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## TRADES & LABOR CONGRESS

(Continued from page 1)

of the members of Parliament, and how they vote on all questions affecting labor. The Trades and Labor Congress, organized by the Executive Committee, on lines similar to the annual report of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Great Britain.

The consistent course followed by Mr. A. W. Puttee, M.P., (Labor), during his term as a member of the House of Commons, is worthy of notice. He has been re-elected to Parliament to serve the constituents and his country.

Solicitor and Parliamentary Representative.

At the opening of the last session of Parliament, a meeting of your Executive Committee at 305 Queen Street, it was decided to appoint Mr. J. G. O'Donnough, of Toronto, solicitor for the Congress, to act as our agent and take charge of the legislative work for the session. This became absolutely necessary owing to the activity of our opponents and the persistent and systematic lobbying carried on by them.

It is a separate head now, a full and complete organization of the work performed by him. This report and matters of a similar character should be taken up again, a part of the time of this Congress being specially set apart for this purpose.

National Legal Defense Fund.

In compliance with the resolution passed at the Brockville Convention, re-establishing a legal defense fund, a circular was prepared and forwarded to the affiliated locals, and the referendum vote taken upon it. The returns show practically unanimous vote in favor of having such a fund, and for the purpose of retaining a permanent solicitor. This, I think, is a most serious mistake on the part of those who would resort to this extreme measure. It is just as necessary to have a strong Department of Labor as to have a strong Department of Mines or a Department of Commerce or Agriculture.

After spending some time with Solicitor O'Donnough at Ottawa, visiting the various departments, and looking after the legislative work on behalf of the Congress, I am thoroughly impressed with the absolute necessity of retaining a permanent solicitor.

Another matter of some interest, and having a direct bearing on the formation of a legal defense fund, and the necessity of being prepared to meet and combat similar cases wherever appealed, appeared in the public press recently.

"Roseland, July 23.—In the action of the Centre Star Company against the Roseland Miners' Union for damages for loss sustained through the strike of 1901, the jury returned a verdict sustaining the suit, and awarded the damages in the sum of \$17,500. A series of questions were referred to the jury, which, with one exception, were answered in the affirmative. The exception deals with contract work, such as done at the mines, and its inclusion was probably due to the possibility of other of the questions being answered in the negative, and it is not in any way a essential part of the defense.

The case shows in plain English that the contract system has developed into an arrangement by which men were paid by the piece, rather than by the day, and that the contracts entered into were hardly binding on the miners. The jury found that the union entered into a conspiracy to prevent men working in the company's mines.

The trial lasted ten days, Sir Charles Hibbert Towne, K.C., and A. B. Hall, K.C., for plaintiff, and T. C. Taylor, W.C., for defendants.

This, and similar instances, are the result, undoubtedly, of a prepared plan by the Employers' Association for destroying the organizations of labor.

National Movement.

It is with much pride that we are enabled, everywhere throughout the Dominion, of the consolidation of the forces of labor, and the uniting under the banner of international brotherhood. I am especially gratified at the splendid progress made in this direction in the old capital city of Quebec, since the formation of the Canadian Federation of Trades Unions.

Of course, the men of the first class may often deal with the union, and those of the second may sometimes fight, but the associations fall naturally into these two categories, and they run the whole gamut from the purely organization, which looking upon unionism as dangerous in itself, always fights, to that which, though it may be in its early weeks to eliminate the strike entirely.

The Shoemakers' Journal for August says of these associations: "The main desire of employers' associations appears to be, to put into practice their own organized evils, rather than to correct the evils which they so strenuously claim trade unionism has subjected them to. By strikes, lockouts, violence, intimidation, threats, marketing, etc., they are striving to profit, for the greater glory of them all. It is collective agreement, combination and arbitration, and the right of employees to exercise a collective voice as to what their conditions of employment shall be that the employers' associations desire to abolish. They are, of course, willing to accept all of these methods of protecting the employees from abuses, providing the power to make of them a sufficient number of the employees is negative. It is actually the right, and not the evils of organized labor, it is those later developments of trade unionism which have distinctly improved the conditions of the workers and our industrial life, that the employers' associations are virtually seeking to sweep away. Their policies to lower standards seem to organize labor, and force a return of the workers to conditions prevailing before organization."

The employers' associations, working with the so-called Citizens' Alliance of Colorado, are responsible for the reign of lawlessness in that State. Their launching of the Legislature with the assistance of the Governor, the trampling of the will of the people under their feet, the utter disregard of law and order, and the imprisonment of men, not for crimes—but simply because they belong to a union—demonstrate the extreme to which these associations are likely to go when they have power and control of the most important among the employers of labor. Nothing in the entire industrial struggle can equal the brutal ferocity, the inhuman acts, of those associations towards the miners of Colorado.

These associations have their prototype in this country, and are patterned after the "Parry" type, pursuing similar methods, having walking delegates, business agents, etc. They have frequently been charged with being in collusion with such charlatans as Louis Leopold, of London, England, and Graeme Hunter, of Glasgow, Scotland, immigrants who claim

to have been duped by these and like agencies, in the Canada Foundry case, in deceiving men while on strike to violate the law, and those seeking the imprisonment of our countrymen recommended by Chancellor Boyd.

The necessity of having all employment bureaus or agencies under Government regulation and inspection such as obtains in the State of Illinois and other States, is quite apparent, in view of the many fraudulent and swindling transactions perpetrated by these concern and alleged private detective agencies.

Department of Labor.

In the October, 1903, issue of The Labor Gazette, "An Organ for 300,000, under the heading National Trades and Labor Congress, First Annual Convention," the following statement appears:

"At the Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress, held in Berlin, Ont., in September, 1902, a resolution was introduced and carried limiting representation in the Congress to such trades and labor organizations as had their headquarters in the United States, and to prohibit any foreign national from being admitted to representation."

The physiology of this statement has a familiar sound, and can be found on page 2 of the opening paragraph of the Constitution of the above-mentioned body.

In view of the statements made by our opponents before the Senate upon the Lougheed Bill, and following closely upon the heels of that most unfair Industrial Commission's report, I consider it of my duty to correct this statement, and to call attention to the following:

"Another matter of great importance to Canadians, with which this report deals, and for which this country has dear, is the question of the pick and plow of the manhood of our people, and the enormous expenditure of money, once made, to support it. We have underwritten slavery and indenture, and we are further.

"We are further united with our colonial friends, not only in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, British Columbia, and South Africa itself, in our early hostilities, in the importation of cheap slave labor into South Africa.

Those who are supporting the introduction of the Slave Ordinance have waxed indignant because the conditions imposed by the ordinance have been described as

"so bad that it is difficult to conceive of anything worse." We have no desire to haggle about what is fair or unfair.

It is certainly not such labor as free men should accept, and whether it be called slavery or by some new-fangled name matters little, the fact remains that it is being obtained for the same reasons that induced slave-owners to own black slaves in South America fifty years ago, namely, because it was cheap.

"If R. is not identical with the slav-

ery enforced, it is sufficiently so to make him difference, difference, and it is not in any way a essential part of the defense.

"Your Committee took an early opportunity of expressing our opinion on the matter by publishing the resolution which appeared in our last quarterly report. Everything which has happened since then has confirmed the views we took at the time, the diabolical conspiracy, emanating ten years ago with the agitation of the mine owners, to compel the native workers to accept of the terms offered by the manufacturers, and to make the miners work harder, and to obtain cheap labor. So far as they have succeeded, Chinese are being exported to South Africa at a price of 6 shillings per head, while the men who, from the far corners of the earth flocked to fight under the British flag, are starving in the land they fought for. The shameless efforts of it all is staggering; either our present legislature is not the ultimate object of the men who did not know, or they did know where they derived the "soil" if they did not know they were themselves deceived."

The Open Shop.

Since President Roosevelt gave his pronouncement in the Miller case, particularly every employers' association, and others opposed to collective bargaining, have been clamoring for the so-called open shop, and proclaiming themselves champions of liberty. The "champions of the liberties of the non-unions" are as actively opposed to the right of the trade unionist, the ultimate object being to make an inferior class of immigrants arrive from Continental Europe, they do not assimilate, are very slow to adopt the methods of living here, according to the communal plan. The result is that they do not know, or they did not know, or they did know where they derived the "soil" if they did not know they were themselves deceived."

The Open Shop.

Mr. J. H. Carter, of the Western Federation of Miners, has returned to the city, after a trip through the country. He said that the Hamilton Cigarmakers Union has voted about \$85 to assist the miners, and that the International Union of cigarmakers, who are also in the strike, have voted \$1000. The miners have not yet received any money, but the strike has been suspended for a week, and the miners have voted \$25 to the miners' strike fund.

The Congress is necessarily "French," which was to be expected when meeting in the city of Montreal.

The Open Shop.

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Another matter of great importance to Canadians, with which this report deals, and for which this country has dear, is the question of the pick and plow of the manhood of our people, and the enormous expenditure of money, once made, to support it.

That same measure of protection should be framed into a law that will protect the workers engaged upon large construction works and quarrying throughout the Dominion, providing all necessary conveniences for their health and comfort. Inspectors should be appointed to examine gear and machinery, and the proper safeguarding of explosives, gunpowder, dynamite, etc., should be provided for by such a law.

Financial support continues to be given to the miners, and the miners are annually satisfied that could be provided by such a law, I know of no such existing law safeguarding the interests of this class of workers.

In concluding this address, the wisdom of pressing for such reforms only as are of the utmost importance, better results are likely to follow than if狂热的 agitation of less important subjects.

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