

LABOR PAPER'S POSITION ENDOURED

INTERNATIONAL TO FIGHT N.C.U. INTERFERENCE

Religion is No Barrier to Membership in the International Trade Union.

OTTAWA.—That a bitter fight between the international labor union in this country and the newly formed National Catholic Workers' Union whose membership is restricted to Roman Catholics, was indicated by vigorous speeches delivered here last Friday night by Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and Secretary P. M. Draper. The addresses were made at a meeting of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association.

Mr. Moore said the National Catholic Union was nothing more or less than an attempt to disrupt the international trade union movement, by dividing its members along religious lines. The question of religion had never been tolerated in the trades union movement, but at the same time the religious convictions of its members had always been respected. He gave due notice however, that if certain sections of the Catholic Church tried to disrupt the legitimate efforts of the movement, the latter would be compelled to defend itself, and would do so even if the fight had to be carried into the precincts of Quebec, and the waging of it should hurt the susceptibilities of those at the head of the Catholic movement.

"As long as the leaders of that movement confine their operations to their own province, we are not interested," said Tom Moore, "but we find that the National Catholic Union seeks to supersede the International Trades Union at the National Industrial Conference. It attempted to do this a year ago, and is again renewing the attempt. To the everlasting credit of the Hon. Senator Gleason Robertson, Minister of Labor, he has held that religion shall not be mixed up with the labor movement. Because of this Mr. E. Lapointe, the member of the Quebec Executive, announced his intention of taking the Minister of Labor to task on the floor of Parliament, and has said that he will be meeting the Minister of Labor at the National Industrial Conference, in order to hold up the appropriation for the Industrial Conference, and force the Government to recede from the stand it has taken on this question."

Tom Moore said that it had come to his knowledge that the National Protestant employers at Theiford Mines, P.Q., had entered into closed shop contracts with the Catholic Union, for an amount of \$100,000. The same was being done in Montreal and Quebec and other parts of the province of Quebec. This movement and for its purpose, the National Catholic Union is a threat to the International Trade Union, and its strength should not be underestimated.

This movement, centered in the Province of Quebec, is one of the most insidious and dangerous of the international trades union movement, and it is the duty of the National Catholic Union to speak the Catholic Nation with, said P. M. Draper. "We must look this fact squarely in the face. I was born in the province of Quebec, and I speak the language of the delegates to this body are also French-Canadians, and Roman Catholics. To you I would say that I believe all religions should be equal, and that the danger of this movement is education and instruction for the French workers, and they will stay with the International movement. We have the greatest respect for our religious leaders, but when they attempt to dictate to us what we shall do with regard to our economic and social life, it is time to tell them it would be better for you to attend to our spiritual needs, and we will attend to our economic and social life."

"I say that on this continent, there is no reason for the inclusion of religious matters in our debates and meetings. These Catholic Nationals are seizing upon any grounds they can, in this critical period of our history, in order to divide our movement along religious lines. While I have been careful in the past not to laud governments, or the minister of labor, I would say that notwithstanding the mistakes which have been made, the National Catholic Union is a threat to the International Trades Union, and it behooves us to carry the fight right into the province of Quebec."

A Question to be Decided on April 18, 1921

Senator Boyer, Page 857, Senate Debates, 1919.

I have made a point to study the statistics extending from Halifax to Vancouver and taking the population of Canada at seven millions, I have had to stretch a pole in order to say that two per cent of the population abuse liquor.

Are the ninety-eight per cent, of who behave, to punish ourselves for the sake of two per cent, who cannot.

WINNIPEG MAY PURCHASE COAL MINE TO SUPPLY CIVIC NEEDS.

WINNIPEG.—Because Winnipeg, which next to the railroads is the largest consumer of coal in western Canada, cannot get a competitive tender on fuel for the municipal buildings, aldermen favor a proposal that the city buy and operate a municipal coal mine.

They do not go so far as to say that the local fuel trade is in the hands of a trust, but they assert there is something wrong when the city with its huge consumption cannot get a special price.

To overcome the hardship of not being able to obtain reduced rates being forced to pay for coal on the same basis as the small consumer, the City Council are favorably scanning the plan to obtain coal for the source of supply. A committee has been appointed to secure information as to the prospect of buying a mine location, the quality of coal that would be available, and the probable outlay of capital involved.

HAMILTON STEEL WORKERS PREPARE FOR CONVENTION IN MAY.

HAMILTON.—The Hamilton lodges of the iron, steel and tin workers' union are preparing for the international convention which meets at Hamilton for a three weeks' convention, commencing on May 2. Iron and steel workers will be held at the International Organizer meets at Hamilton for a three weeks' convention, commencing on May 2. Iron and steel workers will be held at the International Organizer meets at Hamilton for a three weeks' convention, commencing on May 2. Iron and steel workers will be held at the International Organizer meets at Hamilton for a three weeks' convention, commencing on May 2.

NOVA SCOTIA LABOR MATTERS DISCUSSED IN THE LEGISLATURE.

HALIFAX, N.S.—The labor situation in Nova Scotia was discussed in the House of Assembly on Tuesday. For many years, Labor member for Cape Breton, spoke to the motion of the House of Assembly, and considered the resolutions passed by various organizations in the industrial field of the province, relative to the unemployment situation. He referred especially to the coal and steel industries.

TIMBER WORKERS ACCEPT WAGE CUT BUT NOT A TEN HOUR DAY.

FREDERICTON, N.B.—Members of the Local Union 132 of the International Timber Workers of America at a meeting at Fredericton recently decided to declare a strike rather than accept the reduction of the employers' wages from the ten-hour day at the local lumber mills this season.

SHERBROOKE GAS WORKERS THREATEN STRIKE.

SHERBROOKE, Que.—The employees of the Sherbrooke Gas and Electric Department have issued an ultimatum to the City Council threatening to walk out unless a suitable agreement is reached. It appears that some of the grievances have been let out, and that the remaining employees have been called upon to undertake a 12-hour shift with small increases.

LONDON STREET RAILWAY MEN WILL OPPOSE WAGE REDUCTION.

LONDON, Ont.—The London Street Railway's reply to the demand of the employees for a new agreement and an increase in wages of from 45 to 55 cents an hour is that the company will not even renew the present contract. President, Colbert of the Employees' Union declares that Manager King's notification to the men is the first move toward an attempt at reduction in wages, which he claims will be fought. If the company persists, he says, there will be no street cars running in London on May 1.

WOODWORKERS ARE NEGOTIATING NEW AGREEMENT

Ottawa Inside Carpenters Seek Forty-Four Hour Week and Some Increases.

OTTAWA.—A forty-four hour week, time and a half for overtime, and advances in wages, with specified holidays during the year, are included in the demands of the members of the Inside Woodworkers' and Factory Workers' Union, of Ottawa, which have been sent to the employers.

Overtime in excess of the forty-four hours is to be paid for at time and a half. The holidays are New Year's Day, Good Friday, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas. On Labor Day they provide no work is to be done except for the saving of life and property.

All men who are sent to erect or to do outside work, are to be paid the same wages as carpenters. No piece work or contract work is to be performed.

In an earlier clause of their agreement the workers ask to be paid weekly.

On the question of group work the terms of the new agreement provide that cabinet workers, bench men, layout men, wood-turners, millwrights, machine setters and adjusters, stock cutters, veneer gluers and pressers, stock hands, matcher setters and operators, shaper hands, band re-sawmen, band saw men, tenon machine men, framers, joiners, millwrights, lumber graders and craters, shall be paid seventy cents per hour. This class of labor is now being paid from fifty-five to sixty cents per hour.

In group two, including framers, stock furniture assemblers, millwrights, stock cutters, veneer and door assemblers, crosscut and rip saw operators, bush and machine bit operators, sash and machine operators, they are paid sixty cents per hour. They now get from 45 to 50 cents.

Feeders of other machines requiring no skill or experience, it is demanded are to be paid fifty cents per hour.

Common workers and those included in the apprentice group, are to be paid forty cents per hour. The first year the agreement asks that the apprentice be paid thirty cents per hour, the second year thirty-five cents per hour, and the third year forty cents per hour.

Any man incapacitated by old age, accident, or other causes, may be paid at the rate as will be mutually arranged between himself and his employer.

The agreement was sent out to the employers some time ago and in it, it is requested, that the employers reply to it within three months' time.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC PRINTERS DEMAND \$1 PER HOUR AND 44-HR. WEEK.

TORONTO.—Union job printers of Ontario and Quebec are uniting in demanding a 44-hour week as well as an increase in wages. The agreement with the Master Printers' Association expires on May 31. The wage demand is an increase from \$1.10 to \$1.25 a week, or \$15.30 now in force including a bonus. A meeting of union officials from Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto was held in the Globe building, Toronto, Saturday night, after having been in conference with representatives of the Hamilton, Ont., union.

Amidst the Toronto, Ontario, chairman of the committee which has been attempting to negotiate the proposed wage scale and working hours, stated after the meeting that it had been decided to submit similar agreements to the employers in the four cities named.

CARPENTERS' ORGANIZER WANTS MAJORITY REPORT PRESENTED.

TORONTO.—Mr. James Marsh, general organizer of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, who took part in the recent Labor party convention at Welland as a delegate from Niagara Falls branch of the party, states that the Globe editorial on the attitude of the convention on the eight-hour day conveys a wrong impression.

Mr. Marsh's delegate to the convention asked for the eight-hour day, declared Mr. Marsh. "What we did request was the presentation of the report of the commission which investigated the grievances of the workers on the Chippewa development scheme. We believe the report will commend the eight-hour day on the enterprise. We are also anxious to learn if our charges of maladministration have been substantiated."

INTERNATIONAL LABOR OFFICE INQUIRING INTO PRODUCTION.

OTTAWA.—The Labor Department has received from the International Labor Office in connection with the League of Nations, copies of the questionnaire which is now being sent to workers' and employers' organizations in countries which have signed the league covenant. The questionnaire contains no fewer than 31 questions, dealing chiefly with the problems of production since 1918, which request that the Government should interest itself in the development of these questions.

Ottawa Retail Clerks Poorly Paid says Fester

OTTAWA.—"The fair wage board has found conditions among the average working girls and women in this city deplorable. We have found the average weekly wage fully thirty per cent less than in either Toronto or Hamilton," stated Mr. H. G. Fester, president of the Ottawa Retail Clerks' Protective Association at Ottawa on Friday evening. "If you would only organize you would better these conditions and God knows they need it badly enough. On the other hand, we have to learn to give a reasonable day's pay. We are now trying to set a minimum wage for 25,000 girls and women in the province. The age basis on which we are working is a minimum wage for all girls 15 years and over."

MANY PROBLEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CONFERENCE

National Industrial Conference For Building Industry to be Held at Ottawa in May.

Labor and Capital, as represented in the building and construction industry in Canada, will go to the mat at a National Industrial Conference to be held at Ottawa on May 3, 1921. The questions to be considered are ones on which Labor and Capital have two distinct and separate ideas. However, it is preferable to discuss these problems in a round-table conference than to stage struggle after struggle in all parts of the country—struggles for which both parties are responsible.

The agenda includes many of the troublesome problems which confront both the worker and the employer. This was drawn up by a special committee last week and is as follows:

1. Existing conditions in our industry. (a) As to shortage of dwelling and public buildings. (b) Seasonal nature of the industry and possible methods of regulation.
2. Apprenticeship and craftsmanship. (a) Development of National Joint Conference Board proposals; (b) Development of technical training.
3. Costs and Production: (a) Factors in building costs; (b) Efficiency in relation to production; (c) Hours of labor; (d) Wages and their relation to cost of living.
4. Conditions of employment: (a) Distribution of labor; (b) Unemployment insurance; (c) Industrial safety.
5. Development of joint industrial councils.

The employers will be represented at the conference by thirty delegates and an equal number from the craft organizations of the building industry, affiliated to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

ALL CRAFTS OF TORONTO BUILDING INDUSTRY NOW AFFILIATED TO B. T. C.

TORONTO.—By an overwhelming majority the bricklayers of Toronto have decided to join forces with the Toronto Building Trades Council. This means that the council will now represent every craft and trade employed in the building industry and will be the best organized body of its kind in any city in the United States or Canada.

The vote was the result of addresses on a meeting of the bricklayers at the Labor Temple by the president and secretary of the Toronto Building Trades Council and puts all A. F. of L. building unions in Toronto in one joint organization.

The provision of home-owning opportunities to city-dwelling returned men would be a great step towards final and secure re-establishment. One class is as much entitled to assistance as the other. Both are valuable citizens and a national asset. As pointed out above, the Soldier Settlement Board scheme was not limited to a certain number of applicants. It is reasonable to suggest, therefore, that its provisions be extended to include housing loans to other returned men. It would then become a 100 per cent. re-establishment opportunity.

FIRST NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE DEPT. CARRYING OUT RECOMMENDATION

Mr. T. A. Stevenson, Formerly Secretary, Toronto Trades Council, Takes up New Duties With Labor Department.

OTTAWA.—A development of the industrial council idea, of promoting harmony between employer and employee is being projected by the Department of Labor, Mr. T. A. Stevenson, former secretary of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, announced last week. Mr. Stevenson left the Toronto Labor Movement to take a position with the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, which he has resigned to become connected with the Labor Department of the Federal Government. He was in Toronto recently discussing industrial councils with officials of the Toronto Labor Movement, and with companies that have adopted the scheme.

Mr. Stevenson intimated that the Government was acting upon a resolution passed at the National Industrial Conference in Ottawa in 1918, which requested that the Government should interest itself in the development of these questions.

PAINTERS' WAGE NOT REDUCED

After a Lengthy Dispute Settlement Reached By Conference.

TORONTO.—After a dispute of several weeks, Toronto Local 151, Brotherhood of Painters, Paperhangers and Decorators, last week signed an agreement with the Master Painters' Association for the year. Union officials announced that the agreement was practically the 1920 schedule, which fixed wage rates at a 75-cent minimum for journeymen.

"It may be some days before the men who have been on strike get back to work," said Union Secretary E. H. Reeves. "It is likely that the shops have been disorganized through the strike, but within a very short time all men out of work will be absorbed."

Members of the union are well satisfied with the settlement, although it does not give them a wage increase. Many of the building trades unions were able to sign up agreements without wage reductions, and after the dispute developed, it became the objective of the organization to maintain the 1920 wage rates.

When the joint industrial council of the Master Painters' Association followed an ultimatum from the association to the union, which had protested against wage reductions at one local shop, that all union men would be discharged from shops of the members of the Master Painters' Association if they persisted in support of the painters who had refused to accept a wage reduction.

The Joint Industrial Council of the building trades industry failed to settle the dispute, Mr. E. N. Compton, fair wage officer of the Dominion Government, called the parties together. The ultimatum was withdrawn, after which representatives of the union and association went into negotiations. E. H. Reeves and H. M. Long represented the union, and W. W. Hammett and Stewart Hughes the Master Painters' Association.

HOUSING FOR EX-SERVICE MEN

Land Settlement Policy Limited to Small Number.

The Veteran, Ottawa.

A writer in the Western Veteran puts forward an exceptionally sound and reasonable argument in favor of extending housing loans under the Soldier Settlement Board to ex-service men in the cities. The outline of his contention follows:

Under the Land Settlement policy Canada has committed herself to finance every returned man applying for a housing policy, and in order to put all men on an even basis, the Land Settlement policy should be broadened to take in the cities and loans made for the purchase or construction of houses.

The provision of home-owning opportunities to city-dwelling returned men would be a great step towards final and secure re-establishment. One class is as much entitled to assistance as the other. Both are valuable citizens and a national asset. As pointed out above, the Soldier Settlement Board scheme was not limited to a certain number of applicants. It is reasonable to suggest, therefore, that its provisions be extended to include housing loans to other returned men. It would then become a 100 per cent. re-establishment opportunity.

"SHOWING HIS HAND" FUTURE POLICIES OF A. F. OF L. WILL BE FORMULATED

Annual Convention of the Great Labor Body Will be Held at Denver in June.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a letter of the Minister of Labor to the Montreal Gazette on the National Catholic Labor Movement in the Province of Quebec. There also appears in this issue extracts from the able and eloquent addresses delivered by President Tom Moore and Secretary P. M. Draper, of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, at the last meeting of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association, relative to the ultra-conservative organization in the Province of Quebec.

The letter of the Minister of Labor is an important declaration, so far as the industrial workers of Canada are concerned. The light is thrown on a movement, in the Province of Quebec, that has for its object the destruction of the International Trades Union Movement and its legislative body, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Mr. Ernest Lapointe, the member of the House of Commons for Quebec East, recently introduced a delegation of the National Catholic Union to the Minister of Labor. The officers of that organization protested to the Labor Department against the calling of an industrial conference of the building industry unless representation was given to the National Catholic Union. The Minister of Labor stated good and sufficient reasons why this could not be done by the Labor Department of the Canadian Government. This did not please the honorable member for Quebec East and he resented the frank statements of the Minister of Labor. The Montreal Gazette, which for years has opposed the International Trades Union Movement and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, supported Mr. Lapointe and the National Catholic Union.

The matter culminated on Wednesday afternoon when the House of Commons was about to go into supply on the estimates of the Labor Department.

Mr. Lapointe took the opportunity of assailing the Minister of Labor and incidentally made veiled insinuations against the elected heads of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. He went further. He charged the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association with a lack of intelligence in dealing with public questions and stated that the delegates were swayed by the "misstatement" of their own leaders and adopted resolutions not knowing the facts. The member for Quebec East has apparently been a close student of "Red" propaganda, and all that has been said against Tom Moore and "Paddy" Draper was reiterated by Mr. Lapointe. He advanced the same arguments as the opponents of the trade union movement have used for the past two or more years. The insidious campaign against the elected heads of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has had its effect, and the member for Quebec East will no doubt be given whole-hearted support by the One Big Union and Socialist Party of Canada. He simply "peddled" propaganda for these latter named organizations. He referred to the Winnipeg strike and allied himself with those whom the courts of Canada convicted. His arguments were thinly veiled with satire and it was easily seen he lacked knowledge of the labor situation.

Mr. Hon. Arthur Meighen fittingly replied. The Prime Minister quoted a verbatim report of the proceedings of a conference held at Ottawa in 1919 between the leaders of the National Catholic Union and the Minister of Labor. At that time the Minister of Labor pointed out the necessity of joint action on the part of Canadian labor and stated that he would at any time be willing to use his influence in bringing about a conference between the National Catholic Union and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. This offer was never accepted by the National Catholic Union and nothing was heard of the N. C. U. until the Joint Conference Board of the Building Industry was about to hold a National Conference to discuss its common problems.

The Canadian Labor Press has been reluctant in lauding the Minister of Labor. The Minister of Labor has done many things he ought not to have done. He has left undone many of the things he ought to have done. Nevertheless if he did nothing else—and he has done much for Canada—he has performed a public service in exposing the National Catholic Union.

Mr. Lapointe is looked upon as a possible Premier of Canada. The members of the International Trades Union Movement should study very carefully the statements of the Member for Quebec East in the House of Commons on Wednesday. An analysis of his address will convince all that he cannot be considered a friend of labor, even by the exercise of imagination.

So far as the International Trades Union Movement is concerned, and we believe so far as the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is concerned, there will never be co-operation with the National Catholic Union. One is based on union and the other on discord. The International Union stands for collective bargaining, the union shop with a maximum work-day of eight hours and an adequate living wage. The International Union and the National Catholic Union have policies diametrically opposed.

Workers of Canada know all about the One Big Union. They are rapidly learning the facts concerning the National Catholic Union. They condemn them both for all time.

BRITISH LABOR TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF AMERICAN WORKERS.

NEW YORK.—John L. Jones, British Labor leader, declared in a statement issued at New York on Tuesday that he intended to collect support of United States workers in an effort of striking British miners to "nationalize the mines, placing them under the direct control of the miners."

SWAYZE MUST PROVE CHARGES AGAINST M'BRIDE.

TORONTO.—In the Legislature last Thursday afternoon, M. M. MacBride (South Brant), called upon C. P. Swayze, Labor member for Niagara Falls, to retract the statement he had made at the meeting of the Independent Labor Party at Welland the previous week to the effect that certain members of the Legislature, who had been appointed on the committee to investigate affairs at the Chippewa Canal, had "played both ends from the middle."

Mr. Swayze replied that he was not afraid to say that the member for South Brant was the one in question.

On motion of Mr. MacBride the matter was referred to the committee on privileges and elections.

OTTAWA BUILDERS WANT CHANGE IN CIVIC FAIR WAGE REGULATIONS.

OTTAWA.—The Ottawa Branch of the Association of Building and Construction Industries is showing great activity in its efforts to reduce the standards of the workers employed in that industry. Representatives of that association waited on the Board of Control a few days ago and asked that the civic fair wage clause be changed and instead of stipulating various wages for the trades concerned that it be amended to meet the "changed conditions" that will prevail after May 1. Controller Cameron (Labor) opposed any change and the Board of Control will not call for tenders for civic work until the middle of May to get around the difficulty.

OTTAWA PLUMBERS ASKED TO ACCEPT WAGE REDUCTION.

OTTAWA.—Efforts are being made by the Ottawa Master Plumbers' Association to reduce wages. The men asked for \$1 an hour and the Master Plumbers' Association issued an ultimatum to the men demanding that wages be reduced to 75c per hour. What action will follow is a question of doubt but the Plumbers' Union is quite prepared for a "slow-down."

NEXT ALBERTA ELECTION TO BE UNDER "P. R." SYSTEM.

CALGARY, Alta.—Unless all signs fail, Alberta's next provincial elections under the Proportional Representation system. Premier Stewart has named a committee to study the question and it is understood that their opinion will be favorable. The City of Calgary has used the system for the last three years, and the results obtained.

HAMILTON ELECTRICIANS SEEK WAGE INCREASE.

HAMILTON.—The electrical employees' section of the Association of Contractors and Building Industries has received notice of a request for an increase in wages from 35 cents to 45 cents per hour from the members of Local No. 105, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Other than pay the agreement submitted is the same as the one in effect last year, providing a short strike.

DETROIT VOTES TO PURCHASE STREET RAILWAY.

DETROIT.—The complete vote on the traction issue in Tuesday's referendum showed service at cost. Yes, \$2,102; no, \$1,490; municipal paper purchase: Yes, \$6,193; no, \$6,117.

CORNWALL INDUSTRIES TEMPORARILY SUSPEND OPERATIONS.

CORNWALL, Ont.—The Cornwall Canal is being unworked and during the two weeks that the water will be out, the Toronto Paper Mill will shut down. It being considered too short a time to arrange for auxiliary power, as only done last year when the water was out for a much longer period. The Canada and Ontario mills, which have been running on four days a week for a couple of months, will also be closed for two weeks after Thursday. The Dundas mill will continue to run on full time.

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