

ORGANIZED TWO WEEKS AND GET WAGE INCREASE

Question "Does It Pay To Join the Union" Answered In Affirmative by Toronto Carpenters.

The question "Does it pay to join the Union?" has been answered in the affirmative by Local Union 1826, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, at Toronto.

The membership of this local, which is composed of shopmen and inside millmen, is at present putting up a live organization campaign for the purpose of bringing every available non-union craftsman into the union. The first of January the organizers succeeded in getting into line the employees of a big plant, who have for some time been endeavoring to secure an increase in wages, but were not making much headway, but after organizing the shop within two weeks, a signed up agreement was reached which included an increase in wages of 20 cents an hour, to be retroactive back to July 1st, 1919, which means a lump sum of \$250 in back wages.

There are some people who continue to ask if it pays to organize, but to the employees of this particular firm the question is no longer debatable. To secure a lump sum in back wages of \$250 and a regular increase in wages of 20 cents an hour, after only being organized a couple of weeks is mighty good evidence that it certainly does.

CALIFORNIA STATE FED. OF LABOR ENDORSES AMERICAN LEGION

Unanimous endorsement of the American Legion was given by the executive council of the California State Federation of Labor at its quarterly meeting held in San Francisco last week, when a resolution commending the American Legion and urging all ex-service men who are members of organized labor to become active members of the legion, were unanimously adopted.

MINERS PLANNING TO PRESENT INFORMATION AS TO LIVING COSTS

When butter was selling in Chicago at 80 cents a pound it was selling in some of the Illinois coal mining towns at 90 cents a pound. It is said at the headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America in Indianapolis, that the cost of living in mining communities is higher than anywhere else in the country. This statement is based on figures and reports received at the headquarters from many mining towns. Coal miners say that they are at the mercy of retail dealers who charge what they please for the necessities of life which the miners must buy, because there is no other market in which they can obtain the goods.

This is pointed to by the miners as one of the strong reasons why they are entitled to a substantial increase in wages at the hands of the commission appointed by President Wilson to investigate the bituminous coal industry, its wages and working conditions and the selling price of coal.

The miners are planning to present to the commission full information in regard to the increase in the cost of living as it affects the miners and their families. They will base their showing wholly on the prices that are charged in mining camps and mining communities, and they declare that the figures will be a revelation to the public.

LEMIEX ACT TO RECEIVE EARLY CONSIDERATION

Revision of the Industrial Disputes and Investigation Act (the Lemieux Act) is to receive early consideration. In past years the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has opposed the act and demanded its repeal. Lately, there has been a shifting in the attitude of organized labor toward the act. At an interview between representatives of the government and of organized labor recently, complaints in regard to the act were again submitted, and the Labor men offered to participate in a joint conference with a view to revision. In reply, the government invited the Labor men to submit concrete proposals of amendment for consideration.

SOCIALISM WAS ISSUE AT STAKE IN RUSSELL TRIAL.

Socialism As Presented By Crown Lawyers Evidently Too Much For the Jury.

The weakness of the case against R. B. Russell, convicted for seditious conspiracy in connection with the general strike in Winnipeg is pointed out by a New York paper. The Nation, in its article, points out "the fact that the case for the prosecution was so weak as to require on several occasions the moral support of the Dominion Government in the form of visits to Winnipeg by the Minister of Labor."

It goes on to say that "the evidence indicates that the fundamental issue was not seditious conspiracy at all, but socialism. To a farmer jury there were presented for the first time, as a part of Russell's testimony, the time-honored doctrines of socialism, and it was those that apparently had weight with the jury. It was incumbent upon the Crown to prove its charge of seditious conspiracy in its general strike; instead, it spent valuable time in proving that there had been a strike and that many people had been greatly inconvenienced thereby. The defence freely conceded both of these contentions, but denied that the general strike was unlawful."

From the beginning the case was mainly one of fact versus emotion. On the one side were "law and order," horror at the suggestion of a change in the existing form of government, and a suffering public deprived of its milk and eggs; on the other, evidence showing that a large majority of the workers had voted for the strike, and after the first excitement was over every effort was made by the strike committee to preserve order and occasion as little suffering as possible, and the denial by the strike committee of any attempt on its part to establish a Winnipeg soviet form of government.

"But Mr. Russell was a socialist, and socialism, as presented by the Crown lawyers, was evidently too much for the jury."

ONLY BONA FIDE TRADE UNIONISTS MAY EXPECT ASSISTANCE

Only bona fide trade unionists who may be prosecuted under the so-called criminal syndicalism law for expounding the principles and policies of the American Federation of Labor need expect assistance from the California State Federation of Labor.

This was the decision reached at the quarterly meeting of the executive council of the California State Federation of Labor, which refused to endorse the Labor Defense League or any other dual organization which has for its purpose the raising of funds with which to defend anybody and everybody arrested and prosecuted under the criminal syndicalism law.

When a "real trade unionist" is prosecuted under this law for "bona fide trade union activities" the California State Federation of Labor will issue a call for funds for the defense of such trade unionist.

SPANISH WORKERS LOCKED OUT BY EMPLOYERS ASSO.

While Spain generally was celebrating the Christmas and New Year's season, workmen at Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and other industrial centres were seen on the streets begging for pennies for food. This condition of affairs has been brought about chiefly because of a general lockout declared by the Employers' Association "to show workmen the advantage of order and discipline and to avoid a condition of anarchy."

Never, according to the citizens, have there been more mendicants on the streets of Madrid than there were on December 25, while their more prosperous neighbors were dining in luxury in their own homes or in the big hotels which made the celebration of Christmas eve an imposing occasion.

In a manifesto the employers declare that "as soon as the general syndicalist organization is dissolved the lockout will end, and employers will resume the system of private contract."

There is something wrong with the woman who says there isn't a spark of jealousy in her makeup.

CORRESPONDENCE

EVERYBODY'S VIEWS

The Free Press takes no responsibility for any opinions expressed in letters to the editor. No letters can be accepted for publication, and will not be printed unless accompanied by name and address of writer.

The editor is in receipt of a number of letters from correspondents which deal with religious matters. Believing it to be inadvisable to lend the columns of the Free Press to a religious discussion, we would respectfully request that our correspondents deal with topics other than religious.

IRISH WORKERS WILL SOON HAVE LABOR COLLEGE

Ireland is to have a Labor college. Since November 2, when the founding of the James Connolly Labor college was decided upon at a conference of trade union, co-operative and Socialist party delegates held in Dublin, a management committee has been at work raising funds, developing courses, and making propaganda for the college among the working class organizations of Ireland.

The purpose of the enterprise is "to commemorate James Connolly by carrying on his work of educating the Irish working class to win and hold social freedom, and by the promotion of lectures and study classes to fit working men and women for the service of their class."

The constitution places the governing power of the college in the hands of the annual conference of delegates from all bona fide working class organizations in Ireland, which are affiliated to the college. One-half of the management committee will be elected by the conference and the other by the students of the college.

The college has already begun its definitely educational work in Dublin, and has sought to awaken interest in the country by offering to trades councils and trade union branches its aid in setting up educational classes in their district, supplying tutors, lecture outlines and special lecturers.

Office Stationery
COMPLETE NEW STOCK
1920
DESK CALENDAR PADS POCKET DIARIES
DESK CALENDAR STANDS DAILY JOURNALS
LOOSE LEAF DIARIES, ETC.

The ESDALE PRESS Ltd.
PRINTERS AND STATIONERS
Factory: Corner Jasper and Rice. Phone 6501-02-03
Store: 10519 Jasper Avenue. Phone 6503

HOUSE PLANTS
Our Ferns are especially suitable for the home. It is a pleasure to watch them grow. They require so little care.
We have them in all sizes—50c to \$5.00 each.

WALTER RAMSAY, LIMITED
FLORISTS
10218 Jasper Avenue Phone 5536 11018 100 Avenue Phone 82444

HUMBERSTONE COAL
"Means Your Satisfaction"

HUMBERSTONE RETAIL SALES CO.
Distributors for Edmonton
Office: 201 McLeod Building. Phones 2248-2258
Yard Office: 1492

AMERICAN SHOE STORE

OUR FIRST BIG CELEBRATION

S
A
T
L
A
S
T
D
A
Y

ANNIVERSARY SALE

KWITCHERKICKIN!

S
A
T
L
A
S
T
D
A
Y

We know that shoes are expensive 'cause we have to buy 'em before selling 'em to you. But that ain't the point. What we want to impress upon you folks is, that as long as this sale lasts you will get enough change back from every pair of shoes purchased at this sale to enable you to enjoy ham and eggs for breakfast, even if eggs do cost as much as diamonds. So kwi,cherkikiein, besides, it wears out your shoes. Do you know the first thing you'll say upon entering the American Shoe Store, taking a peep at the wonderful values we offer you? No. Well, we do. Here it is: (Isn't this a good old world when you look up instead of looking down to kick?)

\$12.00 MEN'S BOOTS, \$6.45 We have two lines going at this price. One is all our Black and Brown Calf Lined Boots; the other is a Cashion Sole Men's Tan Elk Work Boot. The regular value is up to \$12. REDUCED TO \$6.45	\$12.00 MEN'S BOOTS \$8.45 Men's Black and Tan Heavy Winter Calf Boots, welted viscol soles, only 15 pairs left, a shoe that will wear and wear and wear. Regular \$12.00 values. REDUCED TO \$8.45	Only 60 pairs left REG. \$9.00 LADIES' BOOTS \$1.85 My, how they do go today, and you want to get here early to get your pair; remember it costs \$1.50 to get a pair of 1/2 soles put on these days. Regular Values to \$9.00. OUT THEY GO AT \$1.85	\$9.00 WOMEN'S PUMPS, \$6.45 Here's a Good "Un-Den't Know We Had 'em!" One of the clerks while cleaning up the store room this morning, discovered these pumps away back in a corner. In plain and colonial styles, also dark brown kid; they sold for \$9.00 last summer, but here they go \$6.45 at a get out quick price	\$16 J. & T. BELL BOOTS, \$12.85 J. & T. Bell's 9-inch top Black Kid Bel. with high Louis heels, Good-year welted soles. Ask the clerk to show you this wonderful buy. Reg. \$16 values \$12.85 Reduced to
\$12.00 MEN'S BOOTS, \$5.85 Here you are, men, a big rack full of broken lines in black and tan calf leathers and Neolin soles. We are also including our Famous Walk King Boot at the same price. "Can you beat it." Regular up to \$12.00 values REDUCED TO \$5.85	\$14.00 MEN'S BOOTS, \$10.45 Men's fine calf boots in black or brown, this boot has our own stamp "American Shoe Store." A boot we stand behind. A boot you will be wise to look at before making your purchase. Reg. \$14.00 values. REDUCED TO \$10.45	SHOE BARGAINS FOR THE BOYS Regular \$7.00. Our entire stock of Boys' Boots of gunmetal box calf and box kip, leather and Neolin soles. Sizes 1 to 11½. CUT TO \$3.85 Regular \$6.00 Youths' Shoes, of the same leather. Sizes \$3.25 11 to 13½. CUT TO \$2.85 Regular \$5.00 Little Gents' Boots of box calf, gunmetal and box kip. Button or lace. Sizes 8 to 10½. CUT TO \$2.85 Regular \$3.75 Children's Boots Sizes 6 to 7½. CUT TO \$2.65	\$16.50 WOMEN'S BOOTS, \$7.85 Women's Fancy Kid Boots in light and dark grey, white, field mouse, white kid bottoms and brocaded silk top, mahogany calf. If we had to buy these Boots on today's market we would have to get \$20.00 for them. But Out \$7.85 They Go at	

AMERICAN SHOE STORE

10108 Jasper Avenue
Corner Jasper and 101st Street

Ambulance Service
PHONE 1525

Connelly-McKinley Co., Ltd.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
10012 Rice Street

If YOU Are
undecided how to get rid of your Household Furnishings, etc., phone us and our buyer will call and advise you the best means of realizing the highest prices for your furniture, etc.

L. FODERSKY, Auctioneer
Opposite Macdonald Hotel
Phone 4755

EDMUND P. JAEGER CO.
MANUFACTURING FURRIERS

FURS
Altered, Cleaned, Manufactured, Remodeled, Repaired, Stored, Tanned. Expert Workmanship

9925 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton (Next to J. H. Morris & Co., Grocers)
Phone 5622 Latest Designs

HENDERSON CO.
SIGNS OF ALL KINDS

General House Decorating
Wall Paper

16235 102ND STREET

PROTECTION TO YOUR FAMILY
and an income for yourself, in case you become disabled, can be had at lowest net cost in our Ordinary Life Policy With Disability Benefits

S. A. G. BARNES,
Provincial Manager
MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK
207-208 McLeod Building.

PHONE 2524
EDMONTON TAXI SERVICE
10304 97th Street
25-Hour Service
Trips Anywhere
Under management of returned veterans.

In Memoriam Cards
Beautiful New Designs
Dredge & Crossland Limited
10123 100th Street

THE LINES MOTOR CO., LIMITED
FOR
FORD CARS

Buy IN EDMONTON and from YOUR Advertisers