

LABOR NEWS FROM COAST TO COAST

The Associated Federal Employees of Ottawa.

Federal Union No. 66.

THE BONUS QUESTION.

One of the resolutions submitted by this union at the recent Trades and Labor Convention, and approved by that convention, calls for a revision of salary scales throughout the Service, with a view to the elimination of the bonus system. We think that very few, if any, in the Service wish to see the bonus system, which has been a constant source of discontent among the many injustices, slights, and anomalies which it has of late years been the fashion to heap upon the Service, the bonus stands first as a glaring evidence of lack of information, of thought and of fair-mindedness among those who framed the regulations governing its bestowal. Nothing else has been so destructive to the self-respect of the Service, and it has been necessary alone which compelled its acceptance, coupled with the general desire of the Service to ask nothing from the country during the war-period which could possibly be avoided. A civil servant must be pardoned for feeling that in fixing the terms of the present bonus, something worse than ignorance or thoughtlessness actuated the committee of the Cabinet engaged upon the work. The Civil Service Commission advised a bonus considerably higher than any granted, and further recommended that it be paid through-out the Service without distinction. This was certainly an improvement, and under the circumstances would have been acceptable. It was, however, far from the correct basis. The true state of the case was this: The Service was being held upon a salary scale drawn up years before, when the move toward higher cost of living, so rapid since 1914, had not yet begun. The purchasing power of money was, and had been, fairly stable, and it was with reference to that stable purchasing power that the salary scale was drawn. In other words, the Government had said to the Service, "Taking into consideration the purchasing power of money, we will pay you in such-and-such a position, so much money." The civil servant accepted that offer. However, during the war and post-war period, costs of living have increased enormously. The bargain in its former terms can no longer hold. The pre-war dollar has shrunk to less than half its former value. The Government, however, will pay you in such-and-such a position, so much money. The civil servant accepted that offer. However, during the war and post-war period, costs of living have increased enormously. The bargain in its former terms can no longer hold. The pre-war dollar has shrunk to less than half its former value. The Government, however, will pay you in such-and-such a position, so much money. The civil servant accepted that offer.

number of Parliament filing in a bonus application form, making statutory declaration that he was head of a household, or had other dependents, none of whom had an independent income of over \$100. Were any of them obliged to lay bare to commissions and committees their private affairs and responsibilities to gain increased indemnity? We do not find it in the record. This treatment was reserved for the service.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the service will not degrade itself by accepting, nor the Government by offering, a "bonus" for the coming year, apparently so deliberately planned to bring the service to the attention of the various Boards of Trade of the Dominion, and before the House of Commons and other clubs and organizations.

It was contended by Mr. Cantwell that postal employees as service men, and the people as just as vital to the success of a business man's affairs as the employee in his own office and should be so regarded. The question of the bonus was in the interests of business men to see that the postal employees were not "definitely" as it now stood, the sign of a defeat owing to the unremunerative salaries attached to the postal clerk's positions.

TRADES COUNCIL.

No more communications from the Winnipeg Defence Committee are to be read to the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association. This action was taken at the last meeting held on Friday night. During the reading of the Committee's objection was taken to the reading of a communication from that body by Delegate J. A. P. Haydon. The chairperson, there by read and then followed a lively debate in which Delegates Peter Leckie, Wm. T. McDowell, P. M. Draper, J. A. P. Haydon, Dan McNamee and Wm. Ledge took part. Delegate Haydon voiced strong objection, pointing out that the Winnipeg Defence Committee was not a union, and that the matter was finally disposed of by motion from Delegate Haydon that the communication be filed and that no further correspondence from the Winnipeg Defence Committee be read to the association.

The Executive Council's report, which was adopted, pointed out the regrettable incidents in connection with the other Division of the local newspapers pointing up many of the cases. The association were in favor of all publicity but were of the opinion that names should not be made public property.

Secretary Wm. Ledge read the report of the delegates to the Windsor Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The report was adopted with little discussion. Delegate McDowell desired some information as to the debate of the Irish question but was told that the matter was not a speaker, the delegate who introduced the resolution. The congress reiterated its stand of 1919.

A communication from the Chicago Federation of Labor caused a lively discussion between Delegate Draper and Delegate McDowell and Leckie. Delegate Draper pointed out that the Chicago Federation was not a union, and that the matter was finally disposed of by motion from Delegate Haydon that the communication be filed and that no further correspondence from the Chicago Federation of Labor be read to the association.

It is in other words, treating the problem of the indemnity of its members from 15,000 to 27,000 francs a year, etc. What a happy position to hold, where one may express appreciation of his own services and suggest an increase in their reward! Again—

Member—"I have not heard it questioned that the indemnity of \$2,500 previous to the war was a just and proper indemnity. Members of this House, if that was true, and if we admit, must admit that forty or fifty cents would go as far in purchasing power before the war as a dollar will go now, and if the \$2,500 was admitted to be fair when a dollar was worth a great deal more than it is today, how can any person argue that the present indemnity of \$2,500 is just? No person has argued it."

Precisely the contention of the Civil Service for a general bonus or salary increase to meet increased living costs. Why, then, is it not considered applicable in their case, yet a convincing argument in the case of members' indemnity? Again—

Member—"I claim that we are at least just as much public servants as the members of the Civil Service, and if we demand it our duty to increase their salaries by way of bonus. I believe that it is our duty, as representatives of the people, to treat this question on a par with the similar question as it affected the other branches of the public service."

"On a par?" An unfortunate expression! Have we ever heard of a

member of Parliament filing in a bonus application form, making statutory declaration that he was head of a household, or had other dependents, none of whom had an independent income of over \$100. Were any of them obliged to lay bare to commissions and committees their private affairs and responsibilities to gain increased indemnity? We do not find it in the record. This treatment was reserved for the service.

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TORONTO.

TORONTO NEWS BRIEFS.

Reports from the international convention of the Machinists' Union in session at Rochester, indicate a movement to establish co-operative factories for the manufacture of the craft's tools.

One hundred members of the Toronto Post-Grave Workers' Union went on strike last week for an increase from 35 and 40 cents to 70 cents an hour for skilled men, and 62 and 72 cents for assistants.

The Waiters and Cooks' Union have presented Messrs. Malcolm and H. Hannigan with gold watches for their services to the union during the past year.

General Organizer John Fleet of the American Federation of Labor is expected to visit the city during the last week of the month.

Twenty-five new members were initiated at the regular meeting of the Painters and Decorators' Union at the Labor Temple last week. This is the largest list of initiations which have been presented by a local union for some time.

Business Agent H. L. Lewis, of the International Machinists, reports that the conditions throughout the city at the present time are quite busy and that the outlook is better than it has looked for some time.

Business Agent Chas. Hardy, of the Builders' Laborers' Union, is adding new members to his organization since his appointment, and the union now has over 600 members.

Louis Morales, international representative of the Railway Clerks and Freight Handlers, who has been in conference with Canadian National representatives concerning the new rate schedules, has returned to New York.

At the meeting of the Building Trades Council in the Labor Temple last week the delegates from the Electrical Workers' and Building Trades Council reported that the inside electrical workers working on construction throughout the city would retain their affiliation with the international unions in the Building Trades Council. The council also decided to instruct the organizations who voted in favor of the blanket form of agreement to endeavor to apply it.

EASTERN CANADA.

N. S. MINERS' LOCALS TURN DOWN AWARD. The Port Mouton Miners' Local, following the example of the other locals, has turned down the award of the Royal Commission. The men accepted the recommendations of the U.M.W. executive with the proviso that the wage increase date from May first.

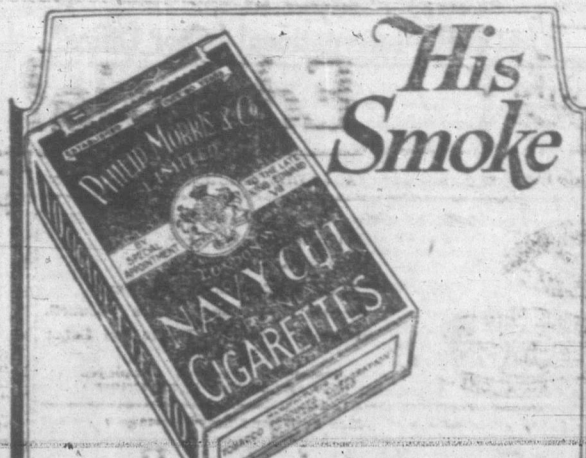
The California men also rejected the report and upheld the executive's recommendation, and the condition that the retroactive money date from May first.

When reports have been received from all the U.M.W. locals, the U.M.W. executive will issue suggestions to the Dominion Coal Company. Almost all the locals in the Cape Breton Coal fields have rejected the reports.

OWEN SOUND ORGANIZES AN L.L.P. A five branch L.L.P. has been organized at Owen Sound, Ont. T. G. Butterford, a comparatively young man who saw extensive service overseas, was the first member to sign the provincial charter. Indications are that an influential and commanding organization will be built up in Grey County and surrounding territory.

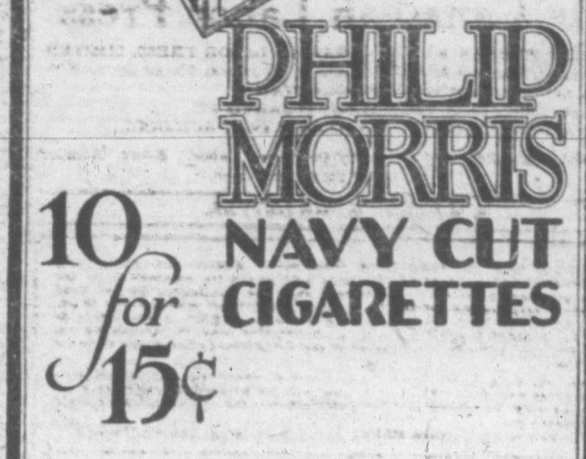
LISTOWEL CARPENTERS ORGANIZE. James F. Marsh, Carpenter's Brotherhood, was in Listowel, Ont., where he instituted a new local of inside woodworkers. Two weeks before a furniture finishers' local was started. Already both local unions have large memberships, with prospects for good growth.

LONDON WORKERS HAVE A GRIEVANCE. Mrs. Graham, widow of the late Robert M. Graham, for years principal of Simcoe Street School, has been appointed investigator of London claims by the central commission in charge of mothers' pensions. The appointment is opposed by the labor and soldier organizations of London, and already meetings to lodge protests have been called. Some time ago Dr. H. Stevenson, M.P. for London, waited on Major T. J. Murphy, a member of the commission, and informed him that Miss Daisy Thompson, daughter of John Thompson, a well-known local labor man, was to be named for the position of investigator. It is said the doctor and the major had a rather heated session, because the latter would not agree to accept the nomination of Miss Thompson. Objection to her rested mainly on the fact that the law says that such investigators must be at least 30 years of age, whereas Miss Thompson is but 28. She served overseas as a



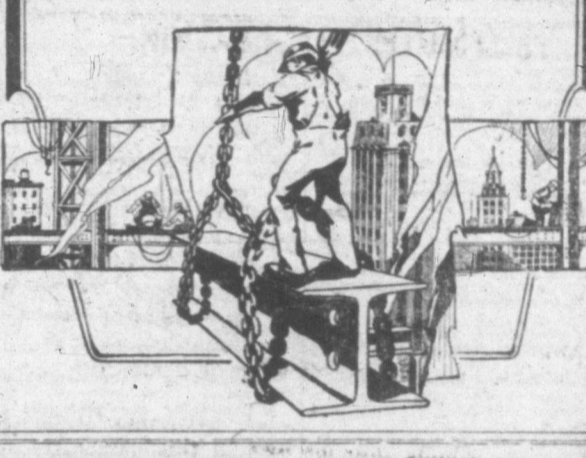
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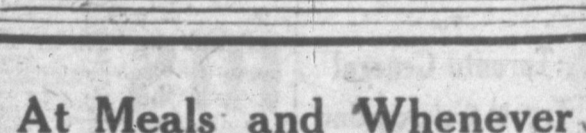
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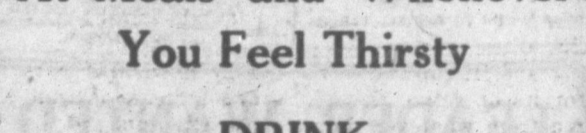


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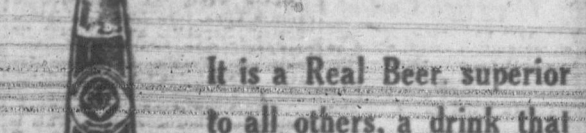
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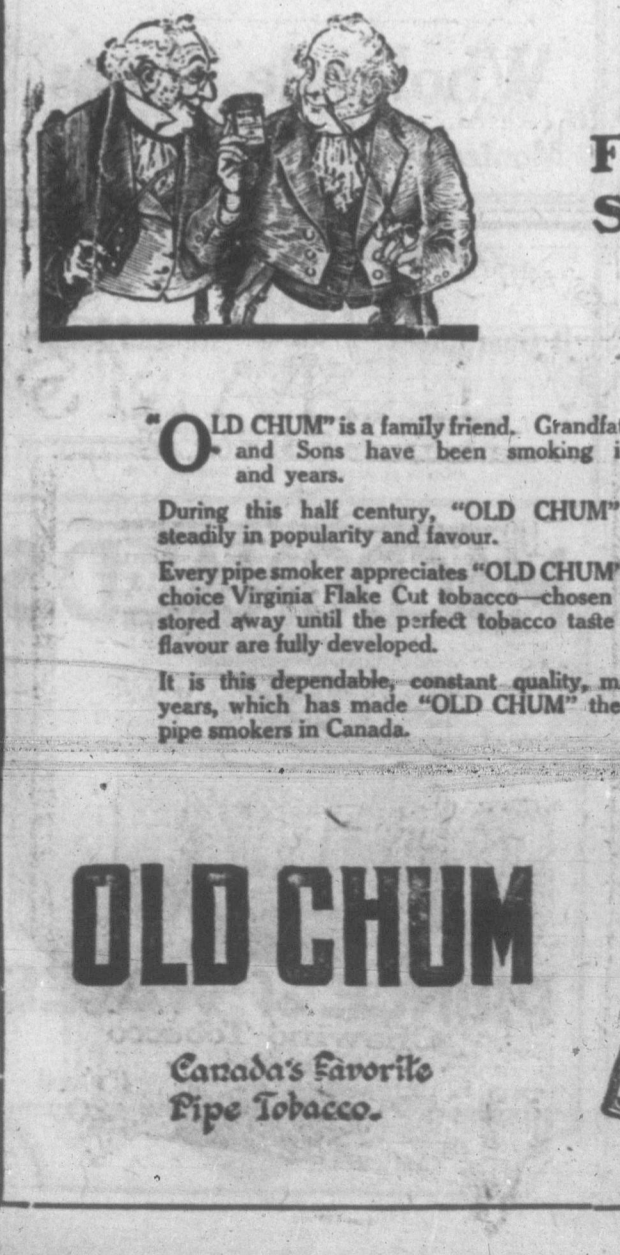
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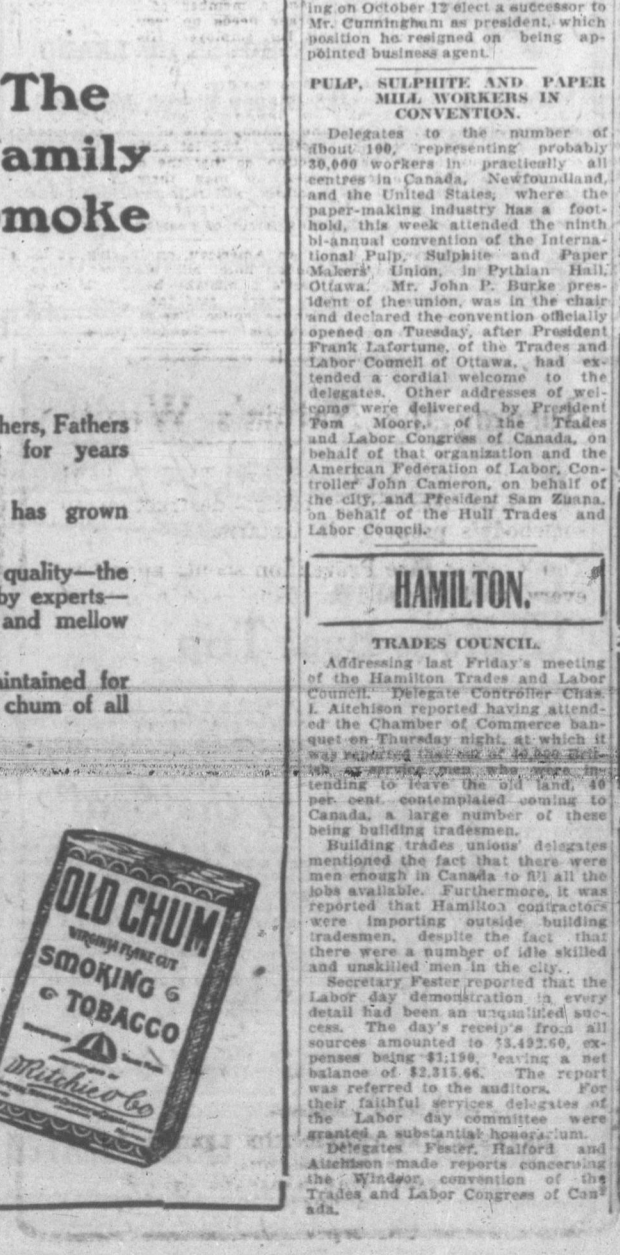
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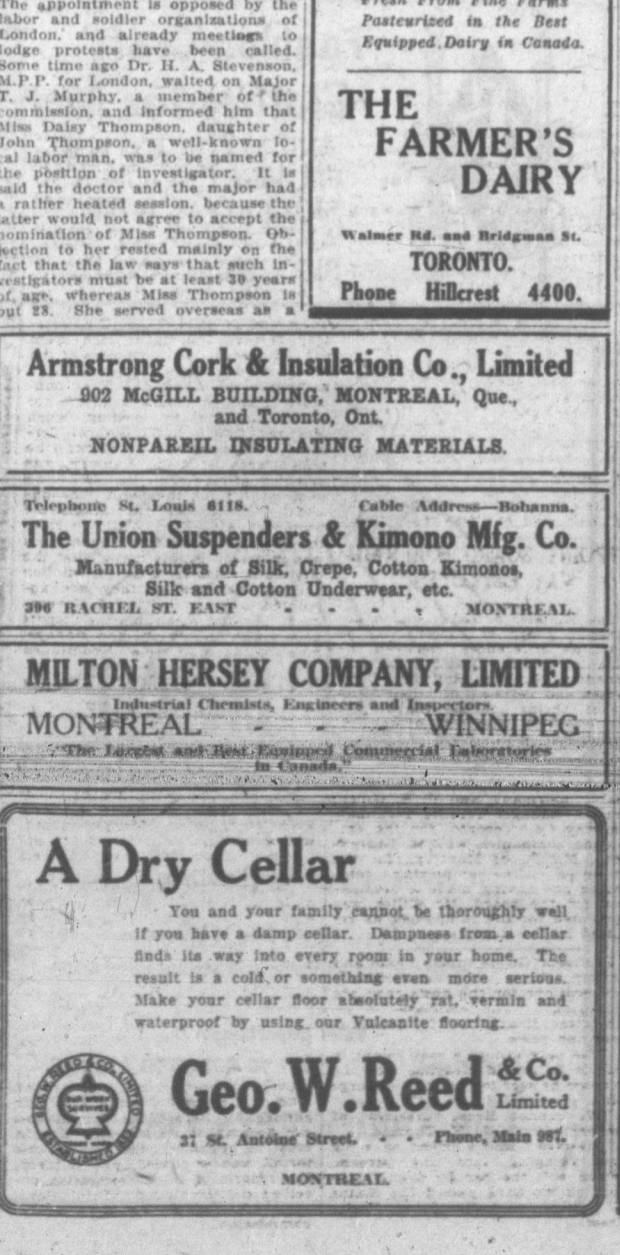
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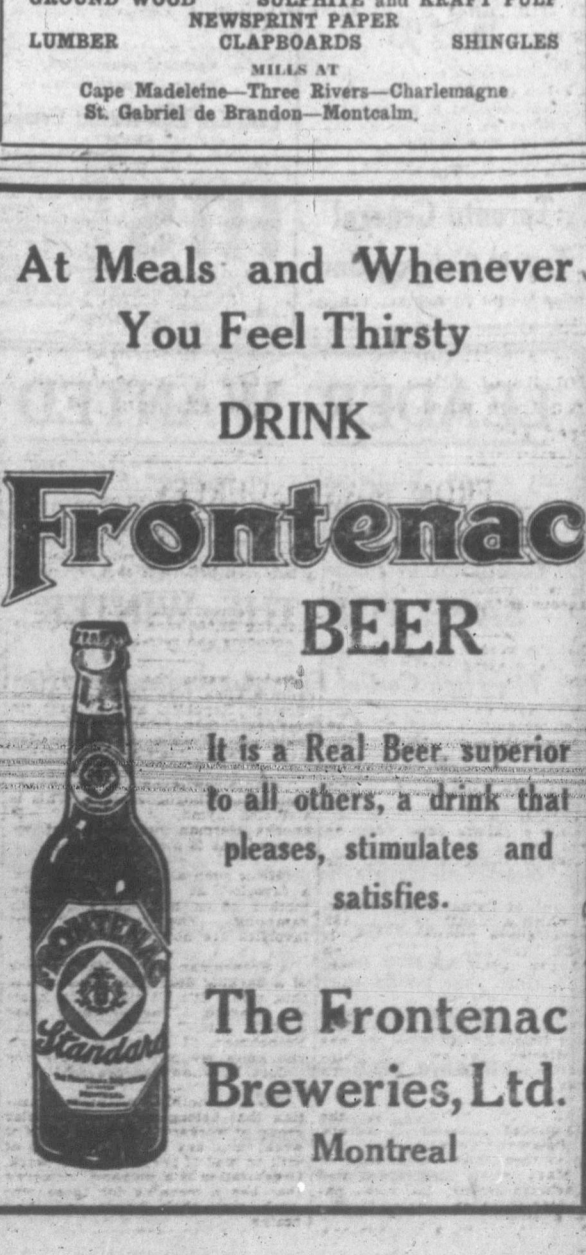
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