlan. Barrett sprung a sensation when he exposed the Fenwick mine scandal, by which Hon. Mr. Armstrong pulled over to Hance Logan, the well-known Liberal, \$200,000 to operate a mine, which both Robert Baxter and Barrett had inspected and declared to be a regular gold brick.

WORK NOT RESUMING ON WELAND CANAL

A report was sent out by one of the press associations this week from St. Catharines stating that work on the Welland Canal was to be resumed on ten-hour day basis. As Labor is vitally interested in this project the Canadian Labor Press got in touch with the Labor Department and we were informed that work was absolutely no truth that so far as that department was in the despatch.

CANADIAN ON LAWS COMMITTEE FOR I. T. U. CONVENTION.

President M. G. Scott, of the International Typographical Union, has appointed Mr. Vincent Fusk, president of Quebec Union No. 29, as a member of the laws committee for the coming convention to be held at Albany, N. Y., Aug. 9 to 16. This is the most important committee in the I. T. U. and has been selected by the unanimous approval of the Canadian membership. Mr. Fusk is one of the most progressive and untiring workers in the cause of the I. T. U. in Canada, and is very popular in his own union, having been unanimously elected president for six terms.

SECOND NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE LIKELY IN OCTOBER.

Canada's second great industrial conference, to cover the expenses of which an appropriation was voted by Parliament at the recent session, will not be held before October, and perhaps not until November. General plans for the conference based upon the experience gained at the first conference held in the autumn of 1918, have so far been considered, but it is likely that the second conference will be marked by some new features which will make it even more representative in character than the first get-together of representatives of labor, capital and the public.

LABOR OF QUEENSLAND OPPOSES NEW GOVERNOR.

The appointment of Sir Matthew Nathan as Governor of Queensland, was in opposition to the Labor Government of the State of Queensland, and Premier Theodore on his part, in the appointment of the local men to the position of Great Britain admitted that the labor movement's opinion was against the present system but a majority of the other states must be favorable before making a change. Premier Theodore will now endeavor to bring the other five Australian states to Queensland's view.

ADJUSTING N. S. MINERS' DISPUTE.

Sir Wm. Staver, Member Hutchinson and McQueen members of the Royal Commission will look into the mining industry in Nova Scotia, held its first conference on Thursday last with H. J. McConn, assistant general manager of the Dominion Coal Company. The members purpose to meet miners and operators in informal discussions, and thereby pave the way to an adjustment of differences.

A. F. OF L. HAS PERMANENT ORGANIZER IN EAST.

Wm. Varley, who has been one of the organizers of the American Federation of Labor in Western Canada since the advent of the One Big Union bubble a year ago, has been named the general organizer of the A. F. of L. for the newly created Province of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He has already taken charge of the work and is achieving results. On a visit to Amherst he was able to negotiate an agreement with the car works there and has dispelled considerable of the agitation for local independent unions.

Labor Not Changing Attitude on Prohibition—Demands Moderate Beer

Mr. Dr. Ernest Thomas, of the Methodist Department of Evangelism and Social Service, who recently returned from a seven-week tour of the Western Provinces, is reported in the Toronto Globe to have stated that he had been surprised to find that organized Labor in the West, particularly in British Columbia, had come out strongly in favor of prohibition. He declared, according to the Globe, that "one of the International Union's members had given a stronger beer than that allowed under the present laws of Ontario."

LETTER CARRIERS TO GET BACK PAY ON AUG. 15.

Local letter carriers will receive the last part of the re-classification back pay on August 15. The Deputy Postmaster General stated on Tuesday that the Ottawa men had a meeting Monday evening at which they decided to ask why the last three months' increase had not been received. They had already had back pay from April 1, 1919, to April 1, 1920, but not for May, June and July, 1920. Regulations as to how far the men should profit by the retroactive legislation were fixed by order of the Post Office.

G. T. R. TRAINMEN GET FIRST PART BACK PAY.

G. T. R. trainmen, members of the International Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen of America, last week received the first instalment of back pay which was included in the revised agreement accepted by the Grand Trunk Railway some time ago.

152 PER CENT INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING.

The Ministry of Labor statistics show an increased cost of living in the British Isles of 152 per cent. above the level of 1914.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE AGAIN AND AGAIN.

All railroads of Canada have filed application with the Board of Railway Commissioners for a general increase in freight rates. Increase in the workers' wages is the cause. Another case of the vicious circle. What good will increase in wages be to the workers if they must pay it back in increased cost of commodities, which must follow an increase in freight rates. It is certain that the consumers of commodities, which must follow an increase in freight rates, will have to bear the burden, and the workers will receive a further increase.

CONCILIATION BOARDS FOR LABOR DISPUTES.

Mr. Justice Snyder, of Hamilton, has been named chairman of the Board of Conciliation which will deal with the dispute between the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Company and certain of its employees, including freight clerks. Two other Hamilton men, George S. Kerr, K.C., and E. G. Foster will represent the company and the employees, respectively.