

TRADES COUNCIL HANDLES VARIETY OF QUESTIONS

Defence Fund Aired Again—Free Press Question Settled—By-Laws Endorsed

A fairly well attended and interesting meeting of the Trades and Labor Council on Monday evening dealt with a variety of questions.

Winnipeg Strike Prisoners Again the convicted strike leaders in Winnipeg and matters relating to the strike situation were up for discussion. Del. Latham intimated that he wished to withdraw the motion of which he gave notice at last meeting of the council, which called for the rescinding of the council's motion requesting the defence fund committee to hand over its affairs to the Winnipeg trades and labor council.

Whereas, the verdict and sentence imposed on our co-workers in Winnipeg is in our opinion, contrary to the rights and principles advocated by organized labor, and

Whereas, we opine the sentence and verdict in direct contravention to the inalienable rights of free people; and Whereas, the propaganda issued through the press, has in a large measure been responsible for the clouding of the real issue in connection with the Winnipeg controversy, and

Whereas, by the said propaganda and otherwise, a division in the ranks of labor has been more or less created. Therefore be it resolved:

That this trades and labor council of Edmonton, approach the executive of the Trades Congress of Canada, with a view of co-operating with the Winnipeg Defence Committee to obtain the release of the seven labor men in prison.

2nd, to evolve ways and means by convention or otherwise to educate labor as a whole of the true vital issues at stake.

3rd, to protect the cherished principles of organized labor that has been virtually negated by the Winnipeg verdict.

4th, lastly and certainly not least to approach the other factions of labor in a conciliatory and equitable spirit in an effort to close the breach made in the ranks of labor throughout the Dominion of Canada.

It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution be submitted to all central labor bodies, with a view of obtaining their endorsement to same.

Del. Latham explained that his sole object was to do something, if possible, to close the breach between the two sections of the labor movement. Del. Murray seconded the motion, laying stress on the circumstances that there were wives and children depending upon the prisoners for their subsistence, and that there should be something adequate done for them at once.

An Amendment Del. Roper and others opposed the resolution on the ground that it was quite contrary to the spirit of the action taken at a former meeting of the council, and that no reason had developed since for rescinding that action.

Del. Roper proposed an amendment, which was seconded by Del. Geary.

That this council request the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council to proceed at the earliest possible moment to make arrangements for the care of the families of the men in prison and that the Trades and Labor Congress be commended for their action in promoting an educational campaign, with a view to having the laws altered to protect labor's status in Canada.

This amendment in the end prevailed. Support the Money By-Laws. Among the communications read was a letter from W. J. Stark, calling attention to the proposal to erect a new concrete grand stand on the exhibition grounds. A comprehensive statement of the financial affairs of the association was also included, all showing that the

(Continued on Page Three)

METAL WORKERS CONDUCT OWN SHOP AT HAMILTON

Drastic action was taken by the sheet metal workers at Hamilton, Saturday, when the union called out all its men because contractors refused to deal with the organization. The union men have decided to conduct their own shop, making the labor hall their headquarters for business. This promises to hit some of the small shops which had signed the scale card. It was said that some of these shops were doing work for the Contractors' Association, with which the union is having its battle. A provincial council of metal workers has been formed at Hamilton.

Many consumers have strained their necks watching for prices to fall.

MANITOBA TELEPHONE EMPLOYEES GET 90% MINIMUM WAGE SCALE

Telephone workers in the employ of the Manitoba government will receive a minimum of 90% cents per hour and a maximum of 97 1/2 cents per hour in a new wage agreement which has been ratified by the Manitoba government, telephone commission and the Independent Brotherhood of Telephone Workers.

U.M.W. DISCUSS WAGE SCHEDULE AT CONVENTION

International and Local Situations Outlined By Western Organizers

The convention of United Mine Workers of District 18 opened in Calgary Monday, when a comprehensive report in the course of events in the mining district since the formation of the special commission was presented by Morgan Lewis, the chairman of the commission.

The convention which was called to discuss the new wage schedule, was addressed by A. Farnilo, William Houston and John Brown, international organizers, who outlined the international and local situation. In a well delivered speech which made a strong appeal to the delegates, A. Farnilo outlined the history of the division in the labor ranks in the west. "I am acquainted with officials and also with others who are not officials who have conducted an insidious propaganda for the depletion of your treasury," said Mr. Farnilo.

"All these people were unanimous in the great idea of scuttling the treasuries of the various local unions of this country."

"In Vancouver \$1500 from the treasury of the operating engineers' union had been disposed of, \$500 being voted to this gentleman and \$500 to that gentleman." Today, however, a majority of the members were again in the international. The teamsters' organization had suffered in a similar way, and the international had been compelled to proceed through law to get back an automobile which had been voted away.

"It was not a weapon they wished to use because it was the weapon of the capitalist, who fought labor through injunctions." Most of the money of Miners' local No. 77 had been secured again. But this dispersal of funds was going on everywhere. "While you are advised to keep your eye on the international officials, these people are depleting the treasury."

Miners to be Captured First. The disruptionists had expected to capture the miners' organization first. If the truth had been told the result of the ballot would have shown that a majority were not in favor of the O.R.U.

Stating that the miners had always

(Continued on Page Two)

R.R. LABOR BOARD HEARS DEMANDS OF WORKINGMEN

Wage Advances Should Be Granted to Many R. R. Workers To Meet H.C.L.

Representatives of the Association of Railway Executives appeared before the railroad labor board at their opening session in Chicago, Monday, and declared that wage advances should be granted to many railroad workers to enable them to meet the high cost of living.

"An increase in wages will result in increased rates to the public for railroad service," declared E. T. Wheeler, chairman of the conference committee of the rail managers of the executives' organization. "For every \$100,000,000 added to the payroll about three per cent must be added to freight rates," he stated.

Mr. Wheeler told the board that some part of the wage demands being made by 2,000,000 railway employees probably would be found to be justified by the rise in the cost of living. Agreement of the railroads themselves that at least a part of the men should have more money is expected to go far in expediting early settlement of the controversy which culminated last month in railway strikes throughout the United States.

SEATTLE OWNERS OF HOUSE BOATS WILL NOT PAY RENT

SEATTLE.—Owners of house boats tethered to a city bridge are refusing to pay the \$5 a month rental demanded by the city. One hundred families live in this fashion. The superintendent of buildings has asked the city council for an appropriation to prosecute the houseboat owners in the courts.

CONFERENCE ON CO-ORDINATION OF LABOR LAWS

Proceedings of the Second Days Sitting Is Given in Brief

By R. McCreath

After the formal opening of the Conference on Monday and at the close of the first day's proceedings it was decided to go into committee work starting Tuesday morning. Owing to the amount of investigation and tabulation necessary the committees sat all day Tuesday and Wednesday, the Conference re-convening Thursday.

First Session During the session on Monday President Tom Moore of Trades Congress took occasion to seek the sincerity of the government in the calling of, and the dealing with, the findings of their commission, frankly stating that past experiences of commissions, and particularly the Mathers' Commission, which had rendered such a splendid work and furnished a real report to the Dominion government on the Industrial Conditions in Canada, and giving fundamental causes of the unrest and practical remedies for such of the unrest, and with which report and findings nothing had been done by the Dominion government, had caused him to ask of the sincerity of the Dominion government on this occasion and that it was expected and hoped would be the outcome of this Conference. To this the Minister of Labor emphatically gave assurance of the sincerity and desire of the government to get somewhere through investigation and advice of these commissions.

In the choosing of all committee it was arranged to have one from each province on each committee as far as this was possible.

With the decision to exclude the press the following committee was appointed to look after publicity: McNeiven, B.C.; McNeil, Alberta, and Franq, Quebec.

Workers' Compensation Act: In bringing in report the matter was tabulated and explained under the various headings, a copy being furnished to each delegate in attendance. This enabled one to get a quick grasp of the differences in the various provinces and the application of the various acts. Much interesting and valuable information on various phases of Compensation laws and state insurance as compared with company insurance was given, the result of which all the essential and practical features are embodied in the findings of the Conference and report to the government.

Farmers and the Compensation Acts was also a feature of the subject, as was also the common law rights as retained by some branches of the railway brotherhoods.

All the various acts and matter put before the Conference by the Business Committee were briefly discussed in committee of whole before committees retired to prepare reports.

The Industrial Disputes Act (Lennox Act) was a feature of the session on the second day as the Labor representatives made it very clear that some means had to be adopted of making more use of the act and with more definite and satisfactory results than had been experienced in the past. The Minister of Labor expressed his desire to improve the act or remove any or all of its objectionable features.

SAMUEL GOMPERS GIVES HIS POSITION ON SOCIALISM

A frank statement by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, defines his position on Socialism clearly, as follows:

"I want to tell you Socialists that I have studied philosophy; read your works upon economics, and not the meanness of them; studied your standard works, both English and German—have not only read them, but studied them. I have heard your orators and watched the work of your movement the world over. I have kept close watch upon your doctrines for thirty years; have been closely associated—with many of you, and know how you think and what you propose; I know, too, what you have up your sleeve; and I want to say that I am entirely at variance with your philosophy—economically you are unsound; socially you are wrong; industrially you are an impossibility."

"Certainly nobody can accuse him of straddling the issue," says the Denver Labor Bulletin.

The action of the British Trade Union Congress last week in voting against a strike policy to force nationalization of the mines is another evidence that a labor is learning that the strike is a poor weapon to employ to gain its ends. The strike will not be discarded entirely; to do so would be to invite the employer to begin a system of oppression. But labor is learning there are other ways to win, and that the fruits of victory won by political action is more lasting.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PAYS IN TIME OF STRIKE

The Hamilton Bakery Workers have been forced to settle practically on the terms of the employer, and this in spite of a nearly one hundred per cent organization, thus again exemplifying the folly of a National union, says the New Democracy. You cannot get something for nothing, and it costs money these days to win strikes. Get into the International union boys, and you will soon see the difference.

CANADA WILL HAVE THREE DELEGATES GENOA CONFERENCE

J. G. Gauthier, of International Seamen's Union Will Represent Employees

Canada will have three delegates to the international labor conference which opens at Genoa, June 15. J. G. Gauthier, chief representative of the International Seamen's Union, and President of the Masters' Mates' and Pilots' Association of Montreal, will represent the employees. Thomas Robb, manager of the Shipping Federation of Canada, the shipping interests, and G. S. Desbarats, deputy minister of naval affairs, will represent the government. George Perley will also represent the Dominion government.

The conference has been called to deal with shipping matters and labor conditions as affecting seamen. The subjects for consideration, as indicated by the agenda, will have to do with hours of labor and their effect on the manner of accommodation of ships; articles of agreement; facilities for the employment of seamen; the Washington convention and its recommendations on unemployment; prohibition of the employment of children; and the possibility of establishing the international seamen's code.

The government was furnished some time ago with a questionnaire from the International Labor office bearing on the various points of the agenda. Answers to the questions asked have already been sent to the International Labor office. The answers were based on the law of Canada, regarding shipping matters and on information obtained from the shipping companies and labor men.

STRIKE OF HYDRO ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES HAS BEEN DELAYED

Legislation Is Promised For Settlement of Dispute At Niagara Falls

Employees of the Provincial Hydro-Electric Power Commission engaged in construction work on the Chippewa power canal at Niagara Falls, Ont., have delayed their intended strike, because of a promise that a resolution would be introduced in the legislature to appoint a board of members of the legislature to investigate the dispute between the men and the hydro commission.

A meeting of the employees was held on Monday at which several prominent labor members of the legislature spoke. Charles F. Swayze, labor member for Niagara Falls; Frank H. Catharines, and M. M. MacBride, labor member for South Brant, were present and advocated moderation by the men. Hon. Walter Rolfe, minister of labor, was expected but was unable to attend.

Mr. Swayze said there was a possibility that Sir Adam Beck, president of the hydro commission, would throw the whole hydro project back on the hands of the government, which could not handle it. The various speakers seemed to be under the impression that Sir Adam Beck was determined to break up the local labor organization and blame labor for the non-completion of the Chippewa power canal in August, 1921, the date it was supposed to be completed, and was in favor of a strike among the men.

NEW MONTREAL DAILY WILL ENDEAVOR TO ACT AS MEDIATOR

A new French morning paper, Le Matin, will make its appearance in Montreal on May 31st, according to an announcement by Dr. Gaston Maillet, who will be its proprietor. Dr. Maillet is the founder of L'autonorie, a French weekly, with which he is severing all connection and states that the new daily will be independent of political parties and will reflect only his personal views with an attempt to bring about a better understanding between labor and capital.

For constructive work nothing can excel home building.

GENERAL STAFF TO DIRECT LABOR IN GR. BRITAIN

Scheme Will Be Submitted To Trades Union Congress In September

(By the Federated Press)

LONDON.—A Labor General Staff which will unite and direct the activities of organizations representing more than 6,000,000 trade unionists in line with the definite policy of Labor gradually assuming control of industry, is about to be formed in England. Following the decision taken at the recent Trades Union Congress, plans are now under discussion for the formation of the staff.

Fred Bramley, secretary of the co-ordination sub-committee charged with the duty of drawing up a plan for the staff, announced that the complete scheme will be submitted to the Trades Union Congress at Portsmouth in September.

"The Congress will decide the final method to be adopted for making more efficient the trade union machine and for facilitating swifter methods for dealing with the emergencies which will undoubtedly arise."

According to Robert Williams, general secretary of the Transport Workers' Federation and convenor of the Triple Alliance, the need of such a general staff is clear to anyone who wants to see the working class progress.

"One feels that too often labor leaders and trade union officials are more concerned in buttressing the present system of fraud, chicanery and exploitation than in attempting to secure a world made free for everyone," he said.

"Six years' effort to improve the status of the workers by means of wages has been in vain, for what the lords of capital give with one hand they snatch back with the other. It remains as true today as ever that those who control the means of livelihood and support will also control prices."

"I remain firmly convinced that the vicious circle will ultimately strangle the capitalist system," declared Williams. "The application of the wages system is making increasingly clear the fallacy of maintaining a system which yields more rent, interest and profit to the useless ones and less of everything to the producing class."

"Under the present system the working class will not materially increase output unless and until assured that increased output is translated into improved conditions of life."

"To ask the British workmen to produce more, means to give the junker and militarist classes opportunity to increase the number of armed men in order to coerce and browbeat trade unionists when they become militant, to suppress Irish democracy, to help Germans who were responsible for the war, to suppress German democracy, to suppress the Russian Socialists, to fight against freedom in Hungary, Austria, and Egypt."

(Continued on Page Six)

WINNIPEG CIVIC EMPLOYEES WILL NOT ACCEPT NEW SCHEDULE

Winnipeg Civic Employees have decided not to accept the new wage schedule approved by the city council until further negotiations with the civic wage committee. Strong objection is taken to what is termed the "slave pact" which forbids the civic employees affiliating with any union, and which is the chief objection raised against the wage schedule.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

Prof. Ottevell's Third Article On University Extension Work

Article No. 3

In our last article it was noted that there was no discrimination in the early days of modern universities against poor students, but on the contrary they were specifically singled out as the persons for whom the universities existed.

Repeatedly in the foundation statutes of these institutions it was stated that "the persons accepted as students should include 'the poor,' 'the indigent,' 'men living on alms,' in most cases the applicant being required to make affidavit to a condition of poverty." However, before long exceptions were made, and presently we find students accused of wishing "to live more delicately than suits the poorer sections of the community and make the modus of their expenditure notably to exceed that which their founder by rule appointed."

Gradually, through various influences, the availability of a university education for the poorer class became less, and it is interesting to note some of the attempts made to restore this lost opportunity.

Near the close of the 19th Century Sir Thomas Gresham provided in his will for the foundation of Gresham College in London, an institution designed to serve, not only students in attendance, but also the general public. This is indicated by a provision for having university lectures, which at that time were given exclusively in Latin, repeated afterward in English, as set forth in the following quotation from the regulations: "Forasmuch as the public reading of the said lectures is to be performed in that manner as may most tend to the Glory of God and the common benefit of the people of this city, (which we do not doubt to be the principle ends of the founder in ordaining the said lectures) and for that the greatest part of the inhabitants of this city understand not the Latin tongue, whereby the said lectures in short time may become solitary if they shall be read in the Latin tongue only," it was ordained that every third lecture should be read in English and should summarize the two preceding lectures which had been delivered in Latin.

(Continued on Page Six)

AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYERS DECLARE COMPULSORY ARBITRATION FAILURE

SYDNEY, N.S.W.—Employers in Australia have voiced their protest against compulsory arbitration which they claim does not settle disputes but rather divides the workers and employees into two hostile camps. They suggest the abolition of the machinery of arbitration and the substitution of effective impartial tribunals which will fix the basic wage every year, such tribunals also to fix the amount to be paid to workers over and above the basic wage.

They aim at the creation of committees of councils for each trade, consisting of representatives of employers and employees to discuss the interests of both parties, settle grievances and troubles in the industry and generally bring about a better feeling between workers and employers.

ORGANIZED LABOR WILL NOT WELCOME STRIKERS IN ST. JOHN

Organized Labor will not extend a welcome to the Winnipeg strike leaders who intend going to St. John, N.E., according to a statement given out by Fred Campbell, president of the St. John Trades and Labor Council. Mr. Campbell stated that organized labor there had nothing to do with providing a hall or raising funds for the Winnipeg strike leaders; he, himself, was not in favor of extending a welcome to the men who lead the strike.

The Labor Advocate asks: "When the big railway brotherhoods and the shop crafts and the farmers complete their combination for co-operative buying, production and distribution, to reduce the cost of living, will they let our ordinary people in?" The co-operative movement is not founded upon selfishness. There is room for all sufferers.

WHAT WE ASKED WHAT WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATURE

Factory Act Legislation Is Dealt With By Walter Smitten

(Factories Act) What We Asked

Amend Section 26 to provide for maximum work day of 8 hours for five days of the week, with a further provision for a half-holiday on the other work day of the week, with a further provision for a maximum number of hours of forty-four per week.

We urge that substantial increases to the minimum wages specified be provided for.

When the scope of the Act to include all persons employed in hotels, boarding houses, and drug stores, also all persons employed back of the curtain line in all theatres and open air stages in parks and fair grounds; also all persons engaged in the projection rooms of theatres.

We request that the Government assume all responsibility for its enforcement; that the number of inspectors be increased; that the administration be removed from political influence; that night work in bakeries be prohibited.

What Was Passed

Section 26a was repealed and the following was substituted therefor: "The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint five persons, of whom two shall be representative of employers and two of employees, which said four persons, with a fifth to be appointed by the Attorney General shall constitute an advisory committee, whose duty it shall be to investigate and determine the amount that shall be paid as the minimum wage to any person under the age of eighteen years, and to any female person employed in any factory, shop, office or office building to which this Act applies, and also the number of hours per day per week during which any person shall be required to work in any place within this Act and also to determine what number or proportion of the employees in any shop, factory, office or office building may be apprentices."

Such advisory committee shall be empowered to enforce the attendance of witnesses, to examine them under oath, affirmation or otherwise, and to compel the production of such documents and things as may be necessary.

Such committee shall from time to time report to the Lieutenant Governor in Council the result of its findings, whereupon the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make an order or orders, which shall have the same force and effect as if incorporated herein, and in case of conflict between such order or orders and any part of this Act the provisions of such order or orders shall supersede and govern.

The members of the committee shall be paid such compensation for their services and expenses as may be determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

It shall be unlawful for any employer to discharge or threaten to discharge, or in any other manner endeavor to discriminate against any employee because such employee has testified or is about to testify, or because such employee believes that such employee may testify if any investigation or enquiry, or proceedings relative to the enforcement of this Act, or any enquiry thereunder.

For the more effectual carrying out of any of the provisions of this Act the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make such regulations as may be deemed necessary, which said regulations shall have the same force and effect as if incorporated herein.

An amendment was introduced which provided for the inclusion of employees in Hotels and Rooming Houses but for some reason the Attorney withdrew this at the third reading, and along with it eliminated restaurants.

(Continued on Page Two)

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(Continued on Page Two)

WOMEN ARE BEING TOO WELL PAID, SAYS WEALTHY MANUFACTURER

Senator John Milne, wealthy manufacturer, speaking at a meeting of the library board at Hamilton, Ont., declared women are being too well paid. Miss E. J. Reynolds, the lady member of the board, asked if he thought that the pay of library employees—\$11.00 per week—was sufficient for a girl away from home to live, dress and be decent on. "Yes," replied the senator, "women everywhere are paid too much money."

Firm names, brands and trade-marks lose their significance through the changes constantly in progress in the commercial world. The Union Label, owned by the union and subject to its control, represents at all times the same thing, fair wages, sanitary shop conditions, short hours and competent workmanship.