

J. S. WOODSWORTH ADDRESSES TRADES COUNCIL MEETING

Question of High Rents Taken Up—Hospital Accommodation Deal With.

J. S. Woodsworth, one of the men arrested in connection with the Winnipeg strike, addressed the meeting of the Trades and Labor Council on Monday evening, on behalf of the Defence fund. Mr. Woodsworth appealed for support for the fund on the ground that the men on trial were arrested because of their activities on behalf of the working class movement. The speaker was asked a number of questions regarding the administration of the funds. He stated that enormous expenditures have been made in connection with the cases, and more money was urgently needed to continue the defence. In connection with the administration of the fund letters were received from Calgary and Moose Jaw favoring the proposal to turn the defense of the men on trial over to the Trades Congress with a view to having the whole Labor movement in Canada line up behind the defense. Calgary Trades Council wrote that they have centralized local unions in aid of the defense and are holding money so collected until more satisfactory arrangements are made to administer the fund. The hour being late when Mr. Woodsworth concluded his address, the whole question was referred to the next meeting of the council.

The question of high rents was again before the council, when Delegate Findlay presented a resolution calling on the executive committee to consider the advisability of holding a mass meeting of tenants to protest against the recent drastic increases in rents in this city. After considerable discussion on the matter the motion was carried. Speaking to his motion Mr. Findlay stated that the Alberta government should enact a fair rent act which would limit the rental charge on buildings to a certain percentage on the actual money invested.

Delegate Hawkins presented a resolution on the housing question which was unanimously adopted as follows: "From present indications the coming spring will witness the advent into Edmonton of a large number of people, and though some will no doubt be here but temporarily, there will be many desirous of remaining if housing accommodations can be secured.

"It appears however, as though housing will be practically unobtainable, and that there will be many people who will of necessity be obliged to live in tents, and, with a view of having inhabited tents, established under conditions that will be the least menace to the health of the community, we are approaching you at this time suggesting.

"First—That a license from the city be necessary before any one is permitted to live in a tent."
"Second—That a block of land be provided by the city for the use of people who propose living in tents, with a view of providing some system of sanitation that will be acceptable to the health department of the city."

A letter was received from the owners of the building in which the halls are located, advising the council that commencing with April first, the rent would be increased one hundred per cent. In this connection the secretary reported for the executive committee recommending an increase in rents to local unions of one dollar per meeting. This plan which was adopted will provide an additional revenue which will be almost sufficient to make up for the fifty dollar increase.

The matter of securing permanent headquarters which would be owned by the organization was discussed when Secretary McCormick advised the creation of a fund as the nucleus of a building fund. After some discussion a motion prevailed instructing the executive to go thoroughly into the whole question of accommodation.

Delegate Cottrell brought up the matter of hospital accommodation in the city, stating that the present hospital arrangements were wholly inadequate for a city of this size. Delegate Findlay informed the council that a sub-committee of the hospital board was now engaged in making a survey of the local hospital situation.

The Board of Commerce wrote regarding the paper situation and stated that the board was considerably handicapped in its action against the Fort Francis Paper Co. because of international complications being involved.

NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VOTES INCREASE FOR TEACHERS

Low wages for public school teachers have created such a desperate condition in New York city that the chamber of commerce has unanimously voted that the teachers be given a 33-1-3 per cent. increase.

It is stated that this is the first time in its history that this business organization has declared in favor of a wage increase for workers.

RIVERDALE TO HAVE COMMUNITY LEAGUE IN NEAR FUTURE

Riverdale is to have a Community League. The citizens of Fraser Flats say so and those who attended the meeting held in Rundle Church last Wednesday evening are going to make it so. The necessity may be greater than has yet been realized by the progressive element of the Flats and so far only individual efforts have been attempted against the conditions peculiar to such a mixed population.

Mr. J. A. Dorman gave a talk to the men and women gathered at this meeting, on the progress made by the Westmount Community League, of which he is president.

A committee was appointed to further the organization of the league and to report to a meeting later on.

B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR HAS BEEN DISSOLVED

Years of Time and Service As Well As Money Wasted Through Malicious Scheming

(By A. Farnilo)
Ten years ago, the British Columbia wage workers brought into being a Federation of the various units of the Trade Union movement, in that province, for the purpose stated in the preamble of the constitution of that body. "The British Columbia Federation of Labor is organized for the purpose of voicing the needs and aspirations of Labor legislatively and otherwise, and to provide a place for worthy members of its affiliated unions to participate in the discussion of those practical problems, upon the solution of which depends their welfare as workers, individually and collectively.

"With the introduction of modern machinery of production and the harnessing of the forces of nature it is only fitting that the wealth producers should participate in the benefits derived.

"We therefore, pledge ourselves to unceasingly demand a universal workday of eight hours or less, so long as labor power is sold as a commodity. We believe there is more efficiency in electing working class representatives to write the law than by supplementary methods, and our efforts will be more in that direction in the future. We are firmly convinced that the future belongs to the only useful people in human society—the working class."

We have quoted this preamble in full so that we cannot be accused of gobbling the subject matter. And for the further purpose of the workers, at least, seeing at a glance how ridiculous we become when two or three young men in a hurry get together, and resolve themselves out of business, because the organization has accomplished what it was organized for.

In the first place the wage system is still with us. The eight hour day and less is not an accomplished fact, neither

PORTLAND LABOR WILL WITHDRAW FUNDS FROM BANK

Connection of Bank Manager with Anti-Union Movement Causes Labor Council's Action

The Central Labor Council of Portland, Ore., has endorsed the resolution of the Label Trades Section, recommending the withdrawal of all union funds in the First National Bank of that city. The action is taken on account of the alleged connection of A. L. Mills, head of the bank, with the anti-union movement.

Mills is reported to be the financial head of the open shop movement in Portland. Many reports of his activities have reached the unions, and their authenticity has been so well established that the council thought it justified in taking action.

Some organizations began taking steps to withdraw their funds even before the council had acted, when the recommendations of the executive board became known.

If all accounts of unions and union members are withdrawn, it is estimated that the amount will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

ARBITRATION BOARD RAISES WAGES FOR STREET RAILWAYMEN

An arbitration board at Denver, has raised wages 10 cents an hour for motormen and conductors. The new scale is: 53 cents an hour for beginners; 56 cents after three months' service, and 58 cents thereafter. The award dates back to November 30.

Almost opportunity seldom finds its way back.

W. BRUNLEES IS ENDORSED BY ST. RAILWAY MEN

Send Letter to City Commissioners Asking That He Be Appointed Superintendent

The following letter has been forwarded to the city commissioners, by the local division of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America.

"I am instructed by the above named association to forward you a copy of the following resolution passed by the members of the above named organization:

"Whereas, according to the press a new superintendent is about to be appointed to the Edmonton Radial Railway; and Whereas, we are of the opinion that a man can be found in the employ of the department; and

Whereas, the city of Edmonton has gone on record as being in favor of promotion by seniority with ability in the various departments; and

Whereas, one of the commissioners did himself personally appoint the present acting superintendent according to seniority and presumably ability; and

Whereas, an agreement exists between the city of Edmonton and the Edmonton Radial Railway employees, that promotions shall be made from the rank and file of the department according to seniority and ability; and

Whereas, the present acting superintendent has had years of experience in street railway work, both in the Old Country, United States and the Edmonton Radial Railway, he being the oldest employee in the department;

Therefore be it resolved, that we, the employees of the Edmonton Radial Railway in mass meeting assembled do hereby unanimously endorse Acting Superintendent W. Brunlees, and that he be given the position of superintendent, as we are strongly of the opinion that he has the necessary ability and urge the city commissioners to give him a fair trial.

HUGH K. MONTGOMERY, President.
FRED McCLEAN, Secretary.

H. C. NEWLANDS WILL SPEAK TO LABOR PARTY

Teachers' Alliance Head Will Address Propaganda Meeting on "Group Organization"

"Group Organization" is the subject of an address to be given under the auspices of The Dominion Labor Party on Tuesday evening, March 23rd, by Mr. H. C. Newlands, President of the Alberta Teachers' Alliance.

Mr. Newlands is well known as a speaker of exceptional merit, and his address, on a subject that is particularly timely just now, should draw a large audience.

The meeting will take place at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening next in the large hall at Labor headquarters. These monthly gatherings are not confined to members of the Party, and the public are cordially invited to be present and join in the discussion.

BAKERS' UNION DEMANDS LEGISLATION FAVORING DAYLIGHT OCCUPATION

If the government refuses to introduce a bill at the present session of the legislature calling for daylight baking, the demands of the National Bakers' Union of the Canadian Federation of Labor will come before the house through a private bill. John Drummond and officials of the Bakers' Dr. W. A. Riddell, deputy minister of labor after they had read the Labor program for the session, and repeated their demand for legislation making the baking of bread at night illegal, and received Dr. Riddell's promise to render them what assistance he could.—Toronto Globe.

DROUGHT RELIEF FUND COLLECTS \$1,560 BY TAG DAY IN CALGARY

A tag day, put on for the Drought Relief Fund, last Saturday, in Calgary, resulted in a total amount collected of \$1,560. This ought to be of some help to the drought stricken settlers of southern Alberta.

CLEVELAND FIREMEN WILL ASK FOR \$250 FLAT INCREASE SOON

City firemen at Cleveland, Ohio, will ask a flat increase of \$250 a year soon, announced Thomas F. McManamon, Secretary of the union, recently. The Cleveland Federation of Labor has endorsed the demand. Firemen now receive \$1,800 a year minimum. Last spring they were getting \$1,500. They are working on an eight-hour basis.

In the Legislature

An interesting and exclusive feature contributed to the Free Press by Mr. Alex. Ross, M.L.A. for Centre Calgary

Alberta Legislators are creatures of extremes. A few days ago they were discussing bone dry legislation, now they are discussing the merits of wet legislation. The Southern Alberta irrigation scheme is an ambitious but rather complicated community effort to irrigate lands that are fairly well settled.

The very fact of the land being settled appears to be a handicap to the success of the project. The essence of the scheme is that a number of people have agreed to pledge their land to borrow money for the purpose of bringing water to a dry belt in the south. Careful investigations have been made by competent persons who claim that the land will readily respond to irrigation and that the scheme is quite practicable. A considerable amount of money is involved in the project because the supply of water is limited, necessitating the building of reservoirs. The water has also to be brought a considerable distance. Pessimists anticipate the failure of the scheme because of the limited supply of water. Fortunately their only knowledge of irrigation consists of the attorney general's statistics on the sale of liquor for 1919. They seem to have a rough and ready method of calculation; they argue the irrigation project involves about the same amount of money that was spent in one year for whiskey. The capacity of the land in Southern Alberta to absorb water is greater than the Alberta people's capacity to absorb whiskey. If the analogy is good there is not a sufficient amount of water in the south to guarantee the success of the scheme. We believe this is the first attempt to organize an irrigation project on settled land in Alberta, an experiment which will be watched with interest. The co-operative idea is admirable but the first real difficulty appears to be whether it is possible to organize the project so that each settler will make an equal contribution to the purchase of bonds, and also assume an equal amount of risk. It is practically impossible to meet these conditions by legislation because the land is privately owned, some of it already carrying a heavy load of debt, some of it no doubt free from all encumbrances. The element of risk in the venture is less with those who are carrying a debt than those free from debt; a fatal defect. There seems to be but one way in which irrigation can be successfully undertaken, that is where the state owns the land. The question of personal equity would then be removed if the land were owned, irrigated, and leased by the state.

The engineers' bill was sent to the committee on Friday morning, where it met with a warm reception. The bill is originally drawn aimed at setting up a close corporation similar to that which exists in the legal profession.

The bill asks for permission to form an association. This association to have not only power to determine the qualifications of an engineer but also power to determine whether he should be allowed to practice or not. No person could practice, no matter what his qualifications are, if he is not a member of the association. The bill has already been modified by its sponsors, the senate of the university is now given power to determine the standard but they insist on retaining the right to say whether an engineer should be allowed to practice or not. The committee agreed that the standard of the profession should be raised, also that the engineers should help to raise the standard. But only a few of the committee seemed inclined to give such arbitrary powers as to permit the association to permit a person who had qualified the right to practice his profession.

The Alberta Hudson Bay Railway extension bill met with a similar fate in committee. The promoters of this projected railway have allowed their charter to expire and now come along to the legislature asking for an extension of time. It appears that the company has also been guilty of doubtful business ethics when selling stock. Many farmers who would benefit by the railway bought stock in good faith and in order to give the contributors another chance a number of the committee favored granting the extension. The solicitor of the company has been invited to the next meeting in order to give a few explanations.

A large number of reports have been tabled for the consideration of the legislature including an inventory of the telephone system. The report of the University and the report of the labor bureau. The labor bureau report is not a very exhaustive one, it consists of the bare figures of the number of people who secured a job through that agency. The report does not state how many people are registered who cannot find employment, neither does it state how many of the jobs quoted were filled by the same person. Neither does it state the average wage paid or the number of hours per day, information

DRURY GOVERNMENT IS WELL LIKED BY ONTARIO WORKERS

Stage Hands and Movie Operators Are Placed Under Workmen's Compensation Act.

The Drury Government had got in right, declares the Industrial Banner. The workers in theatrical establishments are all greatly pleased at the treatment they have received at the hands of the Farmer-Labor Government.

While the Hearst Government was in power the Theatrical Stage Hands and Motion Picture Operators sent numerous delegates and committees to interview it and asked, that like other workers they should be placed under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Sir William and his colleagues again and again, promised to give the matter their "serious" consideration and then let the matter drop.

Not so with the new Premier and the Minister of Labor. They received a deputation recently, heard it carefully, gave its representatives "sympathetic" consideration and decided it was unfair to deny them the rights enjoyed by other workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The result is that not only the stage hands and Motion Picture Operators, but the Musicians, Ticket Sellers and all individuals employed in theatres are hereafter to be protected by the Act.

R. R. WORKERS PROMINENT IN ACTIVITIES I.L.P.

In St. Thomas Changed Conservative Majority of 1,000 To One of 300 for U.F.O.

Railroad workers are taking a big part in the activities of the Independent Labor Party in Ontario, the sympathy and co-operation of the Big Four Railway Brotherhoods and of the shopmen in the powerful system federations having been secured.

Every railroad centre is to become a Labor Party stronghold, says the Industrial Banner. Among the railroad men mentioned as taking prominent part in the progress of the labor party are Hon. Harry Mills, Minister of Mines, who is a Locomotive Engineer; Peter Heenan, of Kenora, another Engineer; A. T. Sweeney of Sudbury, a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; J. W. Russell, Cochrane, is another engineer, who is a real live wire in the party, as well as J. T. Wilson, of Nipissing and Ex-Mayor Crawford of Sarnia.

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OBJECT LESSON SHOWING IT PAYS TO BE ORGANIZED

When a Job is 100 Per Cent Organized the Union Can Do Things.

When a job is 100 per cent organized the union can do things, as was recently demonstrated at Rochester, N.Y., when the General Electric Company in that city tried to slip one over on the Painters' Union, by putting a gang of non-unionists to work, whitewashing its Leighton Avenue plant.

This job, however, was solidly organized and when the Business Representative of the Building Trades Council informed the manager of the company that their repair work would be all union or non-union he called the non-union craftsmen off the job. That settled it and in less than a minute the strike was won.

The boss on the job said, "we cannot get along without skilled men, so we will pull the non-unionists off the work and keep them off." This ended the impromptu strike then and there, the non-unionists walked off the job, while the union men picked up their tools and went at it again and it all happened so quick that outsiders never noticed that anything had happened. It was just another little object lesson, organization turned the trick and turned it right.

The French senate has passed the pension bill demanded by the Miners' Federation.

FRENCH SENATE PASSES PENSION BILL ASKED BY MINERS FEDERATION

which one expects to find in a report of this nature. There is no other province in Canada where it is so difficult to secure information of this kind than in the province of Alberta. It is time that a department of labor was formed in Alberta.

WOODSWORTH LECTURES UNDER AUSPICES OF LABOR CHURCH

Under the auspices of the Labor Church, J. S. Woodsworth, formerly of the Bureau of Social Research, and one of the men arrested in the Winnipeg strike, is delivering lectures during the week.

Monday night, at Alexandra Hall, Howard Avenue, he talked on the subject of "The Fight for Freedom." Tuesday evening, in Labor Hall, his address was on "The Machine Age and Its Problems." On Wednesday and Thursday evenings the meetings were held in Alexandra Hall and the subjects were "Woman's Wider Field" and "Forces Behind Winnipeg Strike."

On Friday evening in Labor Hall his subject will be "What Labor Wants." Sunday, at 7:30 p.m. he will speak in the Gem theatre on "Facing the New Era." A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to come and hear what Mr. Woodsworth has to say on the questions of vital interest to all.

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TRIAL DELAYED OWING TO ILLNESS OF A JURYMEN

Events Show Possibility That Prosecution May Not Stop With Present Trial

(By Gordon Cascaden)
(Special to The Free Press)

Illness of a jurymen held up the trial of the seven Labor men charged with alleged seditious conspiracy in connection with the big Winnipeg general strike of 1919 just when the principal prosecuting lawyer was in the midst of his address to the jury. For many weeks the government had continued putting in its case without any delay and the defendants, several of whom planned to speak, were preparing to let their case rest with the jury without calling any witnesses in their behalf.

That the prosecution may not stop with the present trial may be gathered from what transpired in court a few days ago.

Loane Pittblado, K.C., of crown counsel, referred to the finding during the trial at the time of the strike, of a copy of the "Class Struggle," a radical New York weekly, in the rooms of Ernest Robinson, Secretary of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council of the American Federation of Labor.

Here's the significant dialogue: Judge Metcalfe: "Where was this found?"

Pittblado: "In the room of Ernest Robinson, Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council."

Metcalfe: "Is he still Secretary of that body?"

Pittblado: "I do not know."

Metcalfe: "Is he still in Winnipeg?"

Pittblado: "I do not know, but he is an alderman of the city."

Metcalfe: "When does the Grand Jury sit?"

Pittblado: "March 16th, my lord."

Many here believe Robinson and others active in the strike may be indicted.

"You must bear in mind that they (the accused) must make no statements of fact to you," A. J. Andrews, K.C., chief crown prosecutor, declared in his address. "The accused may find it difficult but I would ask his lordship to so

(Continued on page 5).

'BRAIN' UNION IS NEW FEDERATION IN FRENCH CAPITAL

Intellectual workers in Paris have formed a federation which has been given recognition by Labor organizations. Dramatists, engineers, scientists, teachers, artists, poets, songwriters, journalists and dramatic experts are eligible to membership in the federation, which has appointed two committees to draft a definite constitution and program.

LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, March 21st
District Council of Telegraphers.

Monday, March 22nd.
Boilermakers No. 279.
Plasterers & Cement Finishers No. 372.

Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, No. 129.
Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen & Helpers No. 514.

Tuesday, March 23rd
Dominion Labor Party.
Old Fort Machinists No. 1266.
Barbers No. 227.

Wednesday, March 24th.
Electrical Workers No. 544.
Railroad Carmen No. 398.

Thursday, March 25th.
Stationary Engineers & Firemen.
Friday, March 26th
Machinists No. 559.
Plumbers & Steamfitters No. 685.

IRISH LIBERAL ORGAN RENDERS TRIBUTE TO P.R.

Ulster Guardian Comments on Success of Proportional Representation in Irish Elections.

The Ulster Guardian, "Organ of the Liberal Party in Ireland," in commenting on the results in the Irish municipal elections, paid a splendid tribute to the proportional representation system of voting, which was used for the first time in the recent contest. Under the caption, "P. R. Vindicated," the Guardian deals with the question as follows:

The results in the municipal elections under the Proportional Representation system of voting have now been declared, and we are able to take stock of the new position. We were told that the system had many virtues. Experience has confirmed that opinion, for after reviewing all the results to hand, we can say that Proportional Representation has demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt its entire practicability and its justice to all sections of the different communities. Many people expressed the fear that the system was so complicated that the number of spoiled papers would be abnormal. This fear was unfounded. Generally speaking, the number of such papers was about two per cent; a proof in itself of the intelligence of the electors, and at the same time a tribute to the splendid educational campaign carried out for some time before the election by the Proportional Representation Society.

One of the guiding principles of Liberalism is that minorities should be represented on the council chambers of the people. Unfortunately that was not always possible under the old system of voting, especially when, as happened in most parts of Ulster, the elections were fought on political lines. No one, for instance, outside the ranks of the extremists, could say that the old Belfast Corporation, with its 52 Unionists and eight Nationalists, was thoroughly representative of the people. Yet there it was and there it would probably have remained, at least for some time to come, but for the introduction of the new system. Even more glaring was the position in several of the smaller Ulster towns; where the minorities, sometimes Nationalist and sometimes Unionist, had no voice whatever in the management of the affairs of the Council; their duty being finished when they paid their rates. All this has been altered for the better, and from now on every Council in the North of Ireland can say, when it acts, that it does so on behalf of every section of the people. One of the most remarkable features of the results was the number of Labor candidates elected.

In the past Labor, as such, had to content itself with working from the outside the most of the local authorities; in future it will be called upon to play a part, and a big part, in the work.

In Belfast the results were in several respects sensational, and incidentally they provided the reason why the Ulster Unionist Party was the only body in Parliament to oppose the introduction of the new system of voting. If the Belfast Unionists are not sadder they ought to be wiser men today. The Party whip was cracked, and 101 and behold the electors did not, as in former days, obey the call. Not only so, but thousands of them deliberately disobeyed it.

The local Unionist leaders challenged all comers in the contest on the purely political issue, instead of on the question of the better government of the city, and they were beaten. They promised themselves an overwhelming victory, and in the end they found their Party in the Corporation reduced from 52 to 35. What a change has come over the capital of Caronshire during the past year! History was also made in "Derry City on the day of the poll, as the last results announced on Tuesday night showed that the Home Rulers of the city, for the first time on record, have now a majority on the Corporation. Well done Derry!

The results in the South and West were also remarkably interesting. The central fact of course is that Sinn Fein failed to sweep the country. This, combined with the success of the Constitutional Nationalists in holding their own is to our mind, a sign of returning sanity, and a happy omen for the future of the country. It is true that only a small number of Unionists were elected, but many others were included in the important and substantial parties which triumphed as "Municipal Reformers," or "Independents." Ireland has led the way in one of the most beneficial electoral reforms since the franchise was extended, 55 years ago, and it is safe to say that before long the same system will be extended to England and Scotland.

and conquers prejudice.

The union label is invulnerable to the injunction, the lockout and the blacklist.

The union label stands always for the fasts of today, never for a tradition of yesterday.