

Ontario's Essay To Better Conditions

BRANTFORD TRADES COUNCIL SEEK MORATORIUM

Brantford Trades and Labor Council are sending out the following circular which is self-explanatory. The Brantford Trades and Labor Council submit herewith a resolution for your consideration, having in view the fact that the present industrial depression, akin to that at the beginning of the war should be met by similar measures, in order that purchasers of houses will not be forced to lose their homes through inability to make payments thereon when due, which is the case in many instances. We would therefore urge you to take steps to have the Government bring in, and have passed legislation to meet this pressing condition. The resolution follows: "Whereas, in view of the present employment situation many persons who during the war, owing to the scarcity of housing accommodation, were compelled to purchase houses on the installment plan and are now unable and will not be able to pay the same position had to mortgage their homes, to avoid losing them; Therefore, this council urges upon the Provincial Government the necessity of having legislation enacted similar in purport to the Act passed in 1917 by the Legislature entitled 'The Mortgagees and Purchasers' Relief Act, and that such moratorium be in force for a period of twelve months."

JAPAN EMPLOYERS TO FORM WORK COUNCILS

The Industrial Association of Osaka, Osaka, Kyoto, and the most important Employers' Federation of that town, decided at its meeting on July 23 to recommend the system of Work Councils "in order to put an end to the propaganda of the workers in western Japan."

This motive for their accommodating spirit is apparent in the Draft Scheme defining the powers of the Work Councils and the manner of their composition. This draft, which appeared in the "Asahi" on December 2, is a splendid example of how Work Councils should not be if they are not from the outset defined in their character as an independent organization of the common economic interests of the workers (both manual workers and salaried employees).

1-Powers. The Councils shall form a consultative body to assist the management but their members shall have the right to initiate proposals. The following are the principal questions which the council shall be called upon to deal with, subject to special conditions governing the activity of the councils in the various factories: (1) Increase in wages; (2) hours of labor; (3) all other questions suggested by the management.

2-Organization. The work councils shall be organized in the following manner: (1) Each factory shall have one council; sub-councils may be formed in factories of the more important factories; (2) one half of the members of the council shall be appointed by the management, the other half by the workers; (3) each member of the council shall hold office for one year; the members shall be re-elected at the expiry of the year of office; (4) the number of the workers' members shall be in proportion to the total number of workers employed in each shop; (5) all workers of both sexes who are above twenty years of age and have been employed for more than one year in the same factory are entitled to vote; special regulations can be made in factories employing a large number of workers under twenty years of age; (6) the elec-

POLITE PICKETING WANTED BY FEDERAL SUPREME COURT

Only polite picketing will hereafter be recognized by the United States supreme court, which suggests one picket at each factory gate—a hint that will hardly be overlooked by injunction judges.

Where a worker on strike persists in telling his story of injustice to a strikebreaker, this is "likely to savor of intimidation" and can be enjoined, says the court, because "we are a social people," and picketing, when carried to the point of "importance," is unjustifiable.

This parlor procedure for wage workers who daily risk their lives in the whirlpool of industry was announced by Chief Justice Taft of the famous Granite City (Ill.) boycott case, which has been before the supreme court for nearly five years.

The case was based on an injunction issued by Federal Judge Humphrey (Illinois district) who held that there is no such thing as peaceful picketing and that the Tri-City central trades council, composed of unions in Granite City, Madison and Venice, is an unlawful combination.

In sustaining the injunction, with modifications, Chief Justice Taft took occasion to discuss the general question of picketing and to reaffirm his well-known views on the power of injunction judges.

The court held, in effect, that picketing is lawful when under the direction of an equity court, and that every case must be decided on its own merits. He suggested that one picket to each factory entrance is sufficient, and that all other strikers can be enjoined from congregating at the plant or in the neighboring streets by which access is to be had to the plant.

Justice Taft said that section 20 of the Clayton act, which gives workers the right to picket in a peaceful manner, is "merely declaratory of what was the best practice (of courts) always."

Judge Humphrey's injunction was issued on complaint of the American steel foundries, a New Jersey corporation, doing business in Granite City. In November, 1913, the plant closed down and reopened the following April with wage reductions of from 2 to 9 cents an hour. A committee from the central body asked the company to arbitrate the wage cuts, but this was refused and the men struck. The injunction followed. The court of appeals reversed Judge Humphrey and the company carried the case to the supreme court.

BROCKVILLE TO HAVE ELECTRICAL WORK

Brockville labor is soon to have an opportunity to add its growing chain of organized workers. As the first contract for work upon the construction of the plant of the Eugene F. Phillips Electrical Works Ltd. in the west end has now been let and work will proceed immediately, according to a statement by J. Amos Johnson, industrial commissioner. The contract is in connection with the construction of the pumping station intake pipe and other work preliminary to the building of the main plant and has been let to Messrs. J. A. Grant and Co., Montreal, who intend to start work at once. The pumping station will be located at the bank of the river while the intake pipe will extend for a distance of 300 feet into the stream. In addition discharge mains must be built to extend from the pumping station to the mill. The pumping station is to be of concrete and brick construction.

Tenders are now being called for the erection of the factory building planned by J. R. Baxter and Co., of Montreal, to be built in the east end industrial area adjoining the plant of Machinery and Foundries, Ltd. The construction of the building which it is expected to cost in the neighborhood of forty thousand dollars, will serve to relieve the unemployment situation here during the winter, as it is planned to commence work upon it as soon as the contract is let and material is on hand.

ILLEGAL FOR MINE WORKERS BUA LEGAL FOR COAL OWNERS

Charleston, W. Va.—Federal Judge Anderson has declared that the miners' check off is illegal and would stop coal owners and mine workers from agreeing that the former will hold union dues and pay same to the union's representatives.

But Judge Anderson ignores the check off maintained by coal owners in Logan county, whereby they hold workers in serfdom. The owners' check off is shown in a pamphlet issued from this city by the Logan county mine owners, in which they state that the average monthly deduction, per miner, for store and shop accounts is \$15.78. Their check off also includes: For rent, \$5.00; for coal, \$1.05; for doctor's bills, \$1.25; for hospital charges, 40 cents; for black-smiting tools, 35 cents; for electric light, 60 cents; for miscellaneous, \$9.55.

ARBITRATION AWARDS FOR TYPES

Wage issues in several cities have been decided by the International Typographical Union and the American Newspaper Publishers' Association. It was announced. The board decided that Vancouver, B.C. rates will remain the same as before. Rates for Indianapolis operators will be decreased \$2.50 a week for both day and night work. The new scale for day work will be \$42.50 and \$46.50 for night work. The decisions of the board become effective December 19. Scales for Portland, Maine, will be increased \$2 a week for day work and \$3 a week for night work.

Items of Interest from Overseas

EXPENSES INCREASE. The Morning Post and the Yorkshire Post have each been submitting an analysis of trades union balance sheets, showing that the expense of the unions have increased to a large proportion of which increase has gone to meet the cost of political propaganda.

The National Union of Railwaymen has spent \$255,000 on management expenses, but only \$57,000 on benefits. Leading union officials so far have refused to reply to these statements, although they point out that in the early years of the war very little was done to increase the military readiness of the union officials to meet the increased cost of living and travelling expenses. They also point out that the machinery of government has been used to the extent that London to a much greater extent than formerly.

The Spectator, however, says: "The unemployed are encouraged to blame the government, but it is not desirable that they should also ask what has happened to the large financial resources of their unions. Would not the money have been better spent in benefits to those in want instead of for political ends, none of which has been reached?"

WILL RETIRE. Right Hon. George N. Barnes, noted Privy Councillor, minister without portfolio, and Laborite M.P. for Glasgow, Glasgow, intends to retire from Parliament shortly, hence his appearance in the House of Commons to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne was of special interest. Mr. Barnes says his contemplated retirement is due entirely to personal reasons. He says he wants a rest after his long period of public activity.

SEEMS CHANGE. "Home rule for London" was the subject of a serious discussion at the annual conference of the London Labor party. Secretary Morrison moved a resolution advocating a London and home counties parliament with local autonomy, rather than a new enlargement of the county council area, as recommended by the commission which is investigating the administration of the London Metropolitan district. London was sprang out without plan or system, said Mr. Morrison, and unless control was exercised the time would come when Southend, Brighton, and Hitchen would be linked up with the metropolis. The resolution was carried.

The party also decided to ask that members be allowed to give evidence and express their views before the commission appointed to enquire into the government of London.

DIRECT TRADING. Excitement has been caused among Sheffield grocers and provision merchants by the announcement that class education along the lines of the

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW VENTURE TO AROUSE BUSINESS

PLACING PROMINENTLY THE SERIOUS CONDITIONS

A campaign against hard times and unemployment is being instituted in the province of Ontario, where it is estimated there are 30,000 persons out of work, the campaign being of an economic, educational character. This was decided upon by the Provincial Government upon the recommendation of the provincial advisory committee on unemployment, which has been investigating the situation. There are 10,104 men and women registered at the Government's 27 offices throughout Ontario as out of work and it is estimated that three times this number are not employed.

The educational campaign will be waged in newspaper advertising and public addresses; and James H. H. Ballantyne, Deputy Minister of Labor, will direct it. The first of nine, twice-a-week advertisements in the newspapers appeared. These advertisements appeal in the name of the Ontario Government to the manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers to sell goods on hand at replacement prices; to the builders to reduce their prices; to the general public to go ahead with building; to the banks to allow all reasonable credits and to decrease rates; to the farmers to maintain production and make needed improvements and betterments; and to labor to accept reduction in wages commensurate with decreases in cost of living.

It is intended to launch a follow-up campaign with a view to persuading clubs of trade, chambers of commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis and Lion Clubs and the U.F.O. to join. The advertisement which opens the campaign will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, it is estimated. Among those who will give addresses will be Premier E. C. Drury, and members of his Cabinet.

The idea underlying the campaign is that if selling costs are reduced and the consumers are persuaded that they are not being charged unreasonable prices, the buying strike will be broken. Increased purchases will mean increased production, which, in turn, will gradually absorb the masses of men at present out of work.

The Ontario Cabinet passed an Order-in-Council setting forth the terms on which the province of Ontario is willing to contribute toward excess cost of public works undertaken to relieve unemployment. Relief work is interpreted solely as that undertaken to provide employment and does not include any work now being proceeded with under ordinary conditions.

The municipalities are to bear all the estimated normal cost at the normal working conditions, and estimates of excess cost must be approved by the Minister of Public Works and Highways. The excess cost is to be borne by the Provincial and Dominion Governments and municipality each paying one-third. The grants will not be paid in respect to any work done or materials used after next April 15. The Order-in-Council follows closely the lines indicated by Attorney-General Raney recently.

ONTARIO COMPENSATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Total benefits of \$7,780,145 were awarded by the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board in the year ended Dec. 31, 1920, according to the sixth annual report of the board. The total in 1919 was \$4,192,839. The increase last year was largely by reason of the increased benefits provided for under the amendments made to the act in 1920, especially the increase in death pensions for accidents happening in previous years, which amounted to \$2,239,249.

It is gratifying to be able to state that all retroactive increases in benefits have been provided for. Samuel Price, chairman of the board, starts in the report. "The year 1921 starts without any burden for prior accidents." Attention is directed to the fact that the rates of compensation in Ontario are still low, compared with those in the

OPPOSE INSURANCE

The proposed insurance of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is opposed by large corporations. Officers of the brotherhood take this position as a matter of course. They show that any effort of workers to help themselves is in conflict with paternal and welfare plans that bind the worker to his job and create within him a dependent spirit.

GIVEN NOTICE

The editor and associate editor of a Communist journal published for Oxford students, have been ordered by the authorities of Oxford University to withdraw from that noted place of learning.

MINERS LEVY

As a result of the heavy losses entailed upon Nottinghamshire miners in connection with the last stoppage, it has been determined to make a levy of 54 10s upon each adult member of the County Association.

ADULT EDUCATION

To further the wishes of those who believe in independent working class education along the lines of the

HOW HIGH FINANCE JUGGLES ITS DEBT

Washington.—The \$500,000,000 railroad refunding bill, now pending in congress, illustrates how high finance can postpone payment of a debt while it uses the debt to collect money owed it. The refunding scheme is the result of government control of railroads, when the government agreed to pay a rental for the properties, and the roads agreed to pay for improvements that the government would make during the period of its control.

The refunding bill, now pending, can be best described by this simple illustration: Suppose the government asked a railroad to loan it one freight car, and it was agreed that the government would pay a rental of \$5 a month, and the railroad would pay for improvements the government made on the car while under its control. The government operates the car 18 months and spends \$90 for improvements. For these improvements the railroad gives the government a piece of paper called "equipment trust certificate." This paper is really a mortgage on the car.

When the government returns the car to its owner it is found that the government owes the railroad \$90 for rental and the railroad owes the government an equal amount for improvements. Instead of both parties agreeing to cancel the debt, the railroad insists that the government sell the equipment trust certificate, or mortgage, and with the \$90 thus secured pay the railroad its \$90 rental charge.

This method favors the plan and has secured congress to pass a law to this effect. Under this system the railroad has its car, has been paid \$90 rental, and has secured improvements to the value of \$90, while it has secured postponement of its debt for a term of years.

CONTRACT BREAKERS ENJOINED BY COURT

New York, Justice Guy, of the supreme court, has enjoined the cloak manufacturers' association from breaking its contract with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Association. The union made application to the court for the order.

An agreement between the parties does not expire until next June. Recently the employers announced through their association that they would establish a new contract and the long work week. Nearly 60,000 employees suspended work.

Justice Guy declared that the manufacturers must stand restrained from acting collectively to violate a contract, though individual members are free to act for themselves. The life of the injunction extends until the expiration of the contract. Under the court order an individual employer may break his contract, but the association of employers is restrained from taking such action.

PHONE OVER TROLLEY WIRE. Schenectady, N. Y.—Telephoning from a moving street car over trolley wires was given a practical test in this city by engineers and radio experts. The demonstration, it is said, marks an advance in electric train operation. It is intended to develop better means of communication between the locomotive and caboose on long trains and between train and sub-stations or waiting rooms on electric railroads.

MECHANISTS OPPOSED

A meeting of unemployed members of the A.E.U. at Sheffield advised the rejection of the proposed agreement on overtime. The resolution adopted expressed disgust at the contents of the terms of the officials, who, from the security of their eight years' dug-out, are recommending the members to accept the employers' proposals, thereby giving away the vital principles of Trade Unionism which only have been obtained after untold sacrifice.

"We therefore urge our members to turn down by a unanimous vote the most insidious and dangerous attack that has been made on our rights as trade unionists." Delegate of the National Union of General Workers to the Aircraft and Engineering Industries Committee (London District) have also passed a resolution hostile to the proposed agreement.

STATES RAILROADS OUT FOR NEW SCHEDULE

More than 750,000 workers will find reductions in their Christmas stockings if the proposed schedule are approved. An announcement on behalf of the conference at today's meeting said the proposed cuts were in line with action of western railroads and that the revised wage figures would bring the pay of railroad workers approximately to the level of non-transportation workers.

The program would cut the pay of train service employees at least to the scale in force prior to May 1, 1920. Shop workers, who now receive 37 cents an hour would be scaled down considerably below the 67 1/2 cent figure that had been predicted. Maintenance of way workers now getting from 37 to 49 cents an hour would be cut to 25 to 40 cents.

RENUE AGREEMENT

Rochester, N. Y.—Stereotypers employed on newspapers in this city have renewed their agreement with these publications. The old wage of \$11 a week for day work and \$45 for night work will continue.

LURING UNEMPLOYED

Sacramento, Cal.—Organized labor is increased at the attempts to flood this city with unemployed. The Master Builders' association is publishing advertisements in the daily newspapers, "luring the world to Sacramento because of an unprecedented building boom."

Trade unions have exhausted their vocabulary in denouncing this contemptible effort to increase distress among the unemployed.

"OPEN" SHOP ADVOCATE FRANKLY UNFOLDS PLAN

New York.—The frankest and clearest exposition of the so-called "open" shop that has been made by any of its advocates can be credit to Paul R. Raup, foundry superintendent of the Advance Rumely company, Battle Creek, Mich.

Mr. Raup writes in the Iron Age, current issue. This magazine is circulated among business men, rather than Mr. Average Citizen, who is supposed to be scenery when anti-unionists stage their well-known drama, "Our Liberty is Menaced by Organized Labor."

The Battle Creek man makes no attempt to fool himself or his readers. He tells business men that the "open" shop means no collective bargaining; that the employer is absolute dictator of wages and working conditions, and that it is never safe to employ a "considerable sprinkling of union men."

Iron founders are warned that the establishment of the anti-union shop is a costly venture, as it is necessary to "break in" unskilled workers, thereby implying that the Iron Molders' union has the skilled workers.

"Some times," he says, "it becomes necessary to discharge a man because he complains about a price on his work in order to discourage any disposition on the part of the men to try to get fair prices raised."

"Now that you have an 'open' shop, and you are your own shop committee and your own business agent, you must establish your own methods of making piece work prices, and not at any time allow the old-time plan of negotiating with the molder for a lower price prevail. Such actions lead to discussions among your men on what should be paid, and discussion leads to collective bargaining."

This is a straight-from-the-shoulder hint that when employers want to reduce wages they should reduce them, and not make the mistake of talking the matter with employees, as this might lead to united action by these workers.

Where a worker is dissatisfied with wages, Mr. Raup suggests: "He (the worker) needs your help at this time, just as much as he required it in the beginning, and you must use strenuous efforts to get him lined up, or you will be obliged to discharge him. Take him in the office and convince him that he is only in the primary department of the business, and that he is of no special value to you; that he needs you more than you need him."

"You can finally settle with him by giving him a certain task to do and agree that when he can do this task satisfactorily you will pay him more. You are losing nothing and are helping him to realize that he has a great deal more to learn; and as he goes at the work laid out for him his mental condition will gradually change and you have a good man who will give you no more trouble."

"An 'open' shop is never safe with a considerable sprinkling of union men in it. There is always the great danger of the shop being quietly organized."

Mr. Raup's blunt statements are a refreshing change from the sob stuff used by other flint-hearts who would conceal their autocracy by silly appeals to the flag.