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LEGISLATORS OUT OF TOUCH WITH PEOPLE

Debates in Parliament Show Ignorance of Conditions Here and Elsewhere

(By Tom Moore)
(Special to the Free Press)
Parliament has now been sitting for thirty days but as yet no legislation materially benefiting the wage earners of this country has been passed. There has, however, been many questions discussed in which all workers should be vitally interested. The official Hansard makes interesting reading showing as it does how far out of touch with the great masses of our people many of our legislators are.

The Fuel Question
On March 10th, Mr. J. H. Burnham, Peterborough West (Ont.) moved two resolutions, the first one being:
"That in the opinion of this House whereas the rise in the price of necessities is leaving many of the people of Canada in a desperate condition and whereas the fuel question has become an acute one in many parts of the country it is desirable that the Government select a time for a full discussion of these matters to the end that the people can be protected and served and that peace and order be continued."

The discussion on this resolution occupies eleven pages of Hansard and largely developed into a question as to how the coal mined in Alberta and Nova Scotia could be brought to the province of Ontario and sold in competition with United States coal. The debate wound up by Mr. Arthur Meighan moving that the resolution be amended by striking out the first recital.
"Whereas the rise in the price of necessities is leaving many of the people in Canada in a desperate condition."

The amendment was agreed to and the resolution as amended carried.
Evidently the Parliament of this country hates to acknowledge that the coal in the price of necessities is really bringing about a spirit of desperation amongst a large number of people who are constantly being faced with the ever diminishing purchasing power of the dollar they earn.

Eight Hour Day
The second resolution moved on the same day by Mr. J. H. Burnham, Peterborough West (Ont.) was:
"That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that to the extent of the jurisdiction of this Parliament a national eight hour day should be established immediately subject only to the right of expressed private contract."

This resolution, if adopted, was certainly open enough to suit even the most reactionary employer. After debate, the report of which covers thirty-five pages of Hansard and which was carried on during the best part of two days the motion was withdrawn.
With few exceptions those who took part in the debate did so in a very academic manner. The discussion brought forward a few statements which are well worthy of repetition and further publicity. In explaining the measure Mr. Burnham said:

"There is nothing in this resolution which would prevent a man from working twenty-four hours if he wanted to. The eight hour day simply means paying on that basis. If anybody wishes to make an agreement to work longer than that it would be quite proper for him to do so."
Mr. H. H. Stevens, Vancouver Centre, B.C., seconded the resolution and made two very important declarations:

"That already a very large proportion of the great industries in Canada recognize and practice the eight hour day as a standard day."
"Therefore I say it would be fairer to all if we have a standardized day of labor for the whole of Canada rather than to have in one province an eight hour day and in another a ten hour day and in another a nine hour day and so on."

Mr. Edmond Froulx, Prescott (Ont.), stated:
"This question I believe can be left to employers and employees to settle. Labor unions are now very powerful. They can dictate their terms to their employers and in certain industries if an eight hour day is sufficiently long I think they can manage to get their requests conceded by their employers."

I think this is a question that can wait and which can very well be dealt with by the employer and employees. It came before them at the Industrial Conference last September. The labor unions were strong for the eight hour day but I think the majority of the employers were against it."
This hardly coincides with the statement by Mr. Stevens that already a large proportion of the great industries of Canada recognize and practice the eight hour day as a standard day.

Mackie Supports
Mr. H. A. Mackie, East Edmonton (Alta.) speaking in favor of the eight hour day submitted some very useful statistics showing the reduction of

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PRESIDENT McCREATH WILL REPRESENT WORKERS OF ALBERTA

President Robert McCreath of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council left on Thursday night for Ottawa where he will represent the workers of Alberta at the conference for the co-ordination of Labor laws.
President McCreath is taking the place of Alderman J. A. Kinney as the workers' representative from Alberta. Mr. Kinney resigned following an objection to his appointment by the Alberta Federation of Labor on the grounds that he was a Government employee and the Federation had not been consulted as to his appointment.

HALF HOLIDAY ON SATURDAY IS ENDORSED

Trades Council Unanimously Supports Week-end Breathing Spell for Clerks

Unanimously endorsing the Saturday half-holiday, the Trades and Labor Council on Monday evening replied in a very definite manner to a statement being circulated in the city to the effect that organized Labor was not behind the retail clerks in their preference for the week-end half-holiday. Secretary McCormack in moving that the council reaffirm its endorsement of Saturday as the most suitable day for the half-holiday, informed the council that an officer of the Retail Merchants' Association was circulating a statement claiming that organized Labor opposed the Saturday half-holiday. On the secretary's motion being put to vote it was unanimously adopted by the delegates present, who represented about twenty-five city unions.

Dixon's Meetings
A wire was received from Winnipeg advising that F. J. Dixon would be in Edmonton on Tuesday and on recommendation of the council executive, it was decided to participate in arranging for meetings. It was suggested that an overflow meeting be held following one of the theatre performances, and Delegates Hawkins, Murray and Cottrell were appointed to act with other labor bodies in this and other matters in connection with Mr. Dixon's visit. Messrs. Field, McCormack, Findlay, Daly, Cottrell, Murray and McCreath were appointed to represent the council at the Dixon meeting in Albion hall or other meetings which might be arranged.

Kinney Resigns
Alderman J. A. Kinney addressed the council reading correspondence between Secretary Smith of the Alberta Federation of Labor and himself regarding the appointment of the Alberta representatives to the conference on co-ordination of labor laws which is to be held in Ottawa on April 26th. The Federation objected to the fact that organized Labor had not been consulted as to the labor representative. Mr. Kinney, who had been appointed by the government to represent labor, stated that on receipt of Mr. Smith's resignation he had placed his resignation in the hands of Premier Stewart.

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OBJECTION IS NOT TO KINNEY PERSONALLY

Federation Endeavoring to Conserve Labor's Right to Make Own Appointments

Speaking to the Free Press on the long distance telephone from Calgary on Wednesday evening, Secretary Smith of the Alberta Federation of Labor asked that it be made clear to the readers of this paper that the Federation is objecting to the appointment of the labor representative to attend the conference on Labor laws in Ottawa, the objection was not to Mr. Kinney personally. "The workers can see," said Mr. Smith, the danger of allowing the precedent to be established whereby the Government when it has need of a labor representative proceeds to pick one of its own choosing without consultation with a representative body of the organized workers.
"It was the principle that representatives of the workers should be chosen by the workers themselves, that we were endeavoring to uphold," said the Federation Secretary, "and it is regrettable if it should be taken that we objected to Mr. Kinney personally."

NOTICE
Any body of workers in the city at present unorganized, who desire assistance in that direction are asked to communicate with Mr. A. S. Neale, 11722 96th street, phone 71455. Mr. Neale and the organization committee of the Trades Council, of which he is convenor, will be pleased to render assistance in the organization of new unions.

PRINCIPLE OF PROMOTION IS VIOLATED HERE

Outsider Brought in to Fill Position of Deputy Postmaster LOCAL MEN CAPABLE

Several in Local Office With Higher Classification Than Imported Man

OTTAWA, April 18.—The appointment of Thomas A. Rutledge, now employed in the Winnipeg post office, to be assistant postmaster at Edmonton is gazetted today by the civil service commission.
Appearing in an inconspicuous way in local dailies during the week, the above news item probably did not convey anything extraordinary to the minds of Edmonton citizens. The circumstances involved, however, represent one of the greatest measures of injustice ever perpetrated on a body of workers in this city.

The deputy postmaster of the Edmonton office was transferred to another department of the service, and his position became vacant. Members of the local staff applied for the position, which has been filled by local men during the past three months. There was every reason to believe that the deputy position would be given permanently to an Edmonton employee, when like a bolt from a clear sky came the announcement that a Winnipeg man had been appointed.

There is no suggestion that none of the local staff are capable of filling the position. As a matter of fact there are men in the Edmonton office whose classification is higher than that of the man who is being imported. Local men are very properly incensed over the fact that men who have served as long as twenty-five years in the postal service, who have been in Edmonton for ten to fifteen years and who are paying taxes in this city, should be turned down in favor of an outsider with lower classification and shorter service in post office work.

WEEK OF OPEN AIR SOCIALIST RALLIES IN PROGRESS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK.—A week of open-air Socialist demonstrations and amnesty rallies is in progress here. Opening with six giant outdoor meetings at which the expulsion of the five Socialists from the New York state legislature and the release of political prisoners in the United States were the chief themes, a series of rallies have followed. The five expelled Socialists, and prominent Labor and Socialist party leaders are speaking in the outdoor meetings.

VANCOUVER T. & L. COUNCIL DECIDE TO HAVE LABOR PAPER

The Vancouver Trades and Labor Council at their last regular meeting decided that it was about time to start a labor paper of its own, and with that end in view a committee of five, consisting of Delegates Showler, McVety, Sully, Stark and Mrs. Peters, were appointed to devise ways and means to that end.

FEDERATION OF NEEDLE TRADES TO BE LAUNCHED

Proposed That Ladies' Garment Workers Take Initiative in U.S.

(By the Federated Press)
NEW YORK.—A world-wide federation of needle trades may be launched by the International Ladies' Garment Workers of America at their 10th annual convention in Chicago, May 3 to 17. President Benjamin Schlesinger announced. This plan is a direct outgrowth of Schlesinger's recent trip to Europe during which he came into close contact with the heads of the needle trades in the chief European countries.
At the last meeting of the union's general executive board it was voted to make the first move toward the federation during the May convention. It is expected that plans for the organization will be perfected at a European conference in Copenhagen during August.

Another important proposal which will be considered by the delegates is that the I.L.G.W.U. take the initiative in forming a federation of the seven needle trade unions in this country. Such a federation has the endorsement of the general executive boards of the I.L.G.W.U. and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Demands for a government inquiry into profiteering in the clothing industry and the establishment of co-operative factories are also slated for action at the coming convention.

The occasion will be the 20th anniversary of the union's founding. Three hundred delegates representing the 150,000 members, are expected to be present for the two weeks' sessions.

BRITISH LABOR AGAINST PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF PRINCE OF WALES

LONDON.—The Civil Service vote now before the House of Commons contains an item of \$100,000, the amount of the Prince of Wales' expenses on his trip to New Zealand and Australia. Tom Myers, member for Labor, has made a vigorous protest against allowing this item.

ALBION HALL CROWDED TO HEAR DIXON

Winnipeg Labor Member Denounces Government Tactics in Dealing With Workers

F. J. Dixon, M.L.A. of Winnipeg, addressed an audience that filled Albion Hall on Tuesday evening. Mr. Dixon was unopposed in his denunciation of the Dominion Government, and the repressive measures being adopted to suppress the free expression of political ideas. An overflow meeting was held in Labor headquarters at which the Winnipeg member spoke along similar lines. "The Winnipeg strike," said Mr. Dixon, "was not a revolution, but a most peaceable strike for a lawful object, namely, collective bargaining which means the right of employees to negotiate with their employers through the chosen representatives of the employees."

"The men now in jail were arrested and threatened with deportation under the infamous amendment to the immigration act which was rushed through both houses at Ottawa in 40 minutes and assented to on the 6th of June, 1919. Under this amendment all except British subjects born or naturalized in Canada may be arrested on suspicion and deported without the formality of a civil trial.

"It is important that the men now in jail should be released as soon as possible but it is also important that this and other laws which flagrantly violate constitutional rights, which took centuries to gain, should be repealed.

"We are told that the censorship has been abolished but if we examine the amendments to the Criminal Code, assented to 7th July, 1919, we find, among other things, that the censorship in a most vicious form is retained.
"In the same bill we find a glaring example of the point of view which prevails."
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LONGSHOREMEN IN SEATTLE STRIKE IN PROTEST OF OPEN SHOP

SEATTLE.—The strike of 500 longshoremen here against the port of Seattle is the direct result of attempts made to foist the non-union shop on the waterfront workers. The employers are striving to institute once more the system of hiring men at gates whereby the vacant jobs go to men with the widest shoulders.

The longshoremen are fighting for the continuance of the system in vogue at the time of the strike whereby workers are employed unloading ships by means of an alphabetical list—men of medium build getting the same amount of employment as their more husky brothers.

PACKING PLANT WORKERS WILL MEET SUNDAY AFTERNOON

There will be a mass meeting of the employees of Swift's, Burns' and Gainer's packing plants in Labor headquarters, corner Jasper and First (over Dominion Cigar Store) on Sunday afternoon at 2:30.
Prominent Labor men will address the gathering and all packing plant workers of both sexes, with the exception of foremen and members of the office staff, are cordially invited to be present.

FRANCHISE ACT WILL RESTRICT NON-RESIDENTS

Labor Organizers Not Resident in Canada Must Not Work for Candidates

(By Tom Moore)
(Special to the Free Press)
Clause 11 of the new Federal Franchise Act prohibits persons or electors non residents of Canada from canvassing votes or in any way endeavoring to induce voters to vote for any candidate at an election. This clause has been approved and therefore labor organizers non resident of Canada will need to be very circumspect in advising their members to support candidates who may be favorable to labor legislation or to oppose those who have shown their antagonism towards labor unions.
The following extract from the proceedings in committee, of March 26th is very illuminating.

How About 'Pussyfoot'?
Mr. Power: Notwithstanding the very lucid explanation of the Acting Solicitor General I am still opposed to this clause. I expect we will very shortly have in this country a strong Labor Party. The Labor Party are about to organize and will perhaps need in their organization the help and assistance of some members of their body in the United States.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Power: I see no reason why they should not be allowed to come in—

An hon. member: Keep them out.

Mr. Power:—to help in an election by speeches. More than that we shall also have, I think—

An hon. member: We have got enough Socialists here now.

Mr. Power:—a strong Prohibition party. I see no reason, for instance why 'Pussyfoot' Johnson, who is now in England, should not come here, and yet if 'Pussyfoot' Johnson were to come here he might be put in jail and then the President of the Privy Council would be in trouble.
An hon. member: Even Billy Sunday might come here.
Mr. Power: In any of these cases it might be pleaded that intervention on the part of strangers would be perfect.

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COSSAKS PLEDGE LOYALTY TO THE RUSSIAN SOVIET

Freedom and Equality Advocated At All-Russian Congress of Cossacks at Moscow

(By the Federated Press)
MOSCOW.—Unstinted loyalty to the Russian Soviet government, and a pledge to the old Cossack tradition of freedom and equality, were promised at the All-Russian congress of Cossacks just held here in the great hall of the General Federation of Trade Unions. Of the 329 delegates present, who ranged from gaunt warriers to women, 103 were Communists, 95 Communist sympathizers, and 142 nonpartisan.

The Bolshevik revolution of November, 1917, has made possible the return to the old democratic ideals of the Cossacks, which were perverted under the czar's regime, the delegates said. They unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that the Cossacks do not form a separate nation or people, but are part of the Russian Soviet state.
On behalf of the central executive committee of the Soviet government President Kalinin announced that it proposed to divide the state lands and the large estates among the laboring Cossacks.

When Nicolai Levine appeared before the congress to plead for unity in face of the Polish aggression, he was met with an ovation. For some minutes the hall rang with the cheers of the Cossacks, standing up in their places.

NOTICE
The organization committee of the Trades Council meets tonight (Friday) in Labor Hall. The following delegates are asked to be present: Neale (convenor), Findlay, Cottrell, McLean, Park, Watt and Hamilton.

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BREAK WITH O.B.U. IN 'PEG IS DEFINITE

Cannot Work With Faction Whose Main Theme is Damning Everything That is Not O.B.U.

(By W. H. Hoop, in the Western Labor News)

The Defence Committee met in Winnipeg on Sunday last to consider ways and means how best to assist the strike leaders to get out of gaol. The convention seemed utterly at a loss for a practical lead and the whole day was an expression of the degeneracy of thought to which the convention has sunk. The chairman about 5 p.m. in the afternoon reminded the delegates that it was about time that they began to deal with the matter for which the convention had been called, and during the last hour things were speeded up a bit and a resolution calling for a general strike was carried, many not voting. A resolution calling a May Day cessation of work was passed also, and a committee struck off to organize a parade of protest for the release of the convicted men, also a resolution calling for a strike of two days per week in the event of the men not being released on May Day protest.

A New Idea
A lot of time was used in discussing a new thing called an Industrial Defence Council, the primary object being to have a new council, to which could belong any organization associated with the workers. It was said the O.B.U. Council was already functioning in that respect, others thought it was to take the place of the Defence Committee. The chairman (W. Lefaux) got at loggerheads with the chairman of the committee and his manner of ruling was somewhat arbitrary though technically correct and references such as "Czar of Russia" and "Proletarian Dictator" were hurled at him. The convention finally turned down the new idea by a majority of about 70, stating generally, that these were just about enough councils of one kind and another.

Morning Session
The morning session was taken up in reading minutes and letters from outside points and giving a general review of the number of arrests and convictions, and the afternoon was consumed in slamming the Internationals. It was pointed out that the convention was called for a very different purpose, and that neither the Internationals nor the O.B.U. should become objects of discussion at such a convention, but the admonition was wasted. The O.B.U. was worshipped as the serpent lifted up in the wilderness of discontent, and the Internationals were requested to come forth and receive the serpent's "bite."

"The Internationals were so weak and puny, so near down and out," they said, and yet, the fact that a letter had been read, stating that the Internationals severed their connection with the Defence Committee caused such a beating of the drum that the convention got nowhere all the day.

General Strike Talk

It seemed a pity that the men in gaol had to be victims of this talk about the general strike idea. It has been pointed out, and that by sound thinkers, both in and out of the O.B.U., that if the power is there to pull off a general strike successfully, a lot of talk need not be indulged in, and a lot of talk in that direction is evidence of absence of that power. The secretary of the Loggers' Association said the men would do better by staying on the job and building up a press that could keep others out of gaol, by creating a strong proletarian public opinion. He deprecated sentiment about the men being in gaol, saying they are doing good work by remaining there, that a man in gaol was indeed better off than a man outside of gaol hunting a job, unless it was still a worse job, being the wife of a man having to spend the small wages of the man who had a job. There is an undoubtedly strong feeling that the men in gaol carried out the orders given them, that there was no thought of seditious conspiracy or the remotest idea of intent to overthrow existing government institutions, and it is the outrage, on the honesty of purpose of the strike leaders that sinks deeply into the minds of the workers of Western Canada.

Factional Bitterness

There is a faction whose main and only theme is the slandering and damning of any and everyone not in the O.B.U. No matter how honestly a person differs in opinion or how honestly they have sought to help the men during the time between arrest and conviction they are labeled "Snakes," "Wind-jammers," and every other vile thing conceivable. There is no wonder the Internationals could not work with the Defence Committee. If spite of all that can be said to the contrary the O.B.U. spirit takes precedence with this faction over anything else. This did not come out prior to the trial being concluded, but has now been freely ad-

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What the Federation Asked; What the Government Passed

First of a series of articles to be contributed to the Free Press by Walter Smitten, Secretary of the Alberta Federation of Labor

Amend Section 34 Sub. Section (a) to read "If a workman is disabled he shall receive compensation from the day of the accident. Strike out the words of subsection (b).
We request that the scale of indemnities be increased at least 100% and that there be no maximum specified.
Strike out paragraph (2) in section 53.
Amend Section 54 by striking out the words "which are less than 90 per cent of the earnings he was receiving at the time of the injury," in lines 2, 3 and 4 and the words "fifty-five" in line five and substituting for the latter the words "one hundred."
What Was Passed
Section 48 was amended to read:
Where death results from an injury the amount of compensation shall be (a) The necessary expenses of the burial of the workman not exceeding \$100; (b) Where the widow or invalid husband is the sole dependent, a monthly payment of \$30.00;
(c) Where the dependents are a widow or an invalid widow and one or more children a monthly payment of \$30 with an additional monthly payment of \$7.50 for each child under the age of sixteen years to be increased upon the death of the widow or invalid widow to \$10, not exceeding in the whole \$60 per month.
The other clauses of this section were not changed but an additional clause was passed it reads:
Wherever, since the coming into force of this Act, the amount payable under this Section or Section 51 hereof, as compensation to a workman or his dependents in case of an accident, has been increased, any workman or his dependents who are in receipt of compen-

sation in respect of an accident which occurred prior to such change shall be entitled from the time of such change to compensation in the same manner as if such accident had occurred subsequent to such increase having been made.
While the maximum amount has been removed and payments will continue so long as disability or dependency exists this means that only for fatal accidents have the Government provided increases. When we realize that only about one per cent of the accidents that happened last year were fatal the extent of the consideration shown will be understood.
It might be well here to make a comparison between the consideration shown military and industrial casualties. Probably some may think this is not a fair comparison, that the risk is much greater for those in active military life, let us see what the records show.
Last year approximately 35,000 workers were afforded protection by the Compensation Act and we had approximately 3,500 accidents reported or ten per cent of the total, as high a rate even as that of this last terrible slaughter, so that we can justify the statement that the risk is equal (note the figures used in this paragraph are only approximate as the records for last year are not to hand but they are substantially correct).
For death the military authorities provide a monthly payment to the widow of \$40 and \$8 for each child under sixteen years of age regardless of the number.
For a fatal accident our Act, with the increases passed at this session, provides a monthly payment to the

widow of \$30 and \$7.50 for each child under sixteen years of age with a maximum monthly payment of \$60.
For total permanent disability the military authorities provide full pay and allowances, medical and hospital treatment until he is discharged, then a payment of \$50 per month for himself and additional payments of \$8 per month for wife and each child under the age of sixteen years, with a further allowance for helplessness not exceeding \$25 per month.
Our Act provides medical and hospital treatment, for which the injured person has made daily contributions, \$10 per week for himself, \$2 per week for the first dependent and \$1 for each additional dependent with a maximum payment of \$16 per week.
For total temporary disability the military authorities provide full pay and allowances, medical and hospital treatment until he is fit to resume duty.
Our Act provides medical and hospital treatment, for which he has made contributions, \$10 per week for himself, \$2 for the first dependent and \$1 additional for each other dependent with a maximum payment of \$16 per week, provided the disability lasts for more than ten days; if less there is no payment for the first three days.
From the foregoing it will readily be seen that our requests would merely have placed the industrial casualty on a par with the military and no one has attempted as yet to prove that military authorities are paying too high a rate which means that our requests in this regard were modest.
Then again in Section 54 we find that for accidents that do not necessitate

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