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Labor's Questionnaire to Candidates

BUILDING MATERIAL PRICES UPWARDS ACROSS THE LINE

According to a New York report wage earners are being harangued on the need for wage reductions to stimulate building, owners of terra cotta have jumped prices 1,000 per cent and over, and these business men are now under a federal indictment.

Except in a few sections of the country where the United Brick and Clay Workers of America are making a successful fight for living conditions, this industry is on an anti-union basis.

Terra cotta may properly be classed as next in importance to steel and cement in the building industry.

"These terra cotta owners," said Federal Attorney Haywood, "got together and divided the United States into certain definite divisions of territory as arbitrarily and with as complete and definite discipline as the German general staff used in dividing the western front into combat sectors. We find that this vast industry, reaching from here to the Pacific coast, has been within the complete and arbitrary control of about 23 men through out the United States. These men are banded together and operate almost as one."

"Not until building material is

brought down to reasonable prices will there be any extensive building in the large centers.

"No one group or single terra cotta manufacturer in the so-called central of western territory would have dared to come into New York or any part of the eastern territory. They were not satisfied with a division of territory, but felt that to more completely control their pricing scheme and the stifling of competition, they had to divide the business among themselves in their own territory. Each concern was allowed a quota of business and great pains were taken by all the others to see that none of them exceeded its respective percentage.

"There were no mere technical violations, and that these men knew they were violating the law, is apparent from the fact that the schemes were hatched behind barred doors at secret weekly meetings at which no secretary or outsider was ever permitted to enter and of which no minutes or records of any kind were kept.

"We find that with the possible exception of rare and isolated instances not a single manufacturer had observed or intimated that they took pains to see that the supply never equalled the demand."

TYPOTHETAE CONFERENCE AT TORONTO

In connection with the conference at Toronto this week of the United Typothetae the officers of the International Typographical Union, including President McParland and Secretary Hayes, are also in that city, which is a customary procedure. Delegates from all parts of Canada and the United States are in attendance, New York alone contributing over one hundred to the conference.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ON TURN OF TIDE

Toronto.—President D. B. Hanna of the Canadian National Railways, issued this statement:

"It is a matter of extreme gratification to me to be able to announce to the Canadian people that during the month of August, this year, the gross revenues secured from the operation of the Intercolonial, Prince Edward Island, National Transcontinental, Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern railways, exceeded the expenses by a substantial amount. This is the first monthly period since these railways have been operated by the board that it has been possible to present such a favorable statement. While I do not wish to appear as unduly optimistic, I do believe that the economic effects, as one result of consolidation, are beginning to be reflected in operation, and that the day is not far distant when the National Railways will be an asset in which all Canadians may take pride.

"The month of August is one not specially busy, in that it marks the end of the crop year in the Canadian West, as the new grain does not begin to move until September, in large quantities, to the lake carriers and to the sea."

"The mileage of the railways embraced by the statement was printed in the month of August were: Gross earnings \$10,536,461.74; working expenses \$10,489,230.30; net earnings \$47,231.44.

"No one would venture to foretell the future with trade conditions as unsettled as they are today. It would, however, appear that the end of serious operating losses on the National Railways is appreciably near—nearer, in fact, than the most sanguine of us had hoped for. We are beginning to reap the fruits of the great and complicated work of consolidation which was begun when the merging of the Canadian Northern and Canadian Government Lines was accomplished in 1915 and continuing the lines of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway were turned over to the 'National' for operation."

A POLICY ORDERED AT LAST CONVENTION NOW BEING MADE EFFECTIVE

In order to know exactly the standing of candidates at the forthcoming Federal elections all affiliated bodies to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada are to shortly receive a manifesto under the signatures of President Tom Moore and Secretary-Treasurer P. M. Draper. The continent will be well covered through the 2,500 organizations concerned, and it is hardly possible for one aspirant to a Federal seat to be placed in the overlooked class, at least if the units treat this matter in as serious a fashion as it deserves, and an exact knowledge gained of the various attitude sympathetic or otherwise to the printed questionnaire covering Labor's platform of principles which must be filled out by political candidates.

A section of the manifesto states that:

"During past years, we have been hampered in our legislative activities by not knowing where many members of the House of Commons stood on questions which are of outstanding importance to the organized labor movement. We, therefore, request your aid at this time to secure from the candidates in your constituency definite answers as to what their voice and vote will be, if elected, upon legislative requests formulated by the organized workers of this Dominion, as expressed by them at the various conventions of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

"Acting under instructions of the Winnipeg Convention, the Executive Council of the Trades and Labor Congress have brought our platform of principles up to date by embodying therein the latest declarations on current questions affecting us as workers. As part of the Congress, we look to your organization to support this platform of principles and to use whatever influence you can command in your vicinity to see that candidates are elected who are willing to give it their support.

"Therefore, we request that you obtain from each candidate a concise answer as to what their actions, if elected, would be on the various matters herewith submitted and fill in one of the attached blanks for each candidate, so that we may have them on file in this office when the new House of Commons assembles, thereby placing us in a position to judge who are our friends and where we may look for assistance in securing the enactment of legislation in harmony with this platform."

INCREASE IN LIVING COSTS IS SHOWN

Prices during September, both wholesale and retail, showed little change as compared with those ruling August, those noted being largely seasonal, according to the statistical branch of the department of labor. The decrease which was steady and continuous as from July of 1920, has apparently ceased, and there has been a general tendency during the last three months for prices to stabilize at a point about 50 per cent above those governing immediately before the war. In certain business quarters the opinion is held that somewhat higher prices will be obtained before the end of the year.

In retail prices the average cost of a list of staple foods in sixty Canadian cities was \$11.44 in September as compared with \$11.44 for the same articles in August. In September of last year the same articles cost \$15.95; in September, 1919, \$14.33; in September, 1918, \$13.31; in September, 1917, \$12.92; in September, 1916, \$12.77; in September, 1915, \$12.53; in September, 1914, \$12.53. The chief increase for September last was in potatoes, the prices for the new crop being high as compared with old stock at the beginning of August, but about the same as for the new crop a year ago. There were also increases in lard, eggs, butter, cheese and in sugar.

The department of labor's index number of wholesale prices, based on 1909 for the 10-year period 1909-1919, was again slightly lower, standing at 232.7 for September as compared with 236.4 for August, 236.6 for September, 1920; 301.5 for September, 1919; 285.3 for September, 1918; 246.1 for September, 1917; 183.4 for September, 1916; 150.3 for September, 1915; and 141.3 for September, 1914. The decrease for the month was largely in livestock and meats, but there were also slight decreases in grains and fodder. In dairy products, butter and cheese were lower, but eggs and milk were a little higher. In fruit and vegetables, miscellaneous foods, hides, leathers, boots and shoes, building materials and chemicals there were slight decreases. Raw cotton, lead and silver, and raw fur, were higher. The range on which the index number is based cover 272 principal commodities.

In the retail prices of fuel, bituminous coal and wood averaged slightly lower, while anthracite coal was fractionally higher.

MONTREAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The raising of the amusement tax, of a house to house canvass once a month, the levying of a contribution from all merchants, manufacturers and employees, and the giving of a special benefit performance were some of the methods suggested for raising money at a meeting of the Unemployment Committee held in the Windsor Hotel.

The meeting, the second one held by the committee, was called primarily for the purpose of receiving reports from the various sub-committees that were appointed at last week's meeting. George Lyman presided and was aided by J. MacNaughton, acting secretary. There was a fair attendance of members of the committee. It was stated by the secretary that the use of the Klaxh Club Rooms was out of the question on account of expense. It had been proposed at the previous meeting to use these rooms if obtainable as a central clearing house for the various organizations in the city anxious to help the unemployed.

The finance committee, in presenting their report, suggested various means of raising money, and there was considerable discussion on some of these.

The cost of obtaining the use of a theatre and various incidental items were held forth as an argument against the giving of a benefit performance for the raising of funds. It was stated the artists often gave their services free on such occasions. Members quoted from their own experiences, some showing that such a performance could not be run to a financial success and others claiming just the opposite. As an improvement on the original idea it was suggested that the theatres and picture houses be asked to give the proceeds of one of their ordinary performances on a certain day towards the fund.

Another suggestion put forward was that of raising the amusement tax, but it was stated that part of that tax already goes to the maintenance of hospitals and kindergartens, and that these would naturally want participate in any increase.

The forming of a committee of manufacturers which could devise a means of getting a contribution from their employees of one-cent in the dollar was then proposed, but it was feared that this would lead to considerable dissent among the working men.

The house to house canvassing scheme was set forth in detail. The plan was to wear the residents of a certain district that the canvassers would call on them at a certain time and that they would be expected to give as much as they could afford. In connection with this it was stated that the canvassers were to be ladies, and that the ladies when asked to give as much as they could afford, were to be expected to give as much as they could afford. It was stated last night it would be an easy matter to get together enough lady volunteer workers to do the work of canvassing. Each lady was to take with her cards ready addressed with the name and address of the householder, and they would then enter the amount given.

In order that the various sub-committees might have time to go into the various problems with which they were confronted, more fully, the meeting was adjourned, G. Lyman urging the necessity for vigorous action on the unemployment question, in order that work might be started before the winter sets in.

OTTAWA LABOR IN UNDECIDED MOOD

A convention of the members of the Independent Labor Party, and delegates from the various organized trade unions in the city, including the Railway Brotherhoods, to the ratio of three to every hundred of a union membership, will be held at Carpenter's hall on October 26. At this convention, the question will be finally decided whether the labor party will place candidates in the field for the two Ottawa constituencies in the general election.

This was decided at a meeting of the I. L. P., the discussion at which showed that the membership is pretty evenly divided as to the wisdom of nominating labor candidates for the coming election.

The executive committee brought down a resolution to the effect that Mr. David Loughnan, of the O. W. Y. A., and Ald. N. A. Bordenau be given the nomination of the party, but upon a motion to adopt the resolution being put before the gathering, it was defeated.

The question was raised as to the eligibility of the two proposed candidates for the support of the party; it being claimed that Mr. Loughnan was neither a member of the I. L. P. or of any trades union, while Ald. Bordenau, although a member of the party, did not belong to a trades union.

President J. W. Patterson stated that it was not necessary that the two candidates should be members of the I. L. P. to engage its support. All they needed to do was to ascribe to the platform of the party.

Mr. Loughnan did not agree with this viewpoint and claimed that unless the candidates had been members of the I. L. P. in good standing for a period of six months, the membership of the party could not possibly support them without violating its own constitution.

Delegate M. Cain objected to a number of those present voting, declaring they were not members and there was some sharp cross-talk along constitutional points, many saying they should seek the "Open Door Policy," as being detrimental to the future of the I. L. P.

Delegate McCann voiced criticism of placing labor candidates in the field, expressing pessimism as to their chances of success, and saying that a defeat would mean a set-back to organized labor. He declared he didn't feel like allowing the executive of the I. L. P. make a political football out of the labor movement, which present proceeds strongly against the I. L. P. and intimated that members of the executive who had recommended the two candidates for nomination had ridden rough-shod over the views of other members, who although on the executive had never been notified of the meeting at which this decision was arrived at.

Some delegates expressed the opinion that Mr. David Loughnan would make a strong candidate and that his chances of support of all parties outside of the Liberals and Conservatives was a good one.

VICE-PRES. HALFORD SELECTED TORONTO TYPOS GAINING FRIENDS

Ex-Controller H. J. Halford of Hamilton has been appointed to the long-standing vacancy on the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board. As a member of the board his salary will be \$7,500 per year, but, as successor to Alex Wright, there is a possibility of his being appointed to the Vice-Chairmanship, in which case his salary will be \$5,000. The situation has been vacant nearly three years.

In Labor circles Mr. Halford is regarded as a prominent, but moderate, labor leader. He is the Vice-President of the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board, and will be Acting President in the absence of President Tom Moore at the International Labor Conference at Geneva.

The new appointee is a master barber. Labor through President Moore and other sources, has been urging upon the Government the necessity for prompt appointment to the position for some months.

TORONTO TYPOS SUPPLY THE NECESSARY

Members of the Toronto Typographical Union No. 91, who have been on strike since June 1st, will receive a ton of coal as first instalment of a special strike benefit which is being provided by the International Union. Some time ago the International Union headquarters that a considerable sum of money was being set aside for special strike benefit purposes, and it was decided to use this money to supply the men on strike with their winter's fuel.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM OVERSEAS

UNEMPLOYMENT FIRST PLACE. The session of the British Parliament is intended to be brief, its business being limited to one topic, unemployment, although financial matters inseparable from the business situation must necessarily be handled. It was understood that although measures dealing with the situation had been decided upon by the Government, it was necessary, owing to the rules of the House of Commons, to give that body notice of the introduction of legislation.

The first business to come before the Lower House was a motion from the Government to devote the whole time of the House to the unemployment question.

LOSSES EXPLAINED. A simple explanation of the loss of nearly 2,500,000 by the Co-operative Wholesale Society on the past half-year's trading was given by one of the society's officials.

"The C.W.S.," he said, "depends almost solely for its support on the working classes. Unemployment, partial unemployment, and labor disputes have reduced their incomes, so that they have been able to buy only the absolute necessities of life."

Balance-Sheet Figures. This statement is completely supported by the balance-sheet figures. The official said that the actual value of groceries and provisions supplied to the retail shops during the past six months showed a decrease compared with the corresponding half of last year of 3.53 per cent.

Decreased value of the coal supplied was 23.3-4 per cent.

Drapery goods went down by 55.1-4 per cent, woollens and readymades by 45.1-2 per cent, boots and shoes by 53.1-4 per cent, and furniture by 25 per cent.

The figures for Newcastle and London—the other two big distributing centres—showed a similar relationship, and proved and emphasized the same conclusion, that in the case of any purchase the public could ever, are better off, far out of the 6,000 men, not more than ten are unemployed," it was stated.

"What has happened also," our

MONTREAL TYPOS PRODUCE EVIDENCE

Montreal Typographical Union No. 174 has London a statement, made and published by the International Typographical Union, by which the shorter hours are to be granted on May 1 of that year. The statement was held to decide whether the offer of an \$5 a week increase, from \$24 to \$29, was to be accepted, with the working hours standing at the same level as before.

In view of the fact that the forty-four hour week will come automatically in two years, the printers in favor held that this should be accepted and no strike vote taken. There are about 300 newspaper typographical men in the union who are not affected by any decision, and it is probable that they did not vote, thus making the small vote registered.

Chicago.—Organized fur workers are defeating the bosses' attempt to cut wages \$10 per week. To date nearly 10,000 settlements have been made by the union. Some of the employers are members of the employers' association, which failed to drive independent manufacturers into its wage-cutting camp.

ONTARIO CITIZENS LEAGUE ACTIVE

It is announced by the Citizens' Liberty League for Ontario that they have received a total of 185,000 signatures to their petition to the Premier of the province asking that the Ontario Temperance Act be amended to embrace a system of Government control for the sale of spirituous liquors, and for permission to purchase beer and wines under a system to be devised by the Government, and that a referendum be held on the question of Government control. The petition will be kept in circulation month by month until 100,000 signatures have been received.

HISTORIC BASIS OF TRADE UNIONS SUPPORTING OUTLAWED LEADER

It is a universal law that forces all elements of a kindred nature to assimilate with each other in a degree which is impossible of attainment by elements of forces foreign to each other. The organization of the trade guilds of a past age, wherein the manufacturers and dealers in certain commodities organized in their respective trades for the regulation of the methods of doing their business, was in harmony and in recognition of this law. The guilds of the past age, wherein the manufacturers and dealers developed as a natural consequence the trade unions of the wage-workers for the protection of their interests. Although their early attempts at organization seem to us today to be crude and primitive, yet in their own day they were the prevailing idea from their inception was that none but those actively engaged in, or connected with, the particular trade were eligible to membership in its organization.

This central idea has been uppermost throughout the varying stages and methods of organization of wage workers, and is in harmony with the universal law before referred to. The trade unions may therefore be said to have an historic basis, and as the time and varying conditions have shown the weak spots in their methods, it has also demonstrated that the organizations of individuals with a mutual identity of interests preserve the cohesiveness of their forces, as a striking body, and as a body which give unity and stability in their laws, their scale of wages, their hours of labor and other regulations of the conditions under which they work, in a degree which is impossible where this common identity of interest is wanting.

Such an organization can treat with similar organizations of employers through intelligent representatives of their own selection; men who possess a full knowledge of the wants and necessities of those for whom they are authorized to speak; together with all the conditions, and trade technicalities understood only by practical workers at the occupation which they may be engaged in, and result in doing away with passion, excitement and those misunderstandings which so frequently result from not fully comprehending the demands of each party to a controversy.

A trade union—wherein each and every individual member has the sole power to determine for himself what course he shall pursue without being dictated to or coerced by others who may have no interest in common with him, possesses in an eminent degree elements of strength which organization cannot possess.

There have been, and are at present, labor organizations whose product boast is that their doors are so wide that they admit to membership all classes and conditions of men and women, with perhaps one or two exceptions. Such systems of organization has the advantage of a larger and broader field from which to recruit its membership, not being confined to any one particular trade or calling, as a trade union must necessarily be, but while such a system may be numerically strong, it is really most inherently weak, as the cohesiveness born of mutual interests is wanting, while on the other hand men can obtain access to its membership for no other purpose than the advancement of their own personal interests, or to ride their own peculiar hobbies.

Admission to trade unions of this class of undesirable persons is practically impossible, those only who are working at their trade or occupation being eligible to membership. While it is conceded that all who toil for a living have many interests in common and are suffering alike from conditions from which they would gladly escape, it must also be admitted that the organization of a particular trade, calling or occupation, by itself, acting for itself, with laws of its own creation, framed appropriately to its own conditions and surroundings, acting in harmony or conjunction with other bodies similarly organized, will tend to contribute more to the common welfare of all than promiscuous bodies of workers thrown together into an organization which has for its object numerical strength, rather than unanimity of purpose, solidity of forces and compactness of organization. Trade unions have on account of their system or organization been sometimes called selfish, but it must be remembered that they were born out of the selfishness and greed of the employing class at a time when it required the greatest personal heroism to organize and maintain them against persecution and their history over since is replete with demonstrations of noble deeds and sacrifices made solely in the interests of humanity.

NECESSARY FORMALITIES

informant proceeded, "is that all the goods sold during the past six months have been bought at the highest prices, and that they have had to be written right down in order to give the retail shops a chance of doing trade."

"Despite that, however, there has been no demand for drapery, boots and shoes, furniture, and so on."

Further conversation brought the information that the loss will not affect dividends, at any rate directly.

Asked about the outlook, the official said that the "C.W.S." was practically in the same position as every other trading house and manufacturing concern, and there did not seem to be much sign at the moment of any immediate trade revival.

RESULT OF BALLOT

The result of the second ballot—the first was abandoned through a misunderstanding—for the election of the new General Council, which is to take the place of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Unions Congress, was announced last night. Mr. Robert Smilie heads the list of the mining group with 5,338,000 votes, and he has as his colleague Mr. H. Murnin, also nominated by the Miners' Federation. Mr. Smilie obtained the largest aggregate vote ever polled in a Trade Unions Congress ballot.

MANCHESTER—THE BUILDING GUILD

Manchester.—The Building Guild, while it continues to make large scale contracts for municipal housing schemes, is developing quite rapidly other forms of business commonly undertaken by ordinary builders.

Among the bigger things in-hand is a contract just sealed with Walsley Corporation for the erection of 75 houses, and a new contract with the Glamorgan County Council for the houses and necessary farm buildings for five further sets of small holdings.

This brings the Guild's work for the County Authority up to £20,000 worth.

The Health Ministry has also sanctioned a contract for a £100,000 housing scheme for Dunfermline, and the

about a reduction in price to the domestic consumer takes the form of a scheme of road transport delivery, whereby coal will be delivered in London and sold at 55s per ton.

This should have the effect of considerably reducing the high prices now prevailing for household coal.

The great difficulty in any large reduction in price is the fact that the majority of the colliers are working short time. "While this position exists," said one closely connected with the coal trade to me, "there can be no hope of a reduction in price. Most of the colliers," he said, "are working only two days each week."

The sidings are full of coal for which there is no market. Cost of production is increased and to justify themselves mineowners are compelled to charge a higher rate for the coal which is sold.

The public is not buying coal at the moment, hoping for a fall in prices. Consequently production costs rise still higher.

Mr. Finlay Gibson, secretary of the South Wales Coalowners' Association, says the only remedy is to get rid of the existing stocks and return to a full working week. This will enable coal to be produced at a lower cost and will ensure to the miner a full working week.

Mr. J. C. Gould, M.P., a Cardiff coal shipper, says that mineowners should get rid of their stocks by means of a great clearance sale at cut prices.

A. J. Cook of the Rhondda, a member of the Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, in an interview declared that he had severed his connection with the Communist Party because he believed that the miners were more competent to carry out their business than anyone outside the industry.

He had been severely criticized by Communist Executive members for the action he took during the latter part of the recent coal struggle, of being calculated to help the capitalist.

On receiving this he decided that he could not remain a member of the Party, as he believed the tactics were destructive and disruptive. He was not prepared to take instructions from any small clique.

London.—A determined effort is to be made to bring down the price of household coal. In London this stands at present at 65s per ton, and throughout the country the price is in the same ratio.

The pithead price varies from 30s to 35s per ton; in some cases it is even less, and Wrexham coal was quoted recently at 27s.

The extreme figure for transport by rail is 10s 6d per ton, with the addition of 2s per ton for truck hire. This makes a total of 48s 6d, but London consumers are charged 66s 8d, giving a profit in the London merchant of 18s.

In all parts of the country the same state of affairs is experienced, and in the North, which is in close proximity to the coalfields, the selling price was 62s for coal produced not 50 miles distance at a pit top price of 27s.

In London the movement to bring

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