

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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THE O.B.U. WILL Q' THE WISP.

OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA. ENDORSED BY Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council, Hamilton Building Trades Council, Kitchener Twin City Trades and Labor Council, Independent Labor Party of Ottawa.

The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

ENTENTE CORDIALE AT OTTAWA.

NEXT month all roads will lead to the Capital, when representatives of the workers will meet with those who employ in conference. It will be the first real representative gathering since the presentation of the Mather's Commission report...

Happily, preceding this comingling, there has been in evidence advance information through action and words that the idea of labor and capital being unable to mix and forward mutual advantage was more from misunderstanding of purpose than an actuality.

There is yet unfortunately the piecemeal employer, the small coinage man or company, with blinded vision as to workers' rights, or failure to realize the determination of organized forces. Total elimination of this can scarcely be expected; though valued at true worth, this negligible section will not militate against co-operative advancement seriously, and can be ignored as being no factor in any decisions which may be reached at the conference.

Labor representatives will attend to get results, demanding rights acknowledged and in some cases withheld. If the same cardinal principles are in the minds of the employers, there is no question that a get-together policy will be productive of practical work tending to mutual advantage.

The eyes of those represented will be cast on the work of this conference; success is essential to progressive reconstruction, and failure to reach understanding will not be tolerated, except as attributes to Dominion evil-wishers' methods.

WAKE UP AND WE'LL SHAKE 'EM UP!

TRADES Unionists must wake up and attend meetings lest the "Rads," "Reds" and old-time politicians play the old game of jockeying and ward politics. A favorite trick of the O.B.U.'s is to profit by the apathy of those who stay away from the voting.

Recent reports from the O.B.U. activities in Winnipeg indicate that while the O.B.U. was in the minority, yet profit was made of sharp tactics. It is said that at an important meeting of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council the attendance was only about 120 out of a total of about 350. A majority of those present voted to adopt the One Big Union policy, and ordered the property of the Council turned over to the O. B. U.

The Winnipeg incident is not a new event in the history of Labor. Election after election has been lost merely because the voters will not turn out to vote. Labor has the strength, but will not use it. With sufficient strength as a united party to carry Labor candidates in many constituencies, and with an election approaching, the Labor men of Ontario must not proceed on the same old highroad to failure.

WELCOME TO THE PRINCE

NO apology is needed and there is none presented in the Canadian Labor Press with its host of subscribers, in extending a workers' greeting to the Prince of Wales, head-to-be of what we fully appreciate as a vast Empire with democracy as its keystone.

Generous welcome to the Soldier Prince has been in evidence since the heir apparent reached our shores. All have joined in the spontaneous greeting extended with close distinction characteristic of this Dominion.

Lest we forget he is the son of a King who was the first crowned head to recognize and invite organized Labor through its accredited representatives to court ceremony.

Battlefields show mettle and make for democracy, which democracy the Prince has exhibited in full. It is therefore a genuine welcome the workers extend, and fully merited.

WRONG DESTINATION.

A PROHIBITION newspaper announces that "Strong beer will go down to defeat." It may not go down that far, but it certainly does feel good in the stomach.



SIR THOMAS HUGHES TELLS OF O. B. U. IN AUSTRALIA.

(By Edmond McKenna.) Labor, both in its industrial and political phases, is in acute crisis in Australia. In the industrial field legislation is similar to the old linear union and merge the members into an industrial organization...

HERE'S TO WOMAN.

Once Our Superior Now Our Equal.

22 CENTS WILL BREAK 'EM.

The recent order that no woman shall be paid less than 22 cents an hour in the state of Wisconsin is protested by some manufacturers who claim they are facing ruin and starvation. The state industrial commission will listen to the tales of woe, but in the meantime the 22-cent rate must be observed.

NEW MINIMUM WAGE.

The new minimum wage for women workers, minors and apprentices in Minnesota is now in effect. In cities of 5,000 population or over the rate will be \$11 for a week for 48 hours and 23 cents an hour for additional hours for women workers, with a graduated scale for apprentices during the first nine months in municipalities of less than 4,000 population the rate will be \$10.25 a week and 21 1/2 cents for additional hours. The new schedule applies to all occupations.

LADY BARBERS AFFILIATE WITH PORTLAND COUNCIL.

The Central Labor Council at Portland, Ore., will admit lady barbers to membership, according to a decision reached by that body Thursday. A request formerly made to the Journeymen Barbers' International Union was rejected with the information that the matter would be considered at the international convention to be held in September. It is said the ladies will organize 100 per cent.

A TIRED WOMAN'S EPITAPH.

Here lies a poor woman who always was tired, who lived in a house where help was not hired; Her last words on earth were: "Dear friends, I'm going. Wherever washing is not done, nor sweeping, nor sewing; But everything there is exact to my wishes. For there they don't eat, there's no washing of dishes. I'll be where loud anthems will always be ringing. But, having no voice, I'll get clear of the singers. Don't mourn for me now, don't mourn for me ever; I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever."

POOR MOTHERS DEFENDED.

Mrs. Julia C. Lathrop of the federal children's bureau, Washington, defends poor mothers who are charged with neglect of their children. In justifying her position, Mrs. Lathrop quotes Sir Arthur Newsholme, medical officer of the English local government board: "Maternal ignorance is sometimes regarded as a chief factor in the enforcement of the principle everywhere, so that the non-unionist in Australia has a very hard time. He would have to understand that if the industrialists as a body are going to threaten a general strike every time there is a strike in some small plant, they must inevitably antagonize every other member of the community, and that in so widespread a struggle the industrialists will be defeated and their last stage will be a general defeat, the trade unionist who merged with the 'One Big Union' would go down also, and probably never again his fight for union principles."

WHY AN ORGANIZATION SO POWERFUL AS THE 'ONE BIG UNION' SHOULD BE IT HAD BROKEN DOWN THE TRADE UNION OPPOSITION AND HAD SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE SIX STATES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

The political programme is explained by Sir Thomas in this way: "A state in Australia has a Governor appointed by the British Crown. It has a Legislative Council, or Upper House, appointed by the Cabinet, and a Legislative Assembly elected by manhood and womanhood suffrage. The elected body, like the British House of Commons, can pass any law it pleases. The Legislative Council—the appointed body—however, has the right of veto over all money bills. That means in general terms the right of veto over taxation and appropriations. The political programme of the industrialists' leaders calls for the abolition of the Legislative Council and special appropriations for public works. In fact, the ultimate political aim is the abolition of the Upper Chamber. And throughout all parts of Australia, the abolition of the Upper House is a popular Labor Party cry. The Labor Party leaders believe that if they had all workingmen organized in one union they would have practically forged a political weapon with which they could either abolish such Commonwealth laws as stand in the way of the realization of their industrial aims." I asked Sir Thomas if the labor men contemplated a change in the relations of the Commonwealth and the Mother Country. "The Labor Party," he said, "does not contemplate any change in our relations with England. Australia is intensely loyal and the Labor Party is on the whole patriotic and loyal. Many honest but sick

ALBERTA COAL MINES OPENING

An Agreement Has Been Made With International in District 18.

In an effort to stabilize the mining industry in Alberta an agreement has been entered into between the International Labor Conference and the United Mine Workers of America, with the sanction and approval of the minister of labor and the provincial fuel director. Conferences were held at Calgary Wednesday and Thursday at which representatives of the operators and miners, W. H. Armstrong, fuel director, and Senator G. D. Robertson, minister of labor, were present. Sixteen mines in the southern portion of the province are being opened up, while the northern mines will be opened as the United Mine Workers of America can supply the workers. Incidentally, the One Big Union is being repudiated, and the efforts of the United Mine Workers is to eliminate the O.B.U. from the coal fields of Alberta.

The aims of the One Big Union, as indicated by its constitution issued at the convention held in Calgary in June, action in contradiction of the provisions of the criminal code, which declared it to be an offence to belong to any organization which advocated the confiscation of property without compensation and the overthrow of constituted form of government. But the ignorance and the indifference of the provincial leaders have on various occasions openly advocated the use of these unwholesome methods, and because they have been recognized by the International Labor movement, they and their organization cannot be recognized or tolerated. The Mine Operators' Association of Alberta, the United Mine Workers' Association organization are in complete accord on this point, and their decision is fully endorsed by the International Labor movement, on behalf and with the approval of the federal department of labor.

An agreement has been reached whereby individual mines will be opened on order of the fuel director, and such orders will be issued as individual operators and the representatives of the United Mine Workers of America are in a position to start said mines, as provided by the agreement. The International Labor movement, and all other leaders of the director of coal operations, which are in effect, including Order Number 124 of April, 1915, together with the rights therein as to settlement and adjustment of disputes. The resumption of work in the mines now depends upon the men themselves, who are guaranteed rates and conditions as set forth in the existing agreement and Order Number 124, which gave to the outside employees nine hours' work for eight hours' work, and also Order Number 125, which has reference to new agreements.

QUEBEC STAGE EMPLOYEES' BIG VICTORY.

General Vice-President W. P. Coyne of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operatives, who is also business agent of Motion Picture Local Union No. 72, has somewhat elated over the remarkable success he achieved in the City of Quebec, where he was sent by the International office to straighten out a serious situation. Once upon a time the City of Quebec was a stronghold of the so-called "Theatrical Union" which, but during the last two or three years the International Trades Union Movement has been making remarkable gains. The union executive, when the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada was holding its annual convention there, the representatives of the theatrical stage employees took advantage of the opportunity to organize a local union in that city, the first time such an organization had ever existed there. The theatrical managers have never taken kindly to the idea of having their employees in a trades organization, and have placed every obstacle in their way. Recently the union, which has never been recognized or had a regular wage scale, endeavored to open negotiations with the play house proprietors looking to the adoption of a regular recognized wage scale and a material increase over the rates that have been in vogue. The result was that a number were laid off, so that when Vice-President Coyne arrived in the city, a very acute situation faced him, but after being on the job for several days he was successful in securing the first union agreement ever signed up by the employers in the Ancient Capital. This agreement recognized the union officially, and for the first time in the history of the city established a uniform wage scale which increased the salaries of both stage hands and motion picture operators from \$7 to \$10 a week, with better working conditions and other material concessions. It may be said that, with the exception of three small places, every theatre in the city was fully unionized, and it is expected these places will quickly follow suit. While on his return trip to Toronto Mr. Coyne laid over in Montreal and was successful in signing up an agreement which included every English-controlled theatre there, which provided for an advance in rates all the way from \$7 to \$10 a week. Mr. Coyne reports his organization has first-class conditions everywhere through out the Dominion. He is ready to open up negotiations with the employers in Toronto, as both the stage hands and motion picture operators are after more pay, but before doing so he will proceed to London, where he will assist the local in that city in negotiating a new wage scale there.—Industrial Banner.

When tapping dynamite use a wooden tamping rod. The man who uses a drill or a crow-bar to tamp is risking his own life and the lives of others.

Oh, life is a wonderful highway, And there's many a dark, shady by-way To tempt both the weak and the strong, Keep straight, and ignore every turning Where shame and unmanliness lurk. For there's no time for profitless yearning. Take your place in the world—get to work!

And you'll step it out bravely And you'll have your hope, And you'll have your money, And the game seems distinctly strange while you're playing. You will meet with a few friendly faces, And friendship's a jewel most rare, It will lead you in devious places, And keep you at odds with despair.

But sometimes the way will be lonely, And dark, with no sign of the dawn; And somehow you'll feel that you're only in Fate's mighty hand, a mere pawn. No arm will be stretched out to guide you, In case you should stumble or slip; But through demons of care stalk beside you, Carry on! Keep a stiff upper lip.—Exchange.

DO STRIKES PAY?

The current issue of the Labor Gazette, issued by the government, prints a summary of the more important industrial agreements recently made and also makes this comment: "While the conclusion of every industrial agreement implies the acceptance of a greater or less degree in the principle of collective bargaining, it should not be overlooked that in a number of cases the agreement was reached only after the employees had been on strike."

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

USE OF AUSTRIAN LABOR. After a conference at Versailles with Louis Loucheur, French Minister of Reconstruction, the Austrian labor union commission left last week for Paris de Calais, to study in collaboration with the authorities the question of using Austrian laborers in the devastated regions. SHIPBUILDERS WILL NOT STRIKE. There will be no strike in the international labor conference which covers the demand of the men for a 44-hour week. Representatives of the men have offered to submit the matter to a joint committee of employers and workers, with an independent chairman, who will report on the probable economic effect of the 44-hour week.

GANANOQUE WORKERS TO BE ADDRESS BY SECRETARY DRAPER.

September 1st, Labor Day, is being generally recognized by organized labor throughout Canada and Gananogue is no exception. Secretary P. M. Draper of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress will be the chief speaker. It will be remembered that Secretary Draper was one of labor's representatives at the 1918 Conference and is a speaker of no mean ability. Gananogue is fortunate in securing him for their "big" day.

LESS TIME LOST IN JULY.

"At the beginning of July the percentage of unemployed among members of trade unions was 2.57, as against 3.33 at the beginning of June," says the August Labor Gazette. "During July, disregarding the labor unrest that existed, there was an increase in the total volume of employment. In the Maritime Provinces there was some reduction in employment, but in Ontario and in Quebec there was an increase, and in the Western Provinces a pronounced increase. According to the figures for the four weeks ending July 26, the various offices of the Employment Service of Canada received 35,704 applications for employment, were notified of 3,533 vacancies, and made 25,417 placements, as compared with 28,870 applications, 39,516 vacancies and 26,184 placements during June. In civil employment there was an increase of 17 per cent in comparison with June, 1917, and an increase of 36 per cent in comparison with July, 1918.

"The time lost on account of industrial disputes during July was less than during June, and more than during July, 1918. There were in existence during the month 73 strikes, involving 35,696 workpeople and resulting in a loss of about 581,010 working days. Thirty-two strikes were reported as having commenced during July. There remained unreported at the end of the month 29 strikes, affecting about 17,350 workpeople."

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