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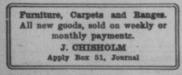
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POLICE UNIONS.

same condition will apply to the police or any other body of workers be impossible.

who desire to unite for mutual benefit or protection. Laws against combinations, of workers, coupled with the most bitter persecutions, did not stop the growth of British trade unionism. Therefore we ization on the part of the workers themselves

A DECIDED ADVANTAGE.

"When Labor and Capital argue in formal debate certainly those who represent Labor seem to have a decided advantage in their oratorical manner of advancing their arguments, and in the preparation of the facts on which these arguments are based.'

There is nothing at all surprising in the above remark of the Workers of America. Toronto Telegram regarding the debates that took place at the A National Labor they lose nothing by comparison in that respect.

The most outstanding reason for the superiority of Labor representatives at the Ottawa Conference, or any other like gathering, is the incontrovertible fact that practically all the elements of right and reason are on Labor's side. When a lady delegate from across the continent could, within a few hours of her arrival in Ottawa, on the opposition benches because they were naturally on the dequote specific instances to prove that workers right in the Conference City, while the debate was going on, were being exploited in a most shameful manner, can it be wondered that the Labor delegates should have a "decided advantage" in presenting their arguments

Another phase of the question is revealed in the motives under-lying the arguments. Labor's delegates fight for a larger, fuller, better life for the mass. The representatives of big business have no such high motives to lend sincerity and passion to their argument. Labor fights to free the mulitude, Privilege fights to retain privilege. Right and justice, reason and honor lend their appeal to Labor's argument

AMALGAMATION THE GOAL.

The steady evolution of the trades' union movement in Great Canadian railways. Britain toward amalgamation and solidification, as the result of many years of education and agitation, is the greatest possible arguthe steady development of industrial amalgamaion in Britain and aimed at that phase of the move for direct action in the old land. the One Big Union movement in America. The former means the application of the accumulative education of a century of varied application of the accumulative education of a century of varied experience; the latter is a movement conceived in theories and dreams and not built on the foundation of experience. As a matter of fact and not built on the foundation of experience. As a matter of fact the O.B.U. is not an industrial but a political movement.

Education and agitation toward industrial amalgamation must their system of slavery at any cost. go on. The line of demarcation between organizations whose interests are co-related is undoubtedly the greatest source of weakness in the Labor movement of America. The agitation is going on and rived in Ottawa she met a woman who worked a whole week and

gamation been asserting itself in Britain, there is every reason to gamation been asserting itself in Britain, there is every reason to hope that when the movement starts in America it will rapidly gain she was doing and to obtain a wage of \$12 a week she would have

EDMONTON FREE PRESS to which the district would be entitled according to the percentage of Canadian voters who are domiciled within its boundaries. If Edmonton district was entitled, then, to three members as at present

they would be elected at large by all the voters in the district, which includes a large farming area outside the city proper. Thus it will 101 Purvis Block be readily seen that while under the present plan three Conservative candidates might be elected with a very small majority in each division, under the proportionate plan that would not occur. For instance : If four candidates were running in each division as at present constituted, very little over one-third of the voters might be represented.

Suppose in East Edmonton the top man was elected with 1.000 votes. The question of police unions will not be settled by resolutions from Police Chief's conventions. Neither will arbitrary rulings on voters would be represented in Parliament and 2700 would not be the part of the authorities be the deciding factor. Unions of police men will stand or fall according to the determination, or lack of determination as the case may be, on the part of the workers them- same, 3,000 voters would under the present method be represented selves. Steadfastness to the principles of unionism-or lack of it- by three members, while 8100 would not be represented at all. Under has always in the history of Organized Labor, been the deciding the system of voting in the district at large by the proportionate rep-factor in the success or failure of any trade-union organization. The

U. S. LABOR IN POLITICS.

The rank and file of the Labor movement in the United States repeat that organization of workmen who are employed as policemen. will stand or fall according to the sincerity of the desire for organ-opposition of Samuel Gompers and lesser officials in the A. F. of L. opposition of Samuel Gompers and lesser officials in the A. F. of L., has not visibly deterred the American workers in their determina-

tion to take an independent stand in the political life of the country. In the face of Mr. Gompers' opposition the New York Federation of Labor passed a resolution to form a Labor Party, and the Illinois State Federation took the same stand. Later a number of International Unions in convention assembled have taken similar action. These unions include the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, the Order of Railway conductors and the United Mine

A National Labor Party after the pattern of the British organ-Industrial Conference. The advantage of the Labor representatives ization, seems to be assured in the United States and a Labor group does not, however, lie in their superiority as individuals, although in Congress and Senate, holding the balance of power, is predicted by those who are active in the formation of the new third party.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

One of the employers' delegates at the Ottawa Conference made a remark to the effect that he and his colleagues were rightly seated fensive. Defending what? As our preacher would say, we leave this thought with you.

Some employers said they were in favor of an "average" eight hour day in Canada. We suppose they wanted their employes to work ten hours while the other fellow's workmen put in six to make up the average.

A large number of miners in Nova Scotia are unemployed because of lack of orders for coal. The railways of Canada consume 10 million tons of coal annually and it is estimated that two-thirds of it comes from the United States. The miners can hardly be blamed for petitioning the Government to have more Canadian coal used on

There may be some justification for industrial action to enforce ment against a revolutionary movement that seeks to tear down in the nationalization of mines in Great Britain because that is as much its entirety the present Labor organization, with the hope of raising an industrial as it is a political question. But a strike to force the from the ruins a movement that will be efficacious for the cure of all the workers' economic ills. There can be no comparison between

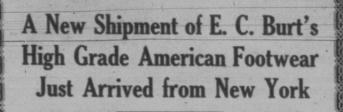
in the terrific struggle, and the steel barons are determined to retain

Within a few hours after Miss Gutteridge, of Vancouver, ar-

in the Labor movement of America. The agitation is going on and we find the Miners' International Union passing a resolution calling for negotiations with the railway unions which may soon lead to the formation of an organization similar to the British Triple Alliance. Other organizations are contemplating similar action, and when it is the data the negative that and when it is the last five vears has the principle of amal-

momentum. It required ten years of education and active propaganda to impress the average British trade unionist with the necessity of "And that is not all. Part of this same order was handled by GARMENT W closer affiliation. The same route must be followed here and industrial amalgamation of unions whose interests are co-related should other manufacturers and they paid 16¹/₄ cents a dozen where this employer I have spoken of paid 4 cents. He did not have the excuse

that he was competing with others." It is not surprising that Senator Robertson took occasion to com-pliment the debater after Miss Gutteridge had concluded her ringing appeal for the minimum wage. Six thounsand members of the Ladies Garment Workers' Union of New York City, are on strike for reduced hours and increased pay. About 1,000 of this



SEPTEMBER 27, 1919

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papers ,

There is something about the recent debate in Parliament in con-nection with the newly established Board of Commerce, that arouses suspicion. It is unusual to say the least to hear criticism of a gov-ernment undertaking from the benches to the right of Mr. Speaker. It is especially notable when the opposition header defends the subject of attack

The Board of Commerce has not accomplished anything of great moment as yet, but one of the commissioners, Mr. O'Connor, has been since his appointment, a little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment, a little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment, a little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment as the little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment as the little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment as the little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment as the little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment as the little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment as the little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment as the little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind since his appointment as the since his appointment and the since his appointment as the since hi

representatives had condemned him?

It is quite possible that there was no ulterior motive in the attack on the Board of Commerce in general, and Mr. O'Connor in particular, but the incident is worthy of notice.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The National Conference on Industrial Relations declared itself to be unanimously in favor of the proportionate representation plan The declaration of the Government that a Speakers' Conference would be called to investigate the merits of proportional representation was welcomed and the committee urged that such action be

not delayed. (Another conference!) The speech of E. S. Woodward, of Victoria was, according to dispatches, easily the clearest argument given to the Conference by any of the speakers. Some of the figures quoted by Mr. Woodward are worthy of repetition. "In the Commons, Senate, and all Provincial Legislatures, there were but six labor men against 714 represent ing the employing trades. The percentage of population engaged in labor," said Mr. Woodward, "was 45.2 per cent.; farmers 34.3 per cent.; business and professional 20.5 per cent. If Labor was given fair representation, it would have 45.2 per cent. representation, or 400 members in the various parliaments." These are figures that should make working men and women think should make working men and women think.

In considering proportional representation it must be borne in mind that the present grouping and dividing of constituencies would have to be discarded to make the plan effective. As an example, Edmonton district as at present divided would not benefit from the proportional representation method of voting, because of the fact that when only one member is elected from each division he could not, under any system imaginable, represent any more than one section of the voters in that division.

, To make the proportionate plan effective in this district, the divi-sions must be grouped into one and allotted the number of members

MINERS RECEIVE REFUSE TO SIGN NEW WAGE SCALE

ALLOWANCES WHILE IN RETRAINING

since his appointment, a little too outspoken to suit the peace of mind of some whose practices the board might interfere with. Of course the government could not very well have Mr. O'Connor removed be cause he showed a proper enthusiasm in connection with his job. But—if private members on the Government benches could be in-duced to attack the "offending" commissioner, with the chance that opposition members might take advantage of an opportunity to make Mr. O'Connor the "goat" for an attack on the Government, would it not strengthen the administration's position, if they decided to remove the commissioner, to point to the fact that the people's representatives had condemned him?



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