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LABOR UNITED

It is impossible to do other than admire the motive which prompts a desire for a uniting of Labor's forces in Western Canada. The objective, however, is not so easy to obtain and there are evidently but two ways in which the two factions in Western Organized Labor can be brought together. They are the abandonment of one or other of the forms of organization represented by the two camps.

The O.B.U. cannot by any stretch of imagination be successful unless it can absorb the movement represented by the craft form of organization. As a matter of fact the One Big Union movement was created in Canada to take the place of the established form of organization which was to go out when the O.B.U. came in. However, trade unionists had heard the old adage "all is not gold that glitters," and they were loath to drop what they possessed to grasp at something else which might prove to be a shadow. And so all the prestige, little as it is, now enjoyed by the O.B.U. is being maintained by the violent and vitriolic attacks of its admittedly clever leaders upon the International unions, and not because of anything the secessionist movement has accomplished for the workers. The O.B.U. being created and maintained by war on the International movement, compromise on the part of the secessionists is impossible as far as those dominating the movement is concerned, for the reason that just as soon as it ceases to attack International unionism the excuse for the existence of the O.B.U. will have disappeared. Certainly the organization has not yet accomplished anything in an economic sense to warrant the support of the workers. There is no disposition on the part of the O.B.U. leaders to cease their attacks upon the established movement, and from their direction will come no move that will make for the unification of Labor's forces.

The only way left then for to unite organized Labor in Western Canada is for the International movement to surrender and let itself become absorbed in the One Big Union. This of course is too ridiculous to provide an argument at this time, the O.B.U. idea being discredited long since as economically incorrect. And so it would seem that the breach must for the present remain open. Not for long, however, for every day brings a return of scores of the workers to the movement that is founded upon something more substantial than the maligning and damning of other men and movements. As a matter of fact the breach is not now a serious one. Those who opposed the secession movement from the first have been vindicated in their views, and very many who favored the scheme at first are now the most bitter opponents of the movement that played into the hands of the workers' enemies by endeavoring to create a cleavage in the ranks of organized Labor in Canada.

Those who are today leading the secessionist movement will always have some kind of a following and they will continue to carry on a guerrilla warfare against everything which they are not permitted to dominate. But why endeavor to reach a compromise with them? The reason for the existence of organized Labor is the social and economic betterment of the workers, and the movement that is accomplishing that end will attract the host of the toilers to it. Thus will the workers be united.

VOTE "YES" FOR THE TELEPHONES

Shameful neglect to keep up a proper standard of efficiency has left Edmonton with a street railway system that should be an object lesson in how not to run a public utility. It would be too bad to allow a public service that has made good like the telephone department, undoubtedly has, to follow in the footsteps of the street railway, by not keeping the system up to modern requirements.

The \$250,000 voted last year was to provide for one thousand new lines in the new building. These lines will not be in use until August or September, and already there are approximately seven hundred applications for phones. It is expected that the thousand lines will be put into immediate use when the installation is complete. This will leave the city in the same condition as at present when to the people who are waiting for phones the city might as well be without a telephone system.

The \$500,000 which the burgesses are being asked to vote to the system on May 31st is to provide for the installation of six thousand lines of modern equipment in the new office. When this installation is made, all lines at present working in the old building will be cut into the new office, thereby leaving idle approximately five thousand lines in the old building which can be used for extensions to the branches. It is not the intention to scrap any of the material. It will take almost two years to have the proposed installations made and it would seem that if Edmonton property owners expect our city to grow, they should provide for adequate telephone facilities by voting "yes" on the by-law on Monday, May 31st.

MACKIE AND THE CHINAMEN

The federal member for East Edmonton, with the characteristic lack of understanding of his kind, told a Montreal audience on Sunday, that Labor would not permit the importation of Chinamen to do work that Canadian workers were not prepared to do themselves. He gave the impression that Labor objected to the dumping of Orientals into this country because of their color or the way they wear their hair or some other like reason.

Organized Labor emphatically does object to the importation of Orientals. But the objection is not one of color. Organized Labor has struggled to establish and maintain a decent standard of living in this country, and the dumping of any class of industrial slaves into Canada, be they black, white or yellow, for the purpose of lowering the Canadian standard of living will be opposed with all the power at the call of Labor in this country. When the voters of Canada realize why Labor is opposing the importation of cheap labor, Asiatics or Europeans, there will be short shrift for men like H. A. Mackie, M.P., who advocate the dumping of Chinamen into this country.

A HUSKY NEW UNION

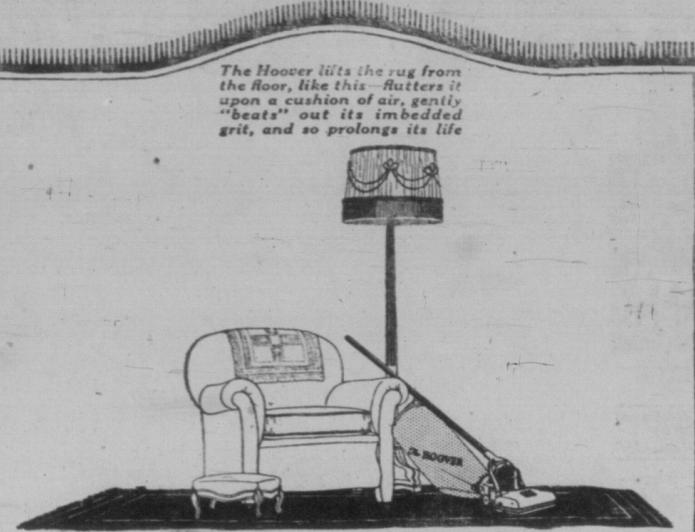
There is considerable ground for gratification in the organization of Edmonton meat cutters and butcher workmen. This organization is composed of packing plant workers and workers in retail butcher shops, and already the membership has reached a total of over three hundred. The organization has not been without its difficulties, and great credit is due to the officers and leading members who have persevered in the face of obstacles that would have caused less determined men to become discouraged. When men reach the state of mind, that they want organization bad enough to brave opposition of all kinds, success is almost sure to follow. Edmonton organized Labor welcomes the Amalgamated Meat Cutters' and Butcher Workmen's Union No. 386 into the field of militant trade unionism, and the columns of the Free Press are gladly extended for the use of the new organization. Incidentally the paper will go into three hundred more homes.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

There is no possible excuse for the turning down of the proposal for a new concrete grandstand at the exhibition grounds, in view of the fact that the exhibition will take care of all interest charges. There are many reasons why the grandstand should be built, the feature of public safety being by no means the least consideration.

Can Edmonton afford to let its utilities and thoroughfares go into further disrepair? It can not, and public spirited citizens with a pride in their city will get out and vote "yes" for all the by-laws on Monday, May 31st.

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ORGANIZE SAFETY COMMITTEES IN ALBERTA PLANTS

Alberta Compensation Board Urges Better Working Conditions in Province

The Alberta Workmen's Compensation Board, in session at Calgary, Wednesday, intimated that safety committees will be established in each factory and plant in Alberta employing 50 or more men. Records show that last year there were 3,600 accidents in the province which meant that one out of every ten men engaged in industries had been hurt.

Legislation which is in effect in other places, and which is under consideration by the Alberta Board, calls for safety committees being formed in a plant and when the recommendation of the committee are not adopted, a fine of \$25 a day is imposed.

The board was primarily called together in Calgary to discuss matters pertaining to ventilation of factories and other questions, but it concluded in an all-round discussion on how to better conditions for those employed in the factories.

Requests that steps be taken to obtain better conditions in the C.P.R. shops and in projection machine lamp houses of motion picture theatres and the suggestion that "an act protecting persons employed in the construction of buildings and excavations," be enforced, were the principal features of the session.

The motion picture machine operators asked that the lamp houses be so constructed that poisonous gases will be carried outside, fresh air be provided, that there be an outside fire exit and that the floors be insulated.

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