

VOL. I
LABORERS LEGAL
RIGHT TO STRIKE

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LABORERS LEGAL RIGHT TO STRIKE

Justice Metcalfe's Charge H. Not Affected Labor's Just Rights, Says Law Expert.

Labor's right to strike, particularly its legal right to call sympathetic strikes, has not been affected by the conviction of R. B. Russell nor by Justice Metcalfe's charge to the jury. Such is the opinion of W. H. Treuman, legal expert employed in Winnipeg Labor interests to interpret the Russell case and to define Labor's present status. This opinion was given at a secret convention of all Labor factions held recently at Winnipeg, and was available for publication on Saturday for the first time.

In his brief, in brief, is that the conviction and charge to the jury have not curtailed in any degree Labor's legal right to strike for the advancement of the interests of workers, even though loss and widespread inconvenience result from the strike.

In addressing the convention, he declared that Judge Metcalfe's charge to the jury was based upon a complete conviction of Treuman, whether with respect to the conviction was well founded, Treuman said it was not his duty to say. He further expressed the opinion that the jury's conviction of Treuman should not be taken as the jurors' judgment regarding the legality of the Winnipeg strike, because Judge Metcalfe, in his charge, had not pointed out that the case concerned the strike was for a legitimate trade purpose.

His Lordship not only failed to cite the defense's contention, but he laid emphasis on the evidence of the Crown to the effect that the strike's object was revolutionary. Treuman said with respect to the principle of collective bargaining, Treuman asserted the belief that if Judge Metcalfe had drawn to the attention of the jury the substance of the defense in justification of the strike, the charge that the strike was a common nuisance would not have been an embarrassing one to Russell.

Referring to Judge Metcalfe's mention, in his charge, that the cutting off of supplies of water and gas during the strike constituted a common nuisance, Treuman raised the question of whether in bringing about this condition there was any element of force. He declared, and cited legal references to support his statement, that a sympathetic strike is lawful if its origin is for lawful purposes and the means employed in carrying it out are lawful, even though inconvenience and hardship and loss are inflicted upon the public.

The question of whether a strike was for the purpose of harm to others, as in the Russell case, was not submitted to the jury, Treuman contended.

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Two New Local of Inside Woodworkers Organized During Month.

The reports this month show that trade is very good in nearly all parts of the province, and the prospects for the coming season were never better. The monthly Trade Report of the Ontario Provincial Council of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Two new Inside Woodworkers' Local are listed this month, Kinross and Walkerton, also organization work is being carried on in several other districts which it is hoped in the near future to establish local. This branch of our trade must be organized in all furniture and woodworking districts in the province before any real benefits or substantial increases in wages can be obtained. The executive has decided to call a meeting in the early part of February of delegates from all the Woodworkers' Local represented at this meeting, which will be held in Toronto. A circular letter will be mailed to each secretary in the course of a week, giving full particulars. The executive of the Provincial Council will meet one day ahead of this meeting to take up matters dealing with the council, also final action to be taken to divide the province into sections for the sending of delegates to the general convention. A call of 25¢ per member was made for this purpose on all locals in the province on their membership in good standing in August, 1919. Several locals have not as yet complied with this, so this is a reminder to those who have not done so before the executive takes any action.

After the good results obtained at the provincial convention, it is expected that Labor would have a big showing of their own men on all municipal councils, but it looks as if the majority of organized Labor districts have forgotten to elect their delegates for the vote. It is hoped that those who have not done so will be again carried away by the daily press as Labor had a full slate nominated in several districts, and the results obtained were very poor. It behooves every live organized man to get busy and keep up the agitation all the year, instead of waiting until the election time when the next election is sprung upon us as we shall be in a better position to elect our own representatives to the Provincial Council, although organized only a few months, have already started to fight the fight of the live man by opening a club room where they sell to their members at cost several commodities. This is certainly a good start in the co-operative work, and the results obtained were very good. A chain of co-operative stores could soon be established all over the province.

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Professional Men on Newspapers Organizing into Labor Unions

Vice-President of Montreal News Writers' Union Tells of Great Strides Made in That City Since Their Affiliation With the I.T.U. and Organized Labor Generally.

From time to time the Canadian Labor Press has pointed out that the professional men and women, in common with the workers in other walks of life, were allying themselves with organized Labor. Bank Clerks' Unions are fast coming into being and News Writers' Unions are already in existence at Montreal, London, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and other American cities. The news writers of Ottawa have had the subject under discussion at the last three meetings of their association and on Saturday last a letter from the Montreal union was read telling of the union's progress in that city.

We publish the letter in its entirety for the benefit of those workers who are under the impression that organized Labor is of no assistance to what has been termed in the past the "Aristocracy of Labor."

Dear Sirs:—The union has been established eight months. It started with 71 members and has now over 100. It is exceeded in strength only by the Boston and San Francisco unions of the I.T.U., the Boston Union having 170 members and the San Francisco Union having 125 members. The Montreal News Writers' Union, as you are aware, is a union of the I.T.U. and the Department of Labor on the case, and the threat was withdrawn. So far from weakening the union, it has increased its strength and ability to secure concessions which could not be secured in any other way.

We have by direct negotiation with publishers, and by moral effect alone, increased salaries in every newspaper office in the city, with two minor exceptions, one of which is a non-union office. We have protected the interests of our members in various ways, and there are at least 14 cases where individual members were aided in securing situations, correspondencies or other beneficial adjustments. We do not pretend that all the publishers and owners love us, but we do assert that most of them will think carefully before trying to injure us collectively or individually.

The alliance with the I. T. U. and with Organized Labor generally has been a boon to us. Without it we would have been wiped out long ago. With it, we have been able to accomplish more for the men

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U. S. RY. WORKERS COMMENCE DRIVE

Hamilton's Metal Trades' organization opened last Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was not large, but the enthusiasm manifested by those present, made up for the lack in numbers. There is no question that the "drive," which will continue one month, will be successful. The right men are behind the campaign and the Canadian Labor Press believes the Hamilton Metal Trades Council will "go over the top." As was pointed out by the various speakers the metal trades rollers at Hamilton, compared with other cities and towns, urgently need organization.

During the campaign at least ten international (Canadian) vice-presidents and organizers will put forth every effort in making the "drive" a success.

Speakers at the opening meeting were: Organizer Harry Harper, Toronto; International Association of Machinists; vice-president W. G. Powlesland; Toronto, International Blacksmiths and Helpers' Union; vice-president J. G. Foster, Toronto; Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Union, and H. G. Pester, Corresponding Secretary, Hamilton Trades Council. The president of the Metal Trades Council is A. J. Kettle.

All the speakers made able, eloquent, logical and convincing talks. Mr. Harper urged the public that the Metal Trades Council didn't propose a strike by the membership campaign. He enumerated what had been accomplished by the Machinists' Union throughout the continent. He mentioned that the Grand Trunk Railway employees had established the eight-hour day and advanced wages 148 per cent. since federating.

Speakers Powlesland and Noble outlined the program for the week-end headed by the blacksmiths and electrical workers since the organized avianche had overcome the "buckle in," get organized, which he said was the root of their emancipation.

The meeting of the Caledonia local was just as stormy as that of the Hamilton local. There is a resolution of the McKinnon award now the least cost. For over six hours the men met in session and slandering and brooding and the leaders who accepted the award, in a mercenary manner. The wage increases were condemned.

There is a tendency in some quarters to await until the wage agreement with the United States Miners is finally settled upon before the Nova Scotia miners sign any contract.

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U. S. JUSTICE DEPT. TO ENFORCE COAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Attorney-General Palmer has told officials of the United Mine Workers that the Department of Justice will enforce the terms of President Wilson's proposition for the settlement of the recent strike and that in all cases where operators have refused to permit miners to return to work, the Government will enforce the law against them.

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Quebec Legislature Considers Workingmen's Compensation Act

The Quebec Legislature on Thursday last had under consideration the question of the Workingmen's Compensation Act, and heard Aurele Lacombe, the Labor member from Dorion, make a plea for more consideration for the workingmen. He said that the high cost of medical and funeral expenses this should be increased to \$50.

J. H. Lemay, of Sherbrooke, maintained that the law was in the interest of the employers as well as the workingmen, for if the worker felt he was protected he would do more satisfactory work.

L. Lapierre, of Magantic, suggested that the maximum of salary under the act should be raised to \$1,500, and the amount allowed for funeral expenses should be doubled.

W. R. McDonald, of Epoufay, wanted the law amended so that it would apply to lumbermen and those engaged in driving logs.

The Hon. A. Gagnon said that the maximum had only recently been raised by \$200 from \$1,300, and the object of the act was to protect the smaller wage earners, and not all classes of people who worked for their living. He preferred the Quebec law to that in operation in Ontario in respect to the question of a permanent medical board would receive the careful attention of the Government. Mr. Gagnon said that he was in favor of the improvement of the condition of all classes of workers. Although an advocate himself, he was the son of a poor worker, and it was his wish that the law was not meant for men who could earn \$200 a month and save money to protect themselves by insurance. He was, however, in favor of increasing the maximum to \$1,500.

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A trip of representative teachers to Northern Ontario, with a view to spreading information throughout the schools and Teachers' Institutes about that section of the province, was suggested to the Minister as a move in the right direction.

Careful consideration of the matters broached by the teachers was promised on behalf of the Government by Hon. Mr. Grant.

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A trip of representative teachers to Northern Ontario, with a view to spreading information throughout the schools and Teachers' Institutes about that section of the province, was suggested to the Minister as a move in the right direction.

Careful consideration of the matters broached by the teachers was promised on behalf of the Government by Hon. Mr. Grant.

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