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LEGISLATION ASKED BY ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOR

What Was Asked and What Was Passed at Last Session of Legislature

By Walter Smitten, Secretary Alberta Federation of Labor.

ALLOWANCES TO PARENTS AND CHILDREN

What We Asked

1. This Act shall be cited as the Children's Welfare Act.
2. There shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council a commission of three persons, the duties of which shall be to study and once in every three months to declare the cost of living in the various parts of the province.

3. The existing Boards of Welfare in cities and municipalities shall be recognized by the Government, and similar boards, formed in municipalities where such do not at the present time exist; to which boards any parent who can prove to the board his or her inability to earn, or the fact that he or she is not receiving the proper income to meet the "proper cost of living" for himself or herself or his or her family could appeal for the necessary sum to make up the deficit, which sum would be granted to such parent from the consolidated revenue funds of the province as his or her due as the parent of a member or members of the state.

4. It shall also be the duty of the boards of welfare and the municipalities involved to obtain free medical treatment, in the home or in the hospital, both in the case of the mother and in the case of any child, where the expenses of such medical treatment would cause the income of the family to fall below the "proper cost of living" and similarly for the fullest education for all children in the community.

5. No mother shall be expected to work, except at her own household duties, while she has any children under twelve years of age, nor shall any child under the age of eighteen years be permitted to work in order to enlarge the family income.

6. In the case of the desertion or permanent incapacity, or death of the husband, any mother, who shall satisfy the Welfare Board that her income is insufficient, shall be entitled to the difference between her income and the "proper cost of living," both for herself and for her children until the education of the children is completed.

In the case of the desertion of a husband by his wife the amount paid by him in wages to the bringer up of his children shall be taken into account by the Board of Welfare in judging his ability to the "proper cost of living." It shall be the constant endeavor of the Welfare Boards to preserve the family life in every possible case.

7. Nothing in this Act shall be held to restrain the provisions of the Delinquent Children's Act, or the Workmen's Compensation Act or the Factories Act except in so far as definite change is ordered herein.

8. Any person committing a fraud on this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Ten Dollars (\$10.00) or imprisonment not exceeding one month.

What Was Passed.

No consideration was given the measure suggested by us, but amendments were made to the existing legislation limiting its operation to widows who were resident in the province at the time of the passing of the Act or whose husband was a resident of the province at the time of his death, or at the time of his entering the hospital for the insane. Changing the periods of payment from weekly to monthly.

The present measure is far too narrow as it only provides for assistance being given to widows or women whose husbands are inmates of the hospital for the insane. Surely those other cases covered in the measure presented by us are entitled to consideration, they should not be dependent on charity for the necessities of life. Then the present measure provides that one inspector or superintendent shall have charge of the administration of the Act, that each city or municipality shall appoint and pay a local inspector or assistant, who shall investigate and recommend to the superintendent the amount of assistance that, in his or her opinion, is required for the various cases that are brought to his or her attention. When the amount has been fixed provision is made that 50% shall be paid by the city or municipality and 50% by the government.

Having nothing definite specified for their guidance the inspectors have to use their judgment as to the amount required, which, seeing they are servants of the various civic governments, who would be liable to discharge them if the cost was not kept down as low as possible, are not at all adequate in most cases.

Instances have come to my attention where widows have been told that the

PROSPECTS FOR INCREASE FOR MAINTENANCE OF WAY MEN BRIGHT

There is every reason for believing that the negotiations with the railway wage board, which are proceeding, will result in a substantial wage increase for the maintenance of way men, according to Secretary W. F. Kerr. "The present rate," he said, "is forty cents an hour, with fifty-seven cents as the maximum. I defy anyone to say that forty cents is a living wage as conditions are now, and it would be too bad if a government railway like the Canadian National insisted on keeping the pay for its maintenance of way men down to that figure."

FIRE FIGHTERS OF ONTARIO HAVE SCORED TRIUMPH

Obtain One Day Off In Seven By Peaceable Legislative Enactment

An instance of what may be obtained by peaceable legislation has just been demonstrated by the Fire Fighters of Ontario, who have scored a triumph in their effort to obtain one day off in seven by legislative enactment.

Considerable interest was manifested in the splendid battle waged by the fire fighters for the one day off in seven. Under the double platoon system, now in operation in Toronto and other parts of the province, the fire fighters had to work eighty-hour hours a week. The staff was worked two shifts of twelve hours each shift. At the end of the sixth day a working day of twenty-four hours was necessary to provide for the change from day to night shift.

Under these conditions the fire fighters never enjoyed a clear off-day of twenty-four hours. They were never allowed to get beyond the city limits without the consent of the fire chief. On the other hand the policemen were working on the eight-hour basis, and other civic employees had been granted the 44-hour week, and for these reasons the fire fighters had the strong support of the citizens of the province in their request for one day off in seven.

Their appeals to municipal councils for this important concession had not always met with the hearty approval of representatives of the people, the objection being raised that it would increase expenditure and aid to the tax rate. Realizing that strikes among fire-fighters were very unpopular, the committee representing the Toronto Fire Fighters' Union, decided to make an effort to obtain legislation from the Provincial Legislature which would apply to all incorporated towns and cities in the province.

To reach this objective it was necessary that the committee should get in touch with the fire fighters throughout the province. Visits were made to a number of the largest towns and cities.

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MINE WORKERS TO ASK INCREASE OF 13 PER CENT

Scale Committee Have Reached An Agreement At Calgary Conference

The scale committee of the conference of the United Mine Workers of America which has been in session at Calgary, have reached an agreement on a request for an increase of 13 per cent over the schedule now in effect, and the increase will be 27 per cent above that in effect at October 31, 1919.

Reports of the increase have been confirmed by Robert Livett, district organizer, and John P. White, international officer of the U.M.W.A. The increase is to equal the average increase of 24 cents a ton awarded by the Washington commission, said Mr. White. The Washington award was on a tonnage basis; here it is according to scale. Besides the request for an increase in wages, the miners will present other requests for better working conditions. There will be many of them, but the operators will have no reason for balky at granting them, according to Mr. Livett, as they are reasonable. They will be similar to those in effect in other mining districts.

small sum they may have received from insurance must be practically used up before assistance will be granted; others, where property was left, that this must be sold and the proceeds used. In fact, the measure is administered as if it were charity that is being given instead of just rights. What we require is a measure that will guarantee a full and sufficient living for all.

Innkeepers in trade disputes will be considered next week.

CARPENTERS IN WINNIPEG DENY O.B.U. CLAIMS

Reports That They Have Gone Over to O.B.U. In a Body Are Untrue

Misleading statements in some papers have given the impression that the Winnipeg Carpenters have gone over to the O.B.U. The Western Labor News, issue of May 21st, has the following to say in regard to the matter:

"Charles Harding, business agent District Council of Carpenters, says that the talk about wide defections from the ranks of the carpenters to the O.B.U. is mostly talk put forward in the newspapers to try and induce many who have not broken away to do so. There is no serious break in the ranks of the carpenters. The O.B.U. has nothing to offer the men. It has no standing with employers or the public. It cannot be of any advantage to carpenters. Dual unionism would simply destroy all that has been done in the organization of the carpenters so far, and would give them nothing in return. The Vancouver O.B.U. newspaper reports that the Winnipeg carpenters had gone over to the O.B.U. in a body. This is untrue. It is the direct opposite of the fact. It was just the same sort of stuff published in Winnipeg about other places, and he supposed such yarns were about all the organization had to live on. It just shows the kind of condition they are in."

"Numerically in Winnipeg the organized carpenters have made more members than they have lost to the O.B.U. New men are coming into the city, and without exception they are joining up with the International union. It is the work of the International organization in Winnipeg which has made the city the best place on the map for carpenters, and most men have sense enough not to wish to see this work destroyed, and the condition of labor depressed through the activities of a few irresponsible men. These acts as if they did not want better conditions for working men, but worse, in order to increase discontent. Misery among workers is their meal ticket."

A Local Committee which may consist simply of a group of representative citizens of any community who undertake to secure audiences for the lectures and to meet all expenses associated with them, which are ordinarily chargeable to the local centres. Under this method of organization expenses are defrayed by the sale of admission tickets to the lectures.

B. University Extension Societies—The principle on which a University Extension Society is formed is that of securing a body of annual subscribers. This method has the great advantage of insuring a definite fund for the carrying on of the work and more complete plans can be made than under the method described under A. Special provisions are made for the members of friendly societies, co-operative societies, mutual improvement associations and the like.

C. Students' Associations—The object of the Students' Association is to do all in its power to help the lectures achieve the best results. Usually the members of this organization pay themselves to see that the necessary tickets are sold and to ensure the widest kind of publicity. Usually it holds meetings in addition to the regular lecture gathering and frequently develops into what is to all intents and purposes an educational club for its members.

It is then necessary to provide libraries which are furnished in the form of travelling libraries, by the university. Local groups pay cost of carriage and make good unnecessary loss or damage.

There is also a co-operation of various centres for the purpose of comparing results and obtaining the help and inspiration which such co-operation gives.

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CONFERENCE ON CO-ORDINATION OF LABOR LAWS

Proceedings of the Sitzings of the Conference Given In Brief

By Robert McCreath

The various members of the Commission had, as a rule, prior to their arrival at the capital, received from the Department of Labor copies of abstracts of Canadian legislation on each of the four following subjects, namely: (1) Workmen's Compensation, (2) Minimum Wages, (3) Inspection and Regulation of factories, shops and office buildings, (4) Regulation of Mines, and it was assumed by the Commission that it would be the desire of the Government that these subjects, while by no means exhausting the field for effective work with respect to the unification of labor legislation, should in the first place receive attention. The Commission proceeded on these lines accordingly and after a brief review of the ground to be covered, committees were appointed to take up for consideration and necessary action each of the four subjects named above; a committee was also appointed to consider and deal with the subject of legislation with respect to industrial disputes so far as this matter was deemed to be before the commission. Each of these committees has reported and their respective findings have been made a portion of the report of the Commission and are hereto attached.

A further committee was appointed to consider the question of the establishment of an organization deemed likely to be of benefit for the promotion of the uniformity of labor legislation. The committee submitted a document on the basis of discussion and not as a report, but owing to variance of opinion in the whole matter was laid on the table.

Committee on Workmen's Compensation Legislation—The committee on Workmen's Compensation Legislation began its work on the 15th of May. It had the honor to receive from the Department of Labor a copy of the report of the Commission on the subject of exclusive state insurance to be administered by a Board.

2. That all workmen, not specially exempted under the Act, who work in an industry which comes within the scope of the Act, shall be under the Act, regardless of the amount of their remuneration.

3. That all employees of Provincial Governments and of Municipalities, including Police and Firemen, be included in the Act.

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LONGSHOREMEN AT SEATTLE HAVE FORMED CO-OP. ASSOCIATION

Seattle.—Striking longshoremen here are undertaking to load and unload ships through their own concern, the Longshoremen's Co-operative association. Longshoremen's union 28-12 is preparing to do stevedoring contracting in all other Pacific ports.

This is labor's challenge to the anti-union fight being waged by the employers.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

Prof. Ottewill's Fourth Article University Extension Work

University Extension work in England is carried on by means of three types of lectures.

1. Pioneer Lectures—The pioneer lecture is usually a single lecture given for the purpose of arousing interest and stimulating the desire for more extended courses of instruction. It is popular in character and has no class or examination associated with it.

2. Short Courses of Lectures—These courses usually consist of a series of six lectures and have classes, paper work by students, and final examinations associated with them, but no recognition is given by the university authorities for the work done.

3. Full Course of Lectures—The full course may vary from twelve to twenty-four lectures, depending upon the type of local organization under the auspices of which it is given. Classes, essays and final examinations are made use of and a successful completion of the assigned work is given some form of recognition by the university authorities.

The local organizations for making the arrangements are of various kinds. In the regulations of the University of Cambridge four set local agencies are mentioned.

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BUILDING GUILDS ARE POPULAR IN PARTS OF ENGLAND

A building Guild committee has been formed for Stockport, England, and affiliated with Manchester, following upon a recommendation made to a mass meeting of operatives by the local committees of the Manchester Building Trades Unions.

Mr. Hobson, secretary of the Manchester Guild committee, recommended the new committee to open negotiations with the Romley Urban District Council, with a view to building 400 houses in the district.

In Widnes, the building trade operatives have unanimously pledged themselves to support the Building Guild scheme. The local committees of building operatives at Bolton are also in favor of Guild schemes, and are calling a mass meeting with a view to supporting the proposals.

The constitution of the Manchester Guild has now been approved; provision is made in it for the eventual co-ordination of all local committees into a National Building Guild.

Moscow.—A suggestion that all street car traffic be made free has been made to the Petrograd soviet by its executive committee.

PUBLIC BEING BURDENED BY "LUXURY" TAX

Toronto Globe Shows Up Profits of Some Canadian Industries

Following upon its attacks on the new budget, the Toronto Globe, about the only eastern newspaper which exhibits a clear conception of the exact meaning of the Drayton proposals, publishes a long list of Canadian textile and woolen manufacturers that have made millions in profits during the past year, whose net earnings during that time have ranged from 12 1/2 to over 25 per cent, under the seven per cent excise tax, and yet have their exemptions increased to ten per cent.

The woolen textile industry is shown to have earned over three and a half millions, or 18.1 per cent on capital invested, after having allowed over a million dollars for "sundries," while the average paid to their employees during the year amounted to only \$624, in these days of high living costs.

The cotton industry earns no less than \$8,406,952 net, or 25.8 per cent profit. The charge to "sundries" was \$4,879,860 and the average earnings per year for employees were but \$532.23.

The hosiery and knit goods industry carried a net profit for the year of \$7,709,246, or 24.7 per cent; the sum of \$715,847 was charged to "sundries" and the average wage of an employee was but \$516.32 per year.

The men's furnishing goods industry earned a net profit of \$1,570,735, or 12.4 per cent. "Sundries" were charged up in the government returns as \$7345,690 and the average wage of an employee was only \$401.21.

"Interests" Protected—These and other figures are compared to illustrate that while the purchasing public is being burdened, by Sir Henry Drayton with taxation upon taxation, exorbitant on top of customs tariff, and sales tax on top of both, the big protected Canadian industries that enjoy protection from the Canadian people, who in their patriotic desire to build up Canadian industry and provide legitimate public revenue to pay the war debt and national expenses, have not been touched by the new taxation, but have had their profits exempted to a further extent in face of the fact that their earnings in some cases have been excessive, while the liberal allowance for "sundries" indicates that they have not even honestly met the government demands in connection with the business profits tax.

Writing to "Friend Tom" (Cassidy), one signing himself "Bob" under San Francisco date line of April 24th, relates a story from which I trouble to quote as follows:

"Mat Glendy put me to work in the Bethlehem Steel last week, and he has put more than me in, and we are no scales. Mat has a pull in the Bethlehem Steel and the Union Construction Yard and he is filling both with good O.B.U. card men. . . . In the Bethlehem Steel there are quite a few Montreal boys, all good fellows, all holding down the best jobs."

Now what are the widely known facts regarding the San Francisco Bay District where "Mat" has a pull with employers and busily engaged filling struck shops with "good O.B.U. card men."

In the month of August when the Yards were in full operation and every body at work, a new wage agreement was negotiated and signed up between

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KINNEY PLEASSED WITH RESULTS OF CONFERENCE

Practically All of Recommendations Made Will Be Put Into Effect

Ald. J. A. Kinney, commissioner of the Workmen's Compensation Board, reports that the conference at Calgary was very satisfactory in every way. Practically all the recommendations made by delegates at the conference will be put into effect by the board on October 15, 1920.

"The conference has been the most representative that the board has ever held," said Mr. Kinney. "The discussion which was mainly of a technical nature, was taken part in by employers and representatives of most of the larger municipalities in Southern Alberta, and was eminently satisfactory. Conferences of this kind are of great assistance to the board in order that views of employers and workmen may be obtained before putting into effect regulations that affect both very greatly."

"In my opinion, this policy of conferences is a good one, knowing that successful administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act can only be made possible through close co-operation of employers, workmen and the medical profession."

The conference dealt with amendments and additions to the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Electrical Protection Act.

BREWERY WORKERS AT MILWAUKEE, WIS. GO OUT ON STRIKE

Milwaukee.—Between 35 and 40 union machinists employed by five local breweries have gone on strike to enforce a wage demand of \$1 an hour.

The breweries affected are: Schlitz, Jung, Pabst, Blatz and Miller.

UNITED FARMERS POLITICAL CONVENTIONS TO BE HELD SOON

Alberta United Farmers will hold three political conventions in the near future. The Battle River convention will be held at Wainwright on June 15 and 16; the Strathcona convention will take place in Wetaskiwin on June 22 and 23; and the Victoria district convention in Camrose on July 7 and 8. Two conventions—those of Medicine Hat and Lethbridge districts—have already been held. No notification of the dates proposed for the conventions in the remaining seven federal constituencies have as yet been given out.

O.B.U. TACTICS IN CALIFORNIA ARE EXPOSED

Writer in Western Labor News Says O.B.U. Are Scabbing in Western State

(By James Somerville, Western Representative I.A. of M., in Western Labor News)

We have met with many manifestations of O.B.U. psychology during recent times, some amusing, some explainable, but after trying to fathom the motive for publishing such a recital of villainy as appeared in the Winnipeg O.B.U. Bulletin of May 15th, we are disposed to say, here at last is something new under the sun.

If organized scabbery is to be condoned and raised to respectability by such brazen effrontery, then off a truth the O.B.U. has conceived from abyssal depths, something God never intended the sun to shine upon. Begging the reader's pardon, I wish to turn over the fifth and see.

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SHORTAGE OF R.R. MECHANICS ON ALL LINES IN U.S.

Reason Is That In Other Industries Machinists Get Higher Pay

Washington.—Bert M. Jewell, head of the Railway Employees' Department of the American Federation of Labor, told the Federal Labor Board here that there was a serious shortage of mechanics on all railroad lines.

In the territory between Pittsburgh, Pa., and Columbus, Ohio, more than 7,000 railroad shompen are out, according to reports received by the Railway Employees' Department of the A.F. of L. The men declare they are not on strike, but have quit their jobs because their wages are unsatisfactory. "The railroads cannot get machinists," said Jewell, "for the reason that in other industries machinists receive higher rates of pay."

"On the Seaboard line machinists receive a minimum of 72 cents an hour. In private contracting shops which repair locomotives for this line machinists in the same lodge receive 90 cents an hour and do lighter work."

The national agreement received from the Railroad administration by the shopkeepers had cost the unions \$300,000, according to Jewell. He said this expenditure was necessary to gather all the essential data.

The union label protects the trade union against attack by constituting the purchaser the real employer.

WOMEN WILL BE MAIN FACTORS IN REDUCING H.C.L.

Steady Pressure of Their Demand For Lower Prices Will Bring Results

By F. R. Contant, Philadelphia

The following article from the pen of F. R. Contant, formerly vice-president of the local Labor Party, will be of interest to Edmonton readers. Mr. Contant, who is in the editorial department of the N. W. Ayer Co., of Philadelphia, in a letter to the editor, wishes to be remembered to Edmonton friends and former associates. We shall look forward with pleasure to future contributions by Mr. Contant.

Nearly six centuries ago labor being able to set its own price, and had reached the comfortable position of good reason to set the figure high—exactly the same as today. A great plague swept England. When the terror passed, there was much to be done and few to do it. Necessities cost fabulous figures. Employers bid against each other for workers. And then came legislation—the croaking, blundering, ponderous machinery of law-making, stirring up a mess, as usual.

The Statute of Laborers of 1348 declared it a criminal offense for a workman to refuse labor at the same hire as he received before the plague. Sort of a temporary crime, you might say. The legislators puffed their chests and patted each others' wise old heads. Did the law work? Yes! backwards! Workers revolted, naturally, and a lot of unpleasant things happened.

These law-minded men of today who quote precedents to prove so many important things—do they learn nothing from history? We are passing through a fever of legislation originating with reactionaries, and allowed to slip through because popular sentiment is angry over labor demands they do not understand. Industrial relations boards, anti-strike bills, injunctions—ye gods, what not!

Have you heard of any associations of business men passing resolutions denying themselves the right to take advantage of markets as they find them? I haven't. Their resolutions are about the other fellow. Labor is kicking up its heels a bit, 'tis true. The best friends of labor see instances of abused power in the edicts of certain unions. But it's in the air. Everybody has had the "gimmies." There are ten examples of sharp business practices hushed up by the papers, to one that is exposed. Yet when labor makes a bad crack, good night.

Any family man needs a lot of money these days. I have heard that there are wives who never pester hubby to go get some more. But I don't believe it. That goes for rich folks as well as others. Back of the call for higher wages and higher profits is an army of wives. After all, though, it is wifery who has it in her power to raise wages—not in dollars of income, but by control of expenditure. It is in the power of women today to force down prices and make the pay envelope go farther. Restrained buying will do it.

Wages will drop, no doubt, but who (Continued on Page Five)