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TRADES COUNCIL TAKES ACTION ON WINNIPEG VERDICT

Requests Labor Congress To Take Action Toward Securing Re- lease Winnipeg Brothers

That this council communicate with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, requesting that the executive council of that body get in touch with the Department of Justice immediately with a view to obtaining, if possible, the release of the brothers convicted of seditious conspiracy in Winnipeg, and that the federal members of parliament representing Edmonton be also similarly addressed, and further that a copy of this resolution be sent to all other Trades Councils in Canada, requesting that they take similar action.

The above resolution was unanimously adopted by the Trades and Labor Council on Monday evening. The resolution was moved by Delegate Roper and seconded by Delegate Findlay following an animated discussion on the executive committee's report regarding the non-participation of the council in the Good Friday protest mass meeting.

During the discussion the executive was criticized for their action by some delegates while others very strongly endorsed the Board's stand. The report was finally adopted after it had been explained that the defense committee in Winnipeg had not communicated with the Trades Council as they had with other local bodies.

Mass Meetings Futile. In speaking to his resolution Delegate Roper expressed the opinion that mass meetings were futile to accomplish the end in view, but referred to cases where the Trades congress had in the past been successful in securing the release of men convicted under similar circumstances. He deplored the criticism of the jury in the case just closed, and believed all agitation should be directed in the direction of altering the laws under which men can be imprisoned for expression of their political views. Delegate Findlay spoke along similar lines.

A letter from the Plumbers' local union No. 448, protesting against what they termed the apathy of the Trades Council in connection with the trial jury concluded, was ordered filed on motion of Delegate Latham in view of the resolution which had been adopted.

See Deacon About This. A communication was received from the Oakland California Boiler-makers' Union informing the council that M. E. Bankhead, one of the hall players signed by the Edmonton club, had been a notorious strike-breaker in a recent dispute in Oakland. The Edmonton council was asked to take the matter up with the management, and a committee consisting of Messrs. McCormack, Hawkins, and Heron, were appointed to interview Deacon White on the matter.

The teamsters, chauffeurs and stablemen sent in their agreement with the master bakers for the approval of the council. This was referred to the executive for action.

A copy of the Civil Service Bulletin was one of the documents laid on the table, and in receiving it, Delegate Hawkins moved that the civil service union be invited to affiliate with the Trades and Labor Council, an idea that the council approved of.

The Allied Printing Trades council wrote requesting local unions to insist on the union label when buying printing.

Bemedy Excessive Rent. Chairman Francis of the legislative committee presented a report which dealt with the question of excessive rentals and the security of dwellings. The committee proposed that the provincial government be urged to provide legislation that there be an annual revision of rentals, by which the rate set at the beginning of the year prevail throughout the twelve months, and suggested that the city council be requested to effect a plan for restoring as many as possible of the vacant houses in all parts of the city, even to the extent of doing this itself if the owners refuse to do so.

FIRE FIGHTERS AT ST. CATHARINES, ONT. TENDER RESIGNATION

St. Catharines, Ont., is without firemen as a result of the city council's refusal to grant a 25 per cent increase in wages to the men. Every fireman with the exception of the chief and the assistant chief, on Tuesday, tendered their resignation to take effect on Thursday at noon.

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS GET RAISE IN PAY

Alex. Ross Opposes Increase Be- cause Civil Service Not Pro- perly Remunerated.

The sessional indemnity of the members of the Alberta legislature was, on Monday night, increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 by an amendment to the legislative assembly act. Only one dissenting vote was cast—that of Alex. Ross, Labor member for Center Calgary.

Mr. Ross moved that the amending clause be deleted from the bill of statute amendments. He said:

"My reason for introducing this motion is that I am not disposed to ask for an increased indemnity at this time, in view of the fact that the civil servants of this province are not properly remunerated. As a member of this house I consider it my duty to see that those dependent on the government receive a living wage. If the remuneration of the province are not adequate for this, then I do not consider that the members who do not depend entirely on their indemnity for their living have a right to an increase."

Mr. Ross pointed out that the attorney-general, supported by the house, had struck out the clause in the bill of amendments to the Factory Act, which would have given girls in restaurants, theatres and hotels the protection and benefit of the minimum wage board. If these girls couldn't get an assurance of a living wage, he did not want any increase in his indemnity.

Moreover, he continued, in the last two or three days the legislature had been considering poll tax and rental tax to improve what was considered the straightened circumstances of the public of the province. These things were a direct and oppressive tax on wages and families. The legislature apparently had no hesitation about taxing such people, but they increased their own indemnity without saying much.

James Weir was the only private member to debate the resolution. He said that the members had had no increase since 1912, and that the taxes to which Mr. Ross referred were for town purposes.

Premier Stewart made a statement, in which he declared he was ready to take the responsibility for both the civil service and the indemnity increase. He said that the civil service had received substantial increases, and that 300 of them had received attention as was shown by the votes each year since 1914. The civil service was paid as well as elsewhere. He announced the government proposed to give immediate consideration to a report from the efficiency officer, Mr. Reid, which would give substantial bonuses, bringing increases up to \$1,800.

BOYLE AGAIN MUTILATES THE FACTORIES ACT

Females Employed in Hotels, Res- taurants and Theatres Again Excluded.

(By Our Own Correspondent)

The Factory Act has again been mutilated by the Attorney General. It is not fair to put the entire blame on the gentleman who is entrusted with the enforcement of law and order in the province. He did go so far as to prepare a bill which did in some measure aim at protecting females engaged in certain occupations. During the passage of the bill, however, he was approached by his confederates who were interested in the employment of cheap labor. This is the second time that an effort has been made to extend the act to include females employed in hotels, restaurants and theatres. In 1917 an effort was made to include these other institutions but when the final test came the Attorney General was conveniently absent. This year he capitulated gracefully by mutilating the act at the last moment. It is impossible to get reasonable amendments to the Factories Act until the executive council and many of the members cease to be interested in cheap labor.

Gossip is a deadly gas that is often fatal to friendship.

SIX HOUR DAY IS OBJECTIVE TOKYO STREET CAR MEN

"Joker" in Former Settlement Is Declared to be Cause of New Demands.

(By the Federated Press)

Tokyo, Japan.—The six-hour day is the objective toward which the street car employees of Tokyo are working, now that they have won their strike for eight hours. A "joker" in the settlement with the government board in charge of the car system, is declared by the strikers to be responsible. It is claimed that the agreement required eight hours of actual work each day in addition to the two hours allowed for change of clothing, rest and the intervals between the runs.

The car strike is only one phase of the situation which has been brought about by the spread of sovietism in Siberia. Even the policemen are threatening to strike for higher wages than the \$50 a month at present allowed them. A strike is already in progress in the military arsenal at Koishikawa and the naval arsenal of Tsukiji.

TEACHERS' STATUS MUST BE RAISED IMMEDIATELY

Their Status Is More Important Than Their Remuneration, Says W. E. Edmonds

"The status of teachers must be immediately raised—not some time in the future—but in 1920," asserted President Stanley of the Teachers' Alliance, in his address before the Teachers' Convention at Calgary this week.

In his talk on the teacher's work, Mr. Stanley said that the alliance had been put on a solid financial basis; its membership has increased 250 per cent during the past year; normal school students have been organized into locals; an attempt has been and is being made to procure more adequate salaries for the members; endeavors are being made to obtain better protection for teachers, including sick pay and pensions; a bureau of information has been established; many conferences were held with different bodies. These are some of the things done and being done by the Alliance, said Mr. Stanley.

"Heretofore cheap talk on the dignity of labor and the joy of service has been accepted in lieu of coin of the realm, but it is no longer legal tender. I have not seen any statement that \$1,200 is too much for the job. If it would close schools we would not ask for it, but for every one closed because there is no salary to pay the teacher, ten will be closed because there is no teacher to pay the salary to."

If it is a part of one's duty to teach school for \$840 a year why not let all of us get in on it? If it is a patriotic duty, it is a national duty. It should not be necessary with the wealth of the country, to pauperize the children and it is not necessary for us to formulate means of raising money. We pay legislators to do that.

"The legal status of teachers is absolutely wretched. School boards can be unfair and yet act within the law. I believe it can be improved by changes in the contract. It contains a record—every school board which has broken the law or which has been unfair to teachers."

Mr. Stanley concluded his address with a request that teachers exhibit professional conduct in their dealing with one another, with school boards and the public.

W. E. Edmonds, in an address which was loudly applauded at frequent intervals, declared that "The nation which will succeed in the new era is that which will make teaching the most attractive of professions. The day is not far distant when the teacher will receive as much for his labor as a lawyer or physician. Teachers have grown tired of listening to platitudes on the nobility of their profession. Better salaries and a higher status must be their watchword; their status is more important than their remuneration."

The Alliance now has a total of 1,765 members. The election of officers resulted in H. C. Newlands of Edmonton being elected president by acclamation, and C. E. Peasley of Medicine Hat, vice president. The following committee was elected: District No. 1, W. W. Scott, Calgary; No. 2, Miss Shadwin, Edmonton; No. 3, W. S. Brodie, Red Deer; No. 4, Mr. Robinson, Camrose; No. 5, W. C. Crawford, Lethbridge. Those elected were constituted the executive for the coming year.

Women employed in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington claim that they are doing skilled and semi-skilled work for less wages than these paid unskilled laborers.

This Session's Labor Legislation "Boyled" Down

(Extra Special to the Free Press by Alex. Ross)

IN THE LEGISLATURE.

The session is now on its last lap. Contrary to the expectations of the wisecracker the session has been not only a lengthy but an arduous one.

Compensation Act.

The compensation act came up for review the other day and met with severe criticism. The bill provides for amending the present act to enable any employer of labor to apply for inclusion with the consent of the majority of his employees. A few of the farmer members were afraid that the amendment opened the door for farm laborers to apply for protection, and became very insistent that the bill be changed in order that they would be no doubt that farm laborers were to be excluded. The arguments in favor of the total exclusion of farm laborers from the scope of the act were very mediocre. One can hardly imagine a reasonable objection which would prevent the farmer or his hired man from deciding whether they should take advantage of the act or not. The farmer members who spoke were quite solicitous about the welfare of their constituents and evidently had little faith in the ability of the farmer to decide such an important matter for himself. Just why farm laborers should be excluded was never explained, or rather the explanation of the child was given, "just because." At the present time the only protection the farm laborer has is the common law. If a farm laborer gets injured and commences litigation for damages under his common law rights, he has to prove before the courts that he did not contribute to the accident. It can be readily seen how difficult it would be in the event of his getting hooked by a horse to prove that he did not contribute in some way. He may have gone too near the horse or he may have done something wrong. The courts would be considered by the farmer to be contributory. A census of accidents amongst farm laborers was taken in Germany in 1912. It was then discovered that forty per cent of the total accidents occurred on the farm. A very competent authority on compensation stated before a commission of enquiry some years ago that less than ten per cent of injured workmen were never able to secure compensation under their common law rights. The percentage would be much less on the farm because the farm laborer has no organization to fight his battles for him. Besides the difficulty of securing damages under the common law there is another reason why agricultural laborers should be included. Farming in Alberta is carried on in a different way to what it is in Germany where the census was taken. In Alberta there are a large number of farmers who use mechanical appliances exclusively with the result that there is more hazard in the industry of agriculture here than in the majority of countries. During the debate it was stated that the farmers had no desire to be protected by the act. The statement is not altogether true because I have in my possession several letters from farmers, expressing their regret that they were not given the option of protecting their employees by this act. It appears that many farmers now insure their employees with private insurance companies, and are not at all satisfied.

ARE TEACHERS BENEFITED BY ORGANIZATION?

Results of Organization Shown By Present Salaries of Ed- monton Teachers.

By John W. Barnett,
Secretary-Treasurer Alberta Teachers'
Alliance

By recent resolution the school boards of Edmonton and Calgary have granted the \$1,200 minimum salary for grade teachers which was asked for by the Alberta Teachers' Alliance in the Provincial Salary Schedule. (Editor's note:—The Calgary school board of first intimation that they were in favor of the \$1,200 minimum, but when the motion was put before the board to vote upon, it was defeated, thus leaving Edmonton as the only city, so far, that has granted the \$1,200 minimum.) These are the first school boards in Canada to place the minimum so high and the Alliance feels justly proud of its success in establishing it and at the same time congratulates the Edmonton and Calgary school boards on their far-sighted policy in taking this step; it must be considered the finest thing that has been done for education in Canada during recent years.

The question naturally arises as to whether the Alberta Teachers' Alliance should take all the credit. Some teachers have not yet been imbued with the spirit of organization; they think that advances in the cause of education can be made without the help of organization; but the experience of the local alliances of the cities of Alberta, at least, is general that without intensive, active co-operative effort it is impossible to effect any considerable changes in the status of the teacher, either as regards salary or in any other respect. In regard to this one may quote from the Edmonton Free Press: "The position of the teacher with regard to salary is very much in the public notice at this time. Would it have been so if the teachers had not expressed themselves through organization?" A member of one of the city school boards, who participated in the fight, remarked to one of the alliance officials: "You teachers won because you fought unitedly."

SIX STRIKE LEADERS WILL FIGURE IN NEXT MANITOBA ELECTIONS

Four of the convicted Winnipeg strike leaders were nominated for seats in provincial legislature at a meeting of the Winnipeg branch of the Socialist Party of Canada, Wednesday night. The four men are R. B. Russell, George Armstrong, W. A. Pritchard and R. J. Johns. Rev. Wm. Ivens is on the tentative slate of nominations made by the Dominion Labor Party last week, and Ald. John Queen, it is understood, will be the nominee of the social democratic party. This makes six of the seven strike leaders convicted that will figure in the next Manitoba elections.

CONCILIATION BOARD RECOMMENDS INCREASE FOR N. S. CO. EMPLOYEES

An increase in the scale of wages paid to employees in the coal mines of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal company is recommended in a report made to the minister of labor by the board of conciliation between the company and men. In recommending the increase, the members of the board state they wish it distinctly understood that the ew scale is not as high as it would have liked to fix. It is based, however, on the company's ability to pay.

CALCUTTA MASONS ARE DEMANDING EIGHT HOUR DAY

Masons' Union Formed Six Hours Before Strike Called and Men Walked Out.

(By the Federated Press)

Calcutta, India.—Twenty-five thousand masons in Calcutta have gone on strike, demanding an eight hour day and 48 cents a day wages. The present working day is 12 hours and wages amount to 36 cents a day.

A number of the leading contracting firms, owned by English interests, are severely affected by the strike. The strikers made concessions to native contracting firms upon reaching an immediate satisfactory settlement, and returned to work.

The Masons union was formed but six hours before the strike was called and the men walked out. Two thousand masons, among them representatives of different firms, assembled in a big field to discuss their condition. A call for the strike was issued at once and a strike committee placed in charge of the situation.

HAMILTON MACHINISTS ARE GRANTED FIFTEEN PER CENT INCREASE

Fifteen members of Local No. 414 International Association of Machin- ists, employed at the Hamilton Bridge Works company have been granted a fifteen per cent increase, effective April 15; also a nine hour day. This will make the minimum wage 75 cents per hour.

STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES GET NEW AGREEMENT

Motormen-Conductors Will Re- ceive 72½ Cents Per Hour and Get Nine Hour Day

Edmonton Street Railway employees have completed a new agreement with the city commissioners by which they will receive 72½ cents per hour for motormen-conductors. As it has been decided to carry on the railway on the one-man car system this will cover the majority of the men on the cars.

The schedule agreed to is as follows: One-man car operators, first 6 months, 57½ cents per hour; second 6 months, 62½ cents; third 6 months, 67½ cents; fourth 6 months, 72½ cents. The majority of the men will have the full increase at once.

Two-man car operators: First 6 months, 52½ cents; second 6 months, 57½ cents; beginning second year and after, 62½ cents.

A nine-hour day is to be worked, and time and a half for overtime will be paid after 9½ hours have been worked. Time and a half will be paid on statutory holidays.

BRITISH LABOR SEEN THROUGH AMERICAN EYES

Mr. Morley Writes Further About Conditions in Britain.

(By Felix Morley)
Staff writer, the Federated Press.

ARTICLE 2—INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

London.—In the framework of present industrial organization there is found one of the few striking parallels between the labor movements of Great Britain and the United States. Here, as in America, the basis of organization is still one of crafts or trades, with a vast multiplicity of minor unions more or less completely independent in policy and action. Here, as in America, the same cross purposes and antagonisms exist. Strikes fail for want of concerted action, there are frequent jurisdictional disputes, and other evidences of faulty organization. While the coming of the Triple Alliance promises to sweep away many of these obstacles in England the industrial field still shows a lack of unity in marked contrast to the general harmony and co-operation of the British labor movement.

The most recent example is the long drawn out strike of the three moulders' unions. All labor now recognizes that had the employees of the whole engineering industry worked together in this struggle half as well as have the employers' federations the strike would have seen the unions stronger instead of crippled for a long time to come, and would not have entailed anything like the loss to the country that has actually taken place.

For years past the weakness and disunity of craft centralization has been a source of anxiety to the labor leader.

SUMMARY OF ROBSON REPORT WINNIPEG STRIKE

Judge Robson Finds Strike Was Natural In Origin and of Legitimate Purpose

A summary of the report of Judge Robson upon his investigation into the Winnipeg strike has been given out for publication. He finds that the strike had a natural origin in the conditions which existed at the time and had a legitimate purpose in the establishment of the principle of collective bargaining. He finds that certain advanced thinkers used the turmoil and popular excitement for purposes of propaganda. The drawback of the report from a purely scientific point of view is that he does not mention the band of profiteering reactionaries who used the turmoil and popular excitement for the purpose of smashing organized labor.

The summary follows in part: The commissioner finds that the specific and immediate cause of the general strike was the refusal by the employers in the iron contract shops to recognize the demands of their workers for agreement by those employers on the method of collective bargaining indicated by the Metal Trades Council on behalf of those employees. The general concurrence of labor therein and the determination upon a general strike were due to the mood in which workers of all classes were at that particular time. Labor considered that the refusal of the demand for collective bargaining as claimed by the Metal Trades Council, was a blow struck at labor organization. The general strike was an attempt by direct action to secure the demand of labor.

Strike All-embracing. The all-embracing nature of the strike is dealt with and it is stated that 12,000 members of trade unions struck, and were accompanied by about 25,000 who were at the beginning of the strike unorganized. The commissioner finds that there was general discontent in the ranks of labor in May last, and that many of the active leaders of unions in and about Winnipeg perceiving this condition, decided that it afforded a favorable opportunity to apply "direct" or "mass" action to bring the pressure of government and the community upon the metal trades employers to concede the plan of collective bargaining demanded by the metal trades unions. The commissioner finds that the dissatisfaction among working people at the condition in which labor then found itself was a material element in their supporting the general strike and deals in detail with the causes of the discontent which is found to have been very acute in and about Winnipeg.

Evidence was given before the commission amongst others by James Winnipeg, who was president of the Winnipeg per Trade and Labor council at the time of the general strike, and six pages of the report are taken up with a verbatim report of a portion of the evidence given before the commission by Winnipeg, which the commissioner finds to give a true and unexaggerated delineation of the mind of labor in Winnipeg.

LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

- (Continued on page 7.)
- Sunday, April 11.
 - Dominion Express Employees, No. 14.
 - Monday, April 12.
 - Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, No. 514.
 - Boiler Makers, No. 279.
 - Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, No. 129.
 - Tuesday, April 13.
 - Dominion Labor Party.
 - Bookbinders, No. 188.
 - Wednesday, April 14.
 - Garment Workers, No. 120.
 - Electrical Workers, No. 544.
 - Thursday, April 15.
 - Machinists, No. 559.
 - Railway Clerks and Freight Handlers, No. 648.
 - Canadian National Railway Federation.
 - Edmonton Co-operative Society.
 - Friday, April 16.
 - United Brotherhood Carpenters and Joiners, No. 1325.
 - Dunvegan Carriers, No. 530.
 - Retail Clerks Association, No. 1176.

STEAM OPERATING ENGINEERS DECLARE FOR NEW WAGE SCALE

Steam Operating Engineers at Hamilton, Ont., last week declared for the eight hour day and a new wage scale varying from 67½ cents to \$1.05 per hour, to take effect on May 1. At present the men work from eleven to thirteen hours daily, the hourly rate of wages being from 50 to 80 cents. The new agreements are being prepared to be submitted to the employers.

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