Labor News From Coast to Coast.

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Weekly News Letter

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ALBERTA LABOR WANTS BAN ON IMMIGRATION

Office of the Accountant, Dept. of Labor, Ottawa

REFUTES ARGUMENT ABOUT FINDING WORK

That One Desiring Work Could Find it is Fallacious.

The Public Forum of Ottawa, under the name of the Unitarian Forum, held its first meeting of the winter season Sunday evening in the Church of Our Father, Elgin street, when Rev. H. J. Adlard delivered an interesting address on the general topic of unemployment. Mr. C. J. Tulley presided and introduced the speaker.

Rev. Mr. Adlard referred to the Employment Service Council of Canada, and outlined the Government's policy for meeting the unemployment situation.

Quoting statistics, Mr. Adlard showed that unemployment had been gradually growing in Canada and the United States since July last, but in the ten months of its existence the Canadian Employment Service Council had found positions for 250,000 workers as well as some 30,000 casual jobs. It was, he thought, a very sincere effort to meet the situation.

The old argument that any man desiring to find work could find it Mr. Adlard declared to be fallacious and not applicable to the present day conditions. The problem, he said, was a serious one and should not be ignored. The idea that unemployment was due to drunkenness or shiftlessness was also a fallacy for statistics from the United States showed that from a standard of 100 in but little more than one-quarter of one per cent. idleness was due to drunkenness. It was estimated that in Canada on December 1 the number of unionized workers in idleness was some 30,000 while to this should be added an approximate total of 75,000 unskilled workers.

Unemployment the speaker characterized as a problem which will recur and he urged that planning should go on now to meet the emergency when it next arises. Public works should be planned and undertaken as necessary.

To one questioner he said the most powerful force in the world today was the movement of labor. It was rising like a giant tide and, if the church ignored it, the church would be submerged.

CANADIAN PRINTERS' INCREASES DURING DECEMBER.

(The Typographical Journal.)

Prince Albert, Sask.—An increase of $5.50 has been obtained for the members of Typographical Union No. 705. This makes the scale $45 per week, eight hours per day, and $47 per week, seven and one-half hours, night. The contract runs from November 1, 1920, to April 30, 1921. The increase in reality is $4 per week for floor and hand men and $2 for operators, as a bonus had been in force for several months.

Edmonton, Alberta.—The book and job strike was settled on a basis of 97 cents an hour. The union had demanded $1 an hour. The men were out 16 days when the compromise was reached. Representative Charles Ryan, of Winnipeg, assisted in the negotiations.

ALL BRITISH RAILWAYMEN WANT SHARE IN CONTROL.

It was intimated to the British Government on Friday that all the British railwaymen are united in the resolve to secure a share in the control of the management of the railways. The intimation came as a result of a five hour conference of executives of all the unions.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REJECTS BASIC WAGE AWARD.

After a year's investigation a commission appointed by the Australian federal government has made a basic wage award, and employers throughout the commonwealth are enraged. Premier Hughes has announced that the government will refuse to accept the award which is £5, 17 shillings, 6 pence in this city for a man with a wife and three children under 14 years of age. For Sydney, New South Wales, the award is £5, 17 shillings, and in other sections of Australia the rate is slightly lower.

Premier Hughes said the new proposals would be an economic revolution and that industry can not stand this additional call. The premier also objected to having single men the same rate paid to married men. His rejection of the award contained a statement by him, October 31, 1919, that the Government is appointing a royal commission to inquire into the cost of living in relation to the minimum or basic wage and "the Government will, at the earliest date possible, create effective machinery to give effect to these principles, and the recommendations of the commission."

OTTAWA LABORERS' OFFICIALS FOR 1921 INSTALLED.

Controller John Cameron officiated at the installation of officers at the last regular meeting of Ottawa Local No. 428, Hod Carriers', Common and Building Laborers' International Union. The following constitute the officers for 1921: President, L. Bignett; vice-president, C. Plumb; recording secretary, J. McGregor; financial secretary, H Class; corresponding secretary, J. Guieues; treasurer, J. Robertson; sergeant-at-arms, H. Crawford; inside guard, C. Wilson; business agent, H. Cunningham.

PAN-AMERICAN WORKERS WANT VOICE IN LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

A recommendation by the resolutions committee of the Pan-American Federation of Labor that organized labor in Latin America use every effort to obtain the admission of the respective Governments into the League of Nations, so that labor may have a voice in the deliberations of the Labor conferences of that body, precipitated a sharp discussion in the Labor conference at Mexico City last week. Nevertheless, the committee's report was unanimously adopted.

USE OLD VOTERS' LISTS ONTARIO REFERENDUM

Parliament to Meet Feb. 14 to Pass Necessary Legislation.

At the Cabinet Council held Friday afternoon, the date of the opening of the Parliamentary session was definitely fixed for February 14, and a formal proclamation to that effect was gazetted on Saturday. The matter has been under consideration for some time, and the present date is largely affected by the fact that the necessary special legislation regarding the voters' lists for use in the Ontario prohibition referendum on April 18, had to be passed a certain time in advance. The legislation required will do away with the necessity of preparing new lists for the Ontario referendum, as it will authorize the taking of the present lists as a basis and making the necessary additions thereto, with a large saving in expense.

QUEBEC MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS PRAISES LABOR.

Hon. Antonin Galipeault, Minister of Public Works, in his annual report tabled in the Quebec Legislative Assembly this week, comments upon the labor situation as follows:

"The vigilance of the Government in occupying itself about everything that can contribute to the welfare of the working classes, is one of the causes of the present prosperity of our Province. In asserting their claims, our workers remain within the bounds of what is realizable. Their good sense shows them that it is in their interest to avoid strikes, to repress all unreasonable agitation and to have recourse to arbitration for settling disputes that may arise. They see that agreement and harmony will always succeed better than violence and misunderstanding. Strikes are so disastrous that no effort should be neglected to prevent them."

N. B. LABOR FAVORS CO-OPERATION WITH FARMERS.

At its closing session on Thursday, the New Brunswick Federation of Labor, by a 10 to one vote, went on record in favor of the formation of branches of an independent labor party wherever possible. They also endorsed co-operation with organized farmers. A resolution for Government ownership of liquors and a referendum on importations was overwhelmingly defeated. The convention adopted resolutions against night and Sunday work by bakers, so far as practicable; for equal rights for women in school and municipal voting and offices; uniform ballots; for old age pensions for all workers; for proportional representation in province and Dominion; against stopping Sunday work in railway shops as already this is covered by wage agreements; for legislation to prevent landlords discriminating against persons with families.

BELGIAN TRADE UNIONS TAKE GOV'T CONTRACT.

To check high prices the Belgian government asked for estimates for the making of national costumes, and trade unions sent in an order to prevent the work falling into the hands of exploiters. The government gave the unionists a preliminary order for 6,000 costumes. The unions will maintain their working conditions and also reduce the number of unemployed.

URGES CANADIAN BAN ON IMMIGRATION

Alberta Workers Endorse 8-Hr. Day and 44-Hr. Week.

Favor for a Federal ban on immigration until the labor market becomes stable, close inspection of all text books to disclose subjects inimical to workers, and amendments to the Jury Act, so as to make more democratic selections possible, were expressed in resolutions which featured the morning session of the Alberta Federation of Labor.

A recommendation from the resolutions committee in favor of the eight-hour day and 44-hour week, went through without opposition, as well as resolutions in favor of proportional representation, free hospitals and medical treatment for tubercular patients and the establishment of a Canadian bureau of research.

On the unemployment situation the convention went on record as favoring provincial conference of mayors and other representatives of official and private bodies to arrange relief.

P. R. WINNING EVERYWHERE.

Proportional representation has scored another triumph

Victoria, B.C., used the modern system of voting for the civic elections and the result has been most gratifying. The Proportional Representation Society of Ottawa has received the following telegram from official sources:

"Proportional municipal election complete success. Returning officer and staff, without previous experience, completed aldermanic count in 14 hours. Spoiled ballots from all sources less than five per cent."

Vancouver also held its civic elections under Proportional Representation, but a report has not yet been received. The fact that untried men were able to announce the results within a few hours and that such a small percentage of ballots were spoiled by people who were having their first experience with the P. R. system, gave much gratification to those interested.

TEACHERS' UNION BENEFITS ENTIRE TEACHING PROFESSION.

How the organization of teachers benefits the entire teaching profession was shown by President Stillman in his report to the annual convention of the American Federation of Teachers.

"In hundreds of communities," he said, "one of the influences behind the granting of increases in teachers' salaries has been what to many misinformed or unprogressive school authorities has seemed the spectre of possible affiliation of their teachers with our movement.

"And more important than that, even during this period of the temporary eclipse of the idealism of democracy, in teachers' organizations controlled by school administrators, the old-line superintendents have been compelled at least to yield a semblance of democracy, as the price of retaining the realities of control: Our direct achevements have been noteworthy, but the more indirect effect on school policies of our forward-looking programme vitalized by a functioning national organization, has been even greater, both through its restraining influence on those accustomed to arbitrary authority, and through the favorable atmosphere for progress it creates."

O. B. U. ORGANIZER TO BE DEPORTED.

G. B. Curry, a member of the British Socialist Party, who for months has been employed throughout the west as organizer for the One Big Union, has been served with deportation notice by the Dominion immigration authorities, according to an announcement made at the Labor Church, Winnipeg, on Sunday. His radical utterances have often of late created a stir in labor circles. At one time the local labor leader threatened to resign a chairmanship unless the audience repudiated the man's doctrine of class hatred, and the audience upheld the chairman.

SEEING THE LIGHT

BY J. A. P. HAYDON.

Hon. E. C. Drury, Premier of Ontario, has started something. For quite a long time the Prime Minister of the banner province has been urging the United Farmers to broaden out in their political aims and take in all of those with progressive ideas, and change the name of the party to a People's or Progressive Party. He is now assailed by the secretary and organizer of the United Farmers in Ontario, Mr. J. J. Morrison, for such action. Mr. Morrison states that the Prime Minister will not be leader of the United Farmers if he continues such "talk."

However, Premier Drury has been long enough in public office to know that the entry of politics into an economic organization does not bring the best results. This the great Labor Movement discovered a long, long time ago. The United Farmers of Ontario was organized primarily for the furtherance of the farmers' interests and more especially the co-operative movement. Political opportunists found in the organization fertile soil in which to work owing to the unrest prevalent in the rural districts as in the urban localities. The United Farmers entered politics and no one was more surprised than they were when they found themselves in power at Toronto. However, their entry into politics has not been all sunshine, and Hon. E. C. Drury and many others see in the continuance of the farmer political movement the destruction of the farmer co-operative movement. Labor discovered this, as we have previously stated, a long, long time ago. Efforts have been made from time to time to turn the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada into a political body, but this movement has met with little favor. The Labor movement, however, took politics out of the Trades and Labor Congress and established a separate organization to which the trade unionists of Canada were asked to join. The Independent Labor Party was formed and became an independent labor political organization. Its membership is not limited to Labor, but to all who can subscribe to its platform and principles. The Labor Political Party formulates its policies as does the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Sometimes they do not agree, but that is to be expected for the membership of the I.L.P. is not confined to trade unionists only, while the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is composed entirely of trades unionists, many of whom do not subscribe to the platform and principles of the Labor Political Party.

During the past few months the writer had occasion to visit some of the meetings of the United Farmers of Ontario. In an address to the Russell County Branch some weeks ago he warned the members to beware that the political activities of the U. F. did not destroy it. In Renfrew County the U. F. today are divided for this very reason. At the provincial election Mr. Melville Warren was the successful candidate. Mr. Warren was formerly an active member of the Liberal Party. The director of the county organization formerly supported the Conservative Party, as did one of the men who is seeking the nomination for the Federal election. A former Liberal is also seeking this nomination. When the annual picnic was held neither the county director nor the gentleman of former Conservative thought, who is a prospective candidate for the U. F. nomination, were asked to address the gathering. However, the old time Liberal prospective candidate was given the privilege of addressing the meeting. The net result of all of this is that many of the farmers in Renfrew County, rightly or wrongly, believe that the United Farmers are but an adjunct to the National Liberal Party.

However, we are of the same opinion as Hon. Mr. Drury. Keep the economic organization out of politics and make it do the work it set out to do.

DOWNWARD TREND OF PRICES IN DECEMBER

Retail Food Costs Still Far Above Pre War Basis.

The downward movement in prices continues, according to figures in the December Labor Gazette. Retail prices for practically all foods, with the exceptions of eggs and potatoes, are dropping. The average cost of a list of staple foods in 60 Canadian cities, at the middle of December, 1920, was $14.84, as compared with $15.32 at the middle of November $14.73 in December, 1919, and $7.96 in December, 1914.

The index number of wholesale prices was down to 290.5 for December, as compared with 304.2 for the previous month, 322.7 for December, 1919, and 137.6 for December, 1914. The chief decreases took place in grain, live stock and meats, textiles, hides and leather, iron, building materials, and raw furs. The price of coal averaged somewhat lower, but that of wood slightly higher.

MACHINISTS TO VOTE ON INSURANCE PLAN.

Shortly the 400,000 membership of the International Association of Machinists will be circularized to vote by ballot on a life insurance proposition which the executive has had under advisement for some time. The plan will be open to any member of the association, male or female, regardless of present age or physical condition, and without any medical or physical examination whatsoever, between the ages of 16 and 60 years. For the payment of $6 per year, payable at 50 cents per month, $500 at death will be paid. The same amount will be forthcoming to the insured in the event of permanent disability. To local financial secretaries, for the extra services given, the insurance compensation will be $3,000, although only the same rate of premium, $6, will be charged. The I. A. M. general executive board in the circular issued mentions that a contract can now be entered into with a responsible old line, solvent life insurance company to carry the insurance.

PREPARING FOR I. T. U. CONVENTION AT QUEBEC.

Mr. John W. Hays, secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical Union, and one of the best known men in the international labor movement, was in Quebec last week, to make arrangements for the 66th annual convention of the International Typographical Union which will be held in Quebec during the second week of August.

ALBERTA REQUESTS LEGISLATION CHANGES

Gov't Claims Unable to Meet Many Requests.

If all things desired by the Labor organization, along with those wanted by other people, are to be put into effect, some greatly increased means of raising more money for the Provincial Government will have to be found. Alberta has not funds enough to finance them now.

This was in effect what the Government told a deputation from Alberta Federation of Labor which waited upon it on Friday with a sheaf of requests involving in most cases some changes of legislation, and in many cases a great outlay of money.

Unemployment relief and free treatment in sanitoriums were among the main features of the Labor programme to which this objection of heavy cost was raised by the members of the Government. The latter itself, according to Hon. C. R. Mitchell, would mean the biggest expenditure on health lines yet undertaken, and at the present time is not practicable. Amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act were asked for, the most important of them being an increase in indemnities to dependents and the adoption of a wage scale basis for compensation payments. Ninety per cent. was named as the rate for the payments on this new basis.

McBRIDE and MacNAMARA TO BE INDEPENDENT.

Sergt. Major MacNamara, M.P.P., Riverdale, has decided to give up his seat in the Labor party on the government side of the legislature and will sit with the opposition, alongside M. M. McBride, of Brantford. He declares he has not altered his attitude toward the government, however, and will support or criticise as he sees fit.

MINERS ASSISTING BROTHERS IN ALABAMA AND W. VIRGINIA.

Officials of the United Mine Workers of America have levied an assessment of $1 a month for two months on the membership for the benefit of Alabama and West Virginia miners. The Alabama miners are striking to secure the enforcement of an award made by the President's Bituminous Coal Commission, appointed when the nation-wide strike was called off last fall. The West Virginia miners are striking against the victimizing policy of coal owners, who are opposed to unionism. It is estimated that the assessment will total over $1,000,000.

A. F. OF L. SUMMONS LEADERS TOGETHER

National and International Unions to Discuss Problems.

Representatives of the 109 National and International unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have been called to meet in Washington on February 23 "for the purpose of considering attacks now being made on the trade union movement," according to announcement on Sunday by Frank Morrison, secretary of the Federation. The call for the meeting was sent out by Samuel Gompers, Federation president.

In explaining the intention of organized labor to give attention to attacks on trade unions, Mr. Morrison said: "The attacks include attempts to establish the anti-union shop, wage reductions, anti-strike law, compulsory arbitration, labor injunctions, and a publicity that would mould the public mind to accept these backward steps.

"I believe Labor will formulate a plan to expose the pretense of men who are only interested in cheap labor and a continuance of their profiteering policy. The trade union movement is alert to the forces against it, and proposes to act vigorously and courageously. Our opponents are mistaken if they imagine that they have made the slightest progress in alarming the workers, or that they will humbly accept a policy of reaction.

"The proposed conference will consider the publicity and other methods of our opponents, and it is quite possible that Labor will launch an offensive movement against those who imagine they control practically every avenue of publicity."

SYDNEY STEEL WORERS APPLY FOR BOARD.

The Amalgamated Steel Workers of Sydney have applied to the Minister of Labor to appoint a board to consider the recent decision of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company to reduce wages 20 per cent.

F. A. CAMPBELL AGAIN PRESIDENT ST. JOHN TRADES COUNCIL.

At the St. John Trades and Labor Council annual meeting recently, F. A. Campbell was re-elected president, F. A. S. McMullin, vice-president, and A. B. Colwell, secretary. A resolution was passed asking the city to take the New Brunswick Power Company property, including gas, light, electricity, street railway, etc., and operate the same for the benefit of the public.

RAILWAY CLERKS WILL CO-OPERATE TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT.

A resolution expressing willingness to enter into any co-operative movement with other organizations to relieve the unemployment situation was passed at Thursday's session of the Systems Board of Adjustment of the Canadian Pacific Railway, western lines, Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight and Express Handlers and Station Employes. This resolution was brought in by the resolutions committee and was the subject of considerable discussion.

BOOKBINDERS MOVE HEADQUARTERS TO WASHINGTON.

Officials of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders of America planned for the removal of the general offices on the first of the year to Washington, D.C., following a referendum vote some time ago on the question of a change in location. Indianapolis lost the headquarters by a vote of more than two to one. It is explained that the majority membership in the organization is located in the east. The new offices will be in the American Federation of Labor building.

Canada Owes Much To The Workers.

Canadian Labor Just as Reasonable, Sane and Patriotic as Any Other Section of Country.

"A word about unrest. Canada is not free from this world-wide epidemic; how could it be? But when all the facts are considered, the truth stands out that there is not a country on the face of the earth today which is freer from unrest and turmoil than in this Dominion."

"For this favorable condition we in Canada owe much to the fair-mindedness and sanity of Canadian labor. Indeed, it has been the experience of the Government that labor has been just as reasonable, just as sane and just as patriotic as any other section of the country. It has been willing to co-operate, and its co-operation has been of the utmost value in solving problems that have been extremely complex."

Extracts from the story written by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen on "Our Plans for Canada."

OTTAWA'S FIRE CHIEF SAYS NO INTERFERENCE FROM FIREMEN'S UNION.

The implication in a letter from Mr. W. H. Cluff, in Monday's Journal, that the Firemen's Union has interfered with the working of the Ottawa Fire Department was strongly resented by Chief Graham The chief declared that on no occasion had the union officers approached him concerning any matter having to do with the administration of the department.

The granting of one full day off every week to the department under the new legislation came as a distinct surprise to the members of the Ottawa brigade. After the bill had been passed he called the president and secretary of the union and they denied having previous knowledge of the measure.

Personally he had no desire to add to the strength of the Fire Department at the present time, but with one-seventh of the men off duty every day as a result of the legislation he could see no other means of keeping the department to its normal strength.

DEATH PENALTY AGAIN IMPOSED ON RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.

Leon Trotsky is attempting to restore the old iron discipline and unquestioning obedience to command required of Russian soldiers under the Czar's regime, according to the text of an order of the day to the army published in Russian papers received in London, recently.

The death penalty is again prescribed for failure to obey orders and the right of soldiers to hold political meetings, granted early in 1917, is abolished.

"Our Fatherland in danger," Trotsky declared. "The battlefield no place for discussions and babblings."

MINIMUM WAGE FOR TEXAS WOMEN.

A blanket minimum wage of $12 a week for women and minors employed in laundries, telephone exchanges, factories, and mercantile establishments in Texas, has been set by the Texas Industrial Welfare Commission. The wage, as announced in order No. 1, issued by this commission, is to become effective throughout the state on February 7, 1921. Employers who furnish meals for employes will be allowed to deduct 20 cents for each meal. An apprentice rate of 15 cents an hour during the first six months of apprenticeship and 20 cents an hour during the second six months was also ordered established as the minimum.

The new wage minimum was ordered effective before the present session of the Texas Legislature is adjourned, so that the members of the Legislature might see how it is being enforced and then enact whatever amendments they regard as desirable.

SOVIET APPEAL RECEIVES LITTLE SYMPATHY HERE

Ottawa Labor Men Take Soviet Representative to Task.

There is a move on foot to arouse sympathy for Soviet Russia in Ottawa. At the last meeting of the Independent Labor Party "Comrade" A. Benenson, a representative of the "Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee," was given the privilege of addressing the meeting. He appealed to those present to give assistance to the suffering women and children in Soviet Russia. He had certain literature for sale dealing with the educational facilities in what he termed a "workingman's country."

At the conclusion of his address he was taken to task by some of the international trade unionists present.

Mr. J. A. P. Haydon, editor of the C.L.P., stated that it was passing strange that this appeal should be made in view of the fact that the Soviet Government had placed at the disposal of the Daily Herald in London, Eng., the sum of £750,000 to carry on propaganda work in Britain. Mr. Benenson stated that it had not been established that this was true to which Mr. Haydon retorted that the Daily Herald itself had published the statement and asked its readers what should be done with the money. The offer of the Soviet Government was refused. "What guarantee have we that money subscribed to the 'Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee' will not be used to carry on 'Red' propaganda in Canada?" asked Mr. Haydon.

"If the workers of Ottawa have money to give to aid the suffering children of Europe there is a fund already established for that purpose," said Mr. Haydon. "It is the 'Save the Children Fund,' which is at the present time appealing to the people of Canada for assistance. This fund was established in Great Britain and many of the leading British Labor leaders are members of its committee. Under this fund there is no danger of the money being used for the furtherance of 'Red' propaganda."

Mr. W. P. Jennings, vice president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, asked what connection there was between the "Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee" and Ludwig Martens' office. Mr. Benenson replied that all funds collected were sent to Martens' office in New York. "Exactly," said Mr. Jennings, "Martens and his agents are more concerned in the destruction of the American Federation of Labor and the International Trades Union Movement than in giving aid to the suffering children of Russia."

The response to the appeal was almost nil. One of the reporters of an Ottawa daily was much concerned and took a hand in the debate in an endeavor to offset the telling arguments of the editor of the Canadian Labor Press.

On Friday of last week the C.L.P. received an appeal from the local "Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee" for publication. This is being returned to the sender.

Representatives of the Soviet Committee have made efforts during the past week to address many of the local union meetings, but thanks to the good sense of the labor movement in Ottawa none of the organizations, excepting the I.L.P., has granted these men the privilege.

Ottawa workers, in common with all other Canadian workers, know all about Soviet Russia, and they condemn it for all time.

ORGANIZE AND STRENGTHEN CAUSE OF WEAK AND OPPRESSED.

While you wander among the clouds, wrapped in speculation and dwelling among beautiful theories you strike no fear to the heart of tyranny. Organize into trade unions, mobilize your power where you work, and you strengthen the cause of the weak and oppressed everywhere. The trade union movement is making progress toward greater freedom faster than any movement of men and women anywhere. There is no movement so powerful to resist the invasion of rights. In spite of cajolery and flattery and treachery it goes on and on to greater heights, to great achievements. At this hour of historic progress, when the enemies of man seek to gather for another desperate effort against progress, should the working people submit, should they do that which their enemies would have them do? No, a thousand times no! In this hour, give hope to humanity, give strength to the cause of freedom. Grit your teeth and organize!"—Samuel Gompers.

OTTAWA CIVIC EMPLOYES' ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of Ottawa Civic Employes' Federal Union, No. 75, was held on Tuesday last and was largely attended. Officers were elected as follows: President, E. Travers; vice president, Thos. Dutton; secretary-treasurer, C. I. Starker; trustees, G. F. Kennedy, E. Pinard, and P. Delaney; executive committee, N. J. Trembley (water works), H. J. Mooney (board of works), Ed. Racine (garage), Guy W. Dale and R. J. Smith (City Hall), Lorenzo Lun (welsh water clerks), J. Van Allan (Hydro-Electric); delegates to the Allied Trades and Labor Association, H. Newlands, Henry Cain and C. I. Starker.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW DRAWS A LINE BELOW WHICH WAGES MUST NOT DROP

Chairman of Ontario Minimum Wage Board Explains the Meaning and Purpose of the Act—Workers Right to Live.

Professor J. W. MacMillan of Victoria University College, and Chairman of the Ontario Minimum Wage Board, addressed the Empire Club Toronto, this week on the meaning and purpose of the Ontario Minimum Wage law.

"The principle upon which the minimum wage law rests is the right of the worker to live from his work," said Dr. MacMillan. "It does not base the minimum wage upon the value of the product or upon the prosperity of the business but upon the needs of the worker.

A minimum wage law does not fix wages; it merely draws a line below which they must not drop. This line is determined by the inevitable necessities of human existence. Thus each employer is required to enable his workers to live in modest and decent comfort.

"It is because of the vivid and compelling necessity of this principle that minimum wage boards the world over have been able to work harmoniously with the employers. The few industrial heads who are willing to conduct their business in human insolvency, paying dividends out of vital assets, are recognized by the large number of employers as outlaws from the company of worthy business men.

"On the other hand, the minimum wage laws protect those employers who treat their workers decently from the unfair competition of the proprietors of sweat-shops."

Mr. MacMillan said it was premature to attempt to forecast the standard which would be set in Ontario, but it was of interest to note that the minimum wage in Manitoba commonly is $12 a week, although it ranges from $11 to $12.50.

In dealing with the objections urged against the minimum wage law, Dr. MacMillan said: "It is claimed by many that the minimum will become the maximum, with a resulting penalty to the higher paid class of worker.

"This has been the case nowhere and the universal experience has been that the whole wage list is elevated rather than depressed, and that all female workers profit by the recognition of the right to a decent living wage."

I.F.T.U. CALLED UPON TO PROTEST AGAINST TERRORISM PRACTISED BY THE SOVIETS

When Steel Workers Went on Strike Mills Occupied by "Red" Guards and Men Given 48 Hours in Which to Resume Work.

A. Merrheim, secretary of the French Metal Workers' Union, and one of the leaders of the General Labor Confederation, calls on the International Trades Union to protest against the terrorism by which the Russian Communists are trying to repress the Social Democratic party in Russia. After presenting a series of documents mostly from Socialist sources, he goes on to say: "Such are the facts. Equally with those in Hungary, regarding which the International Trades Unions have already been protesting, there should arise the vehement and indignant reprobation of all trades union members and Socialists who still have a sense of dignity and independence."

Among the instances cited by M. Merrheim from the documentary evidence are the following: The arrests attendant on the alleged Social Democratic conspiracy last September, necessitated four thousand new places in the Moscow concentration camps, to procure which the Bolsheviki sent four thousand of the older prisoners to Ekaterinburg and Archangel. Among the prisoners sent to Ekaterinburg were several leaders of the Centre party and the Co-operative Union. The trip took ten days. On the way the prisoners received no hot food and no hot water. Moreover the Ekaterinburg authorities had not been warned of their coming, and there was no place for them in the overcrowded jails. They were kept two days in the station, a month in a half-built house, and then were finally thrown into jail with common criminals.

Many of the leaders of the Ukrainian Social Democrats were arrested August 19, during the party congress at Kharkov. Seventeen of these have been exiled to Georgia, and others have been condemned to forced labor in the concentration camps "until the end of the civil war."

The daily fare in prison consists in the morning of 300 grams (about 10 ounces) of black bread "like putty," and a cup of hot water; at noon a thin soup with a few pieces of potato and cabbage, and a few herring heads; and at night two spoonfuls of mashed potatoes.

M. Merrheim then quotes this resume of communique in the official newspaper Pravda:

"The workmen in the Akrantslav Steel Mills, having gone on a strike and committed numerous acts of sabotage, the Soviet Government has effected military occupation of the mills and given the workmen 48 hours in which to resume work.