

Councils of Miners and Employers May Manage British Collieries

British miners and employers may manage British Collieries, and if this plan is consummated will mark one of the greatest epochal advances for Labor in world history, is the recent announcement that the mines of Great Britain are to be managed by workers and owners jointly. The Mining Association of Great Britain, which comprises all the leading colliery owners in the British Isles, has decided to invite the formation of joint councils of miners and employers to manage mines in certain defined districts. These joint councils will arrange and fix the standard of wages, labor costs, management and interest on capital. The mines also will be brought into intimate contact with all problems relating to selling prices and costs. By this plan, profits and wages that can be paid will all be an open book to the mine workers.

At a conference of Government officials and representatives of a number of trades unions, held to discuss the application of the Whitley system to Government establishments, the British Minister of Labor declared that the Government was ready to apply the system giving workmen a share of the

LONDON HEARS CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Industrial councils of workers and employers giving workers a voice in the direction of the plants in which they work, were one of the new developments in the relations of capital and labor, which constituted an interesting point in the address of President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, at a meeting, under the auspices of the London Trades and Labor Council, held at the Dominion Hotel, London, England, on Saturday, Feb. 28. Pointing out the need for more democracy in the management of industrial plants, Mr. Moore stated that a number of factories in Canada had already inaugurated workers' councils for the purpose of bringing employer and employee into closer and more harmonious working relations. It was even rumored that the Flavelle Packing firm had under contemplation the inauguration of such a council. He had interviewed employers who had placed entirely in the hands of their employees such matters as the sanitation and safety in the factories, and the results had been greatly satisfying to the employer as well as to the employee. While at first no plan had come forward with suggestions of all sorts of foolish innovations and supposed improvements, yet in their suggestions, and the expense to the employer at first for needless alterations was more than covered in the real improvement gained through later suggestions of the employees.

BRIDGEBURG HAVE A DEPORTATION

Joseph Schlossberg, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, has been deported to Buffalo by the Canadian inspectors at Bridgeburg, N. Y. Schlossberg is a Russian Jew, who was detained by immigration officials while on his way to Toronto and Hamilton, where he had been invited to organize branches of the Clothing Workers of America. In his possession they found a budget of inflammatory speeches that had been prepared by him for his lecture tours, which he had received from a man named Petrovsky at New York City.

WESTERN VETERANS MAY LINK UP WITH TRADE UNIONISTS

As indicating the trend of thought in the West, there is a movement on foot among the G. W. V. A's in the Prairie Provinces to unite interests with the trade unions. Several branches of the Veterans have indicated to headquarters in Ottawa, their willingness to join, and form joint committees to further mutual interests. This movement is looked upon as an important one in G. W. V. A. circles, and is indicative of the current feeling among the western veterans. The civil servants only recently announced their readiness to discuss such an affiliation with organized labor, and the subject will be brought up at the annual meeting next month. As a great proportion of the returned soldiers in the West are agriculturalists, the fusion of interests with the organized farmers is not improbable. The further step of joining with the trade unions on certain questions is now being considered. Several important conferences of Veterans are due this week or next in New York City.

QUEBEC TRADES COUNCIL PROTEST MOVIE LEGISLATION

Strong protests against the bill now before the Legislature, which would prohibit children under 15 years of age attending moving picture shows, even if accompanied by their parents, were made at the meeting of the Trades and Labor Council last night when a resolution protesting against the proposed law was adopted unanimously and will be sent to Premier Gouin. The executive committee reported it had decided to leave to the new executive the duty of examining a draft bill, suggested by J. L. Brunet, secretary of the Union of Tramway Employees, by which legislation was suggested authorizing any organized employees to organize a union for the adjustment of wages and working conditions.

MONTREAL POLICE GET BACK PAY

The policemen on the Montreal force received their cheque for arrears in pay which was awarded by the Board of Arbitration. The amount of the cheque is considerable.

TORONTO "BOBBIES" WANT UNION CHARTER

The members of the Toronto Police's Union, want to retain their charter, which matter is in the hands of the Royal Commission, now considering the question. No surrender in the attitude of the police is to be expected. The members of the union are to merely retain the inside union and to have the Executive wait on the board at its regular meetings with complaints and grievances. The Hamilton Police Union is behind the local union in its fight, as was shown by a telegram read at the meeting.

SLIPPING!



FROM COAST TO COAST

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TORONTO FIREMEN SEEK PENSION REVISION

The rank and file of Toronto's fire-fighters resent the suggestion that a Fire Commissioner be appointed to administer the department. They claim there are enough competent men in the department among the present officers to conduct the brigade. The Firemen's Union, which claims the membership of every man on the job, except four firemen, are going to demand that a flat rate be struck for the percentage of the men's salary payable to the benefit fund. At present the older men pay seven per cent, while some men pay 3 1/2 per cent, and the new men coming on pay as high as 10 1/2 per cent.

TORONTO STREET RAILWAY-MEN'S INCREASES

Employees of the Toronto Railway Company received their first pay this week, under the award of the Board of Conciliation, which met recently in Toronto. Under the award the men received 2 cents and 2 1/2 cents increase, and the increase dates back to November 1st. Today, the men receive an additional \$1,000 between them. The rates of pay for the employees of the company before the award, and since the award was put into effect, are:

First 6 months	30c.	32 1/2c.
Second 6 months	32c.	34c.
Third 6 months	33c.	35c.
Maximum	37c.	39c.

The present agreement of the employees of the Toronto Railway Company expires on the 15th day of June. The increase granted by the Board of Conciliation was in the nature of a bonus, due to an abnormal cost of living. There is not the slightest doubt that when the present agreement expires the men will ask for a substantial increase in wages and shorter hours. At the present time, the average working day of the men on the street car system is about 8 hours and 40 minutes per day. The men intend to ask for at least an eight-hour day and an increase in wages which will give them a weekly wage necessary to maintain a reasonable standard of living. There are about 2,800 men involved in the coming requests.

QUEBEC LEGISLATURE AND CHILD LABOR

What is considered practically a law of compulsory education in a limited degree is embodied in a bill amending the Quebec Industrial Establishments Act relative to child labor, which was presented in the assembly by the Hon. L. A. Taschereau, Minister of Labor. The measure is intended to reach the children up to the age of 16 years, such as those employed in hotels, office boys or messengers, newspaper vendors, children in any industrial establishment or in any employment whatever. It will be required of such children to produce a certificate from school teachers showing that they have completed the necessary course of studies before leaving school. At the present time such certificates are not exacted from children over 15 years of age.

TO GET CHEAP RAILWAY FARES

Arrangements have been made by the Information and Service Branch of the Department of Railways and Canals, which will give the Civil Re-Establishment of which men seeking employment who have to go to some other place than that where they live in order to start to work, will get cheap railway fares to any part of Canada. Two conferences were held by Mr. J. L. Anthes, director, and Mr. T. A. Stevenson, former secretary of the Toronto Trades Council, and assistant director of the Information and Service Branch, with the general passenger agents of all Canadian railways, resulting in the new arrangement, which is now effective. Under the new scheme, if a man has to go to some other town or city to work, he will be given a certificate at one of the returned soldiers' Government employment offices, which will entitle him to cheap railway fare. The fare up to 114 miles remains as at present \$4; up to 400 miles the fare will remain at \$4, or one cent a mile; and for everything over 400 miles the fare will be one cent a mile.

MONTREAL MILKMEN ON STRIKE

Fifty employees of the Borden Farm Products Company, Limited, went on strike recently, and as a result many families were without their morning milk and cream. Drivers, salesmen and yardmen, who are members of a union that has been formed, are out on strike, making demands in regard to increase of pay and reduction of hours.

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President Tom Moore Addresses Canadian Manufacturers' Ass.

President Tom Moore was the guest of honor of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, at the dinner given at Montreal, on the 28th inst., and he was accorded an enthusiastic reception from his introduction. At the outset of his address, President Moore thought it was an indication of a more friendly attitude between labor and capital in Canada today, when he, the head of trades unionism in Canada, was the guest of honor at a banquet of an association which was supposed to be the strongest opponents of trades unionism. "But," said Mr. Moore, "in opposing trades unionism so strongly, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and other kindred bodies of employers are really hurting themselves in the eyes of the workers, who, with reason, come to look upon their trade union members of the association before him tonight, had suffered from the mistakes of unions led by such dictators, but that the responsible, intelligent trades unionist was the capitalist's strongest bulwark, if only his friendly co-operation was extended to him, since the trades unionist and, indeed, the worker, fully realized that the downfall of the capitalist was the cessation of the work in the factory spelled his own idleness and possible starvation. The civilization of the future is what we make it, and the time has come for labor and capital to join hands in solid friendship for the betterment of the world. The speaker mentioned better housing conditions for the workers, and might as well try to get a healthy plant, deprived of air and sunshine, as try to make a good citizen of a worker, deprived of the education, in a miserable hovel," said President Moore. Then there was the question of unemployment insurance, which would secure the unemployed worker at least a temporary subsistence until such time as he could get work. "The trouble is not over-production, but under-consumption, and we must broaden our own Canadian markets to meet this condition," President Moore was against the introduction in any factory of any working scheme which would diminish the power of trades unionism, for individual effort is at best mediocre, but, when united action is taken, the product is better in quality, and the worker becomes more skilled. Another point was to educate the worker and give him a chance to rightly educate his children, for it is the children that make a great country, and that country, with the highest intellect will be the leader in the world.

Still another means to better the worker is the doing away with child labor, and the liberating of 35,000 women workers in Montreal, so that they can devote themselves to bringing up their children, instead of being forced to work in the streets, the mercy of neighbors or the streets, while they themselves go out to work. Mr. Moore called attention to the speech from the throne of yesterday, in which many remedial measures were outlined for the Government to act upon. It is an evidence of what can be done, that recently, capitalists, laborers and scientists formed a joint delegation and urged upon the Cabinet the necessity of Parliament in the most timely manner in the world, in which we all have a personal interest, until we get all we're after," concluded Mr. Moore, amid great cheering.

ALMONTE TEXTILE WORKERS' HOURS

Almonte Local No. 2,000, United Textile Workers of America, was recently formed on the initiative efforts of the Trades Congress. The financial secretary, M. N. Playfair, has recently supplied the following information on the question of hours, also showing the active interest they are now taking in the movement. Following is the statement: Until recently, all mills commenced work at 6:30 a.m., working 10 1/2 hours per day, and on Saturdays, 12 hours, except one mill, which had a six-hour Saturday. Thus, it will be seen it was a 69-hour week for two mills, and 66 1/2 hours for the other. The working hours now are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturdays, 7 to 12:30, making a 56 1/2-hour week. On the 1st of January, 1919, the working hours were dropped off to the employers, I must state that it was voluntarily granted by them, and that all workers affected suffered no deduction of pay. The long hours of labor is one of several reasons why the textile workers of America, is the pioneer textile union in the Ottawa Valley, and we are going strong. The movement was only launched in January, 1919, and now we are over the 300 mark in members, are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and also with the Trades and Labor Congress of the Dominion.

BRITISH LABOR CORRESPONDENT ON SHORTER HOURS

Some time has passed since the signing of the armistice gave the signal to industry to reverse its engines, and turn from the manufacture and transport of munitions of war to the production and distribution of "munitions of peace." In spite of the inquiries and reports of a score of Government Committees, and monthly agents in the examination, as earnest and practical as any such study could be, of the complex problem called Reconstruction, most of those who are directly concerned in industry, whether employers or work-people, in an unorganized manner, are continuing to do what they have done, and which could immediately, or even speedily be reached. The ideal of Labor was nothing short of a complete re-orientation of the social order, to be achieved, not "in a year or two of feverish reconstruction," but by a steady process of clearance and re-orientation, by means of a deliberate, systematic, and comprehensive plan.

SYDNEY MINES ADOPT 8 HOUR DAY

After a meeting held between operators of the coal areas of Cape Breton and their employees recently, two of the three concessions asked for by the workers were granted. These were for permission to affiliate with the United Mine Workers of America and the granting of an eight-hour day for the underground workers of the mines. The third item in the routine business for discussion was that of wages, but as most of the associations are under contracts with the operators for a time yet, this matter was not taken up seriously, only with a view of paving the way for the discussion, which will come after these contracts have expired. There were many tangles to be unraveled and to be discussed, but the respective cases with decision there was no actual ill-feeling and both sides are satisfied with their conclusions.

BRANTFORD ASKS FOR PROPERTY QUALIFICATION ABOLISHED

Brantford City Council, has gone on record for the abolition of the property qualification for municipal offices. They are going further in securing the assistance of similar bodies invoking aid to this end, in an appeal to the provincial Government for the change in legislation that calls for property qualification. The local Trades Council, through Secretary David Greaves, are being notified of this action, with a view to urging the various civic representatives to assist the efforts of the Brantford Council.

"PEG CITY" WORKERS ASK INCREASE

A flat increase of \$15 per month for all city employees was demanded at the request of the union employees. Increased cost of living was the basis for the request. It is stated that an increase of \$100 to \$50 to the civic pay-roll would follow the granting of this request, but this cannot be used in any form of argument, as the increase in the necessary expenses for these which is desirable.