

UNEMPLOYMENT ASKS FOR SOLUTION

EVIDENCE IN HAMILTON BUILDING TRADES DISPUTE

Dealing with the Building Trades in Hamilton some of the evidence presented was as follows: Charles Turner, a sheet metal worker, told the board that employers had excessive profits, for, while they paid their men only 85c and 90c an hour, they charged \$1.50 an hour. J. B. Hiddell, a contractor, claimed that the contractors' charge was not unreasonable, since they had to set aside 65c for overhead charges.

BELGIUM ACCEPTS 8 HOURS

BRUSSELS, Belgium.—The eight-hour day and 48-hour week are established by law in this country. In a letter to the ministry of industry, labor and food, the king said: "I have just ratified the hours of employment act, the result of long discussions in parliament and of an agreement for which the chamber and the senate have made a praiseworthy effort of conciliation. The eight-hour day has therefore been won legally. It remains now to win it from an economic point of view."

RAILROADERS HEADS IN CONFERENCE

Prominent railroad executives and the chiefs of four international railway brotherhoods met in conference at Montreal for the purpose of discussing the revised rates of wages which have been submitted by a median committee in the form of a tentative agreement calling for an average wage reduction of 12 per cent. The employees concerned in the conference are engineers, firemen, conductors, and trainmen. The railroad officials will include Grant Hall, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway; S. J. Hanerford, vice-president of the Canadian National Railway; W. D. Robb, vice-president of the Grand Trunk Railway and others.

CALGARY TRADES COUNCIL

The Calgary Trades and Labor congress will carry on for another year without the aid of an organized, this was decided upon at the regular meeting of the trades council, held in the labor temple last evening. The condition of the council at the present time is such that they decided that it would be better to carry on under voluntary conditions, and on a motion to lay that matter over for another year was carried without a dissenting voice.

WRITES OBITUARY O.B.U.

Former International Organizer, R. C. McCutchen, presents his summary of the western situation in the following: "It will no doubt be of interest to the readers of labor papers throughout Canada, to have a report in regard to the conditions of the labor unions throughout Western Canada, particularly upon the railroads, and as the writer has just returned from a three month trip during which all of the railroad division points in Western Canada were visited and who feels that he can speak from first hand information and experience on the subject for that section."

MUNICIPAL HEADS REALIZE SERIOUSNESS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Coming directly in touch with the general seekers for work, the seriousness of the unemployment is being brought home forcibly to the municipal heads from the mayors of the cities to the Reeves of the burghs. It is not so much the seriousness of the situation in the balmy summer which in itself is creating misgivings but analyzing what is to follow when climatic conditions aid to a general cessation of building and work for the laborer.

SEEK ORGANIZED LABOR ASSISTANCE

Believing the efforts put forward last winter on behalf of the unemployed in Toronto were "sporadic," the Workers' International League, an organization of that city, has commenced a winter plan for sustained agitation this fall and winter. The league met again last week and drafted a letter to be sent to all working-class organizations, asking them to send delegates to a meeting to be held in September.

UNIONISTS GO INTO BUSINESS

The striking employees of the New Brunswick Power Company, at St. John, got a part of their business in operation in competition with the company's street railway service. The union service took in the main line routes and the Haymarket Square depot of union employees and the employment of strike breakers.

TO WIDER ORGANIZATION

One of the active spirits in the movement, said an effort was being made to get in touch with organizations in various centres dealing with unemployment problems, or to form organizations where none existed, for the purpose of having demonstrations simultaneously and that resolutions might be uniform in spirit.

TORONTO TRADES COUNCIL

TORONTO, July 21.—At last meeting of Toronto District Trades and Labor Council, a resolution was adopted endorsing the strike of the Toronto job printers, and condemning the action of the Toronto Typographers' organization, in pledging itself not to patronize shops which conceded the union demand for a 44-hour week. The resolution concluded with the clause: "And that we hereby notify the Typographers and its 'influence' agents that if they carry out their threats to boycott the union shops, we shall take a hand in the fight, and we know how to make an open shop mean an empty shop."

FIGHT MINIMUM WAGE LAW

The District of Columbia, U.S., minimum wage law is endangered by the district court of appeals permitting a rehearing of its decision in favor of the law. The case will be fought out next fall. Recently this court sustained the law by a two-to-one vote. Justice Van Orsdell dissenting. That justice was so alarmed he declared that if the law is constitutional it is but one step to communism, "when the thrifty and provident would be compelled to divide with his indolent neighbor."

TOM MOORE AT MUNICIPALITIES CONVENTION

President Tom Moore, of the Trades and Labor Congress, was an invited guest and speaker at the Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities in session at Ottawa, on Thursday last. Taking up the subject of municipal ownership, he stated that the tendency towards public ownership of utilities would grow considerably in the next few years. The change in the general attitude towards public ownership was described. Public ownership would be made efficient largely through public mind.

PROFITING PRICES SHOWN

An investigation by a Montreal paper discloses the fact that housewives are paying 15 to 20 cents a pound more for meat than they should. There has recently on account of the cattle being dumped on the market through inability of the Quebec farmers to feed stock during the drought, been a tremendous decline of the live stock market in prices. The butchers have ignored it and the paper is urging housewives to organize and draw their attention to it. The newspaper shows where the butchers are making as much as 200 per cent. gross profit on some lines of meat.

INVTED TO QUEBEC CONVENTION

An invitation has been sent to His Eminence Cardinal Bevin, archbishop of the diocese of Quebec, to open the big convention of the International Typographical Union, which will begin at Quebec on August 8. Invitations will also be sent to the new governor-general, Hon. Arthur Meighen, prime minister; Hon. Gideon Robertson, minister of labor; Hon. Hugh Guthrie, minister of militia and defence; the Lieutenant Governor; Premier Taschereau; Hon. A. Galipeau, Mayor Samson, Major C. G. Power, M.P., and others.

MANCHESTER WAR DOOMED

The world war has aroused workers to the drab existence and "militarized" life in industry as conducted today, says the Manchester Guardian, which declares that "the war has been followed everywhere by a reduction of the working day."

OTTAWA PLUMBERS WIN THEIR CASE

Coming out on strike 100 per cent. and going back with the same strength the strike of plumbers and steamfitters of Ottawa and district came to an end and the men are now at work. On May 1st, Local Union 71 of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters reduced tools as a protest against reduction of wages and against the institution of open shops.

GENERAL PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Charles Dold has resigned as president of the Piano, Organ and Musical Instrument Workers' International Union. He has held this position for many years, and in succeeding by Jacob Fischer, of New York city. The former executive, together with organized the De Luxe Piano Company, and are engaged in the manufacture of upright pianos, player pianos, grand pianos and phonographs. It is announced that the strictly union basis, and will operate under the day work system and 44-hour week.

REJECT PENSION PLAN

Atlantic City, N.J.—The convention of the National Brotherhood of Operative Printers rejected a resolution providing for benefits to retired workers from the unemployment fund. The sentiment was strong for a pension fund, but not at the cost of the unemployment fund, which defenders claim is now carrying its full burden.

IRON WORKERS MOVE

St. Louis, Mo.—The office of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers' International association has been moved to this city from Indianapolis. The transfer of all the records and office furniture was made by motor truck.

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE

St. Paul, Minn.—Employing printers decline to act on the governor's suggestion that differences over the 44-hour week be arbitrated. The state has created machinery to adjust industrial disputes, but the employers and their secret backers, will not accept this peace plan.

MONTEAL STREET RAILWAY MEN APPLY FOR BOARD

After a meeting lasting nearly three hours some thousand members of the Montreal Tramway Employees' Union tonight unanimously decided to suspend four parliaments entered into with the Montreal tramways company by their negotiations committee to apply to the Department of Labor and to demand the application of the Industrial Disputes Act to adjudicate between the company and the men in connection with the proposed wage cut of twenty per cent. to become effective August 1st.

BUY CANADIAN GOODS

Exchange will be a joke; 'Twill keep the wheels turning. At work for Canadian folk; Don't spend your cash on goods produced in foreign lands afar, And mighty soon, the Canadian 'Dime' will climb right back at par; For while we're fond of Uncle Sam and like him as a neighbor, We're first of all for Canada—It's Capital and Labor.

EXPLAINS HIGH PRICES

HARRISBURG, Pa.—Last year's drastic mines of this state employed fewer workers and produced less coal than in 1919, but the product sold for \$71,888,900 more in 1920 than in 1919.

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GOOSE AND GANDER SAUCE

MONCTON, N.B.—The Westmorland County Council now in session at Dorchester has adopted a resolution requesting that the management of the government owned railways reduce the salaries paid executives and officials in at least the same proportion as the reduction affecting subordinate employees. Copies of the resolution will be forwarded to the Dominion Premier and the minister of railways and canals.

OPPOSE COOLIE LABOR

WASHINGTON.—At a conference with the president, President Gompers protested against the proposed admission of Chinese coolies into Hawaii. The trade union executive made the point that if this principle is established in Hawaii sugar planters in this country will insist that they can not compete with Hawaiian sugar unless they, too, are permitted to import their own coolies.

VELVET GLOVE CONCEALS IRON ANTI-LABOR FIST

Says the A.F. of L. news letter that every advance by labor is marked by three stages—open antagonism, alleged friendship with hostile design, and final acceptance. These stages are clearly marked as labor develops power and ability to shape a substantial public opinion for the cause it pleads at that special time. When cornered the second stage is the employer's favorite device. It may be termed the "velvet-glove" period, and now confound organized labor in the form of company "unions," which their backers call "industrial democracy" and "employers' representation."

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SHOWS NECESSITY FOR UNIFORM COMPENSATION LAWS

Mr. Auguste Lemieux, K.C., of Ottawa, acting on behalf of the J. R. Booth Company, Limited, of Ottawa, had a lengthy conference with Premier Taschereau and Hon. Antoine Galipeau, Minister of Labor of Quebec, with reference to the alleged unjust manner in which the Ontario Compensation Board has been dealing with the employees of J. R. Booth, who work in Ottawa, but live in Hull, P.Q.

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