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**TORONTO STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES - WANT MORE PAY**

Employees of the Toronto Street Railway company are contemplating a demand for an increase in wages. The present agreement with the company expires June 16 and according to Controller Joseph Gibbons, business agent for the Toronto Street Railway Employees' Union, the city will have to come across with some more money. The present maximum is 55 cents an hour with 66 cents for the men on the civic lines.

**RESOLUTIONS BY NEW BRUNSWICK FED. OF LABOR**

Adopts Number of Resolutions Submitted By St. John T. & L. Council

In the New Brunswick Federation of Labor convention, held at Fredericton recently, resolutions dealing with the following matters were introduced: The prohibition of private employment agencies; regulations for steam and operating engineers; a minimum living wage to each class of school teachers; the schools open in all districts; consolidation of small districts; pensions for widows and orphans whose bread winners are not covered by compensation act; proportional representation in provincial and dominion elections; abolishment of property qualification for offices of mayor, alderman or county councillor.

The following resolutions submitted by the St. John Trades and Labor Council were adopted:

Requesting the Provincial government to legislate against storing of food products more than 30 days in cold storage.

Requesting legislation establishing centralization of administration of all labor laws; requesting uniform system of sanitary plumbing based on modern standards combined with examination and licensing of master and journey-men plumbers; motormen and conductors to have 14 days training; to simplify recall of commissioners in St. John; requesting union label on all government printing; to amend laws so as to guarantee workers' wages without forcing the latter to go to law; election of civic and municipal officials now appointed by council and government; union or prevailing rate of wages to be paid all workmen on government work; free school books and supplies up to Grade 8, inclusive; urging upon local and Dominion governments immediate necessity of taking over and controlling all necessities of life to prevent any further exploitation of the people; requesting provincial government to appoint representatives of workers on all public boards; requesting American Federation of Labor to put more organizers in this field; calling for labor convention to organize independent labor party and decide upon constitution.

Mrs. Ethel Parks, who is in charge of the financial department of the Democratic national committee, studied law before entering politics.

**BRITISH LABOR SEEN THROUGH AMERICAN EYES**

(Continued from Page One)

ers on this side, and is particularly so now that labor's political power is fast outstripping its industrial development. The reason is clear if one stops to consider the results of a Socialist labor government trying to function in a state where all industry is fast in the grip of capitalist control. Labor will be in control of the government of England in a few years, but it can never stay in control until the political organization is complemented by a much more unified industrial power.

A glance at statistics shows that this critical situation is appreciated and that much in the way of union co-ordination and amalgamation has been accomplished, even though much more still remains to be done. In 1896, there were in the United Kingdom 1,310 separate trade unions with a total membership of 1,800,912. By the end of 1914 the number of separate unions had shrunk to 1,123, their membership increased to 3,959,863. At the present time the number of distinct unions is under 1,100, their total membership close to 5,500,000. The figures fail to reveal the full significance of the amalgamation tendency. In the first place it is the big and powerful unions that are merging and federating, the weak and unimportant organizations which maintain a feeble independence and swell the total of separate unions into hundreds. Again the decrease in number is in net figures, meaning a decrease in spite of the addition of new unions, many of professional workers, created in recent years.

The general trend today is distinctly in the direction of industrial unionism, with a growing section of executive leadership and of the rank and file alike urging along that road. The reasoning of the English labor leaders in pushing this doctrine is crystal clear. In the words of J. H. Thomas, now president of the Trades Union Congress "national unionism has become obsolete. Not only must future organization be on industrial lines, and its marking of the units of industry pay some regard to the employer, but there must be co-operation between the various industrial unions."

It is evident that this philosophy is something far more fundamental than anything contemplated by the present administration of the A. F. of L. Nor, on the other hand, does the British theory of industrial democracy bear any but the most superficial resemblance to that of the I.W.O. The idea of violent social revolution is not seriously considered in the development on this side. Industrial unionism is something new for England and is intensely practical step to insure greater power and solidarity for the workers. Not as a weapon for invoking revolutionary general strikes, but as a tool to insure fewer strikes with a much higher percentage of success. To summarize in the words of a prominent union organizer—"the philosophy of industrial development seldom concerns our people. It is always the next thing that counts." The phrase illustrates the practicality of the entire British labor movement and sums up the reasons of its remarkable successes.

A good deal has been printed in America about the Triple Alliance, but little has been said about the most vital result of its creation—the tendency towards a closely-knit and homogeneous industrial organization which it has brought about. For years past trades union congresses have advocated and furthered the amalgamation of unions catering for similar occupations, and much has also been done in linking up local unions in national federations so centralized as to be virtually national unions. Yet the amalgamation process has in general been slow and inadequate to meet the more rapid and efficient way in which the employers have federated. It has been left for the Triple Alliance to point the way for an invincible organization of labor on the industrial field.

The Triple Industrial Alliance of British Miners, Railwaymen and Transport Workers has recast the future of the labor movement in this country. Still to have its first great trial of strength, it is the belief of many that the development has assured the eventual transformation of unwieldy and weak trade unionism to a solid, logical and all-powerful basis of industrial unionism. The Triple Alliance is regarded in many circles as the greatest example of constructive labor statesmanship since the launching of the British Labor Party. As a result of its establishment assertions are made that capitalist centers of basic industries will be eliminated side by side with the oncoming of capitalist control of government by the labor party. Certainly the Triple Alliance has given tremendous influence and promise to nationalization propaganda.

The membership of the Triple Alliance is now about 1,600,000, divided into 800,000 miners, 440,000 railwaymen, and 350,000 transport workers. The president is Robert Smillie who is also chairman of the consultative committee, composed of two officers from each of the constituent federations. While the miners' federation is the only one of the three which is built up throughout on an industrial basis, both the railwaymen and the transport workers have now embraced the principle of industrial organization. It is significant that the admission of other federations to membership in the Alliance has been made to depend on the

factor of industrial instead of trade unionism, and that the post office employees, who have adopted a strike clause, and units in the textile trade, are agitating for a change in organization to fit in with this requirement.

As indicated above, the vast power resident in the Triple Alliance does not mean an underlying revolutionary purpose, and it appears that the executives are as keenly awake to their responsibilities to the community as they are to their strength. The Alliance has never yet acted as a unit on the strike field, although there is a possibility that concerted drastic action may yet be taken on the nationalization of mines issue. The chances of its constitution show how jealously the Triple Alliance guards its power. They are summarized by the 1919 Labor Year Book as follows:

1.—Matters submitted to the joint body must be of a national character in the opinion of the body raising them and such as necessitate joint action.

2.—Co-operation is not to be expected until the matter in dispute has been endorsed by the national executive primarily concerned. No movement shall be instituted by any of the affiliated bodies if it is likely to involve the others, until it has been submitted to the joint body for consideration.

3.—Periodical meetings of the three full executives to be held at least yearly.

4.—Consultative committee of six, two from each executive, who may call a conference at any time, and must call one on application by any one of the three bodies.

5.—Every effort shall proceed among the three sections to create effective and complete control of their respective bodies.

6.—Autonomy reserved to each body to take action on its own behalf.

7.—Joint action can only be taken when the question at issue has been before the members of the three organizations and decided by such methods as the constitution of each organization provides, and the conference shall then be called without delay to consider and to decide the question of taking action.

8.—No obligation to act shall devolve on any of the three bodies unless these conditions are complied with.

The briefest discussion of the Triple Alliance, however, would not be complete without mention of the section of labor thought which still favors an improved trade union organization, and holds that the Triple Alliance may easily become the autocratic and unrepresentative tyrant of the whole industrial field. Others, and they are the majority, hold that the Triple Alliance will galvanize the whole industrial side of the labor movement into a more aggressive and well-fortified stand, without itself dominating the field after the present transition period. There must, of course, be a strong, forward-looking executive council of labor to hold the balance between the Triple Alliance and the rest of organized labor during this transition period, and it is obvious that the Triple Alliance has already resulted in general agitation for a stronger and more uniformly progressive personnel on the parliamentary committee of the Trade Union Congress.

(Editor's Note.—This is the second of a series of six articles on the British Labor Movement by Mr. Morley. The third will appear in an early number.)



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