LABOR NEWS FROM COAST TO COAST

WORKERS SANCTIFY YOUR VOTE!

Workers of Ottawa have an excellent opportunity of electing a number of their own representatives to the City Council for 1921.

Controller John Cameron and Mr. William Lodge are the Labor standard-bearers for the Board of Control. Every worker in Ottawa should vote for these men. They are your representatives, and if elected will look after your interests.

On the eve of the 1920 election Mayor Fisher said that Labor should have representation in the City Council.

During the year just closing we have had one member on the Board of Control elected on the Labor ticket. His record is before the people of Ottawa, and it is admitted by all that he rendered faithful service to the City of Ottawa. His efforts were minimized, due to the fact that he was the only Labor member of the City Council. Next year we can have our full quota of representatives if the workers of Ottawa will remember that they are workers.

In many of the wards the workers have selected candidates to carry Labor's banner. These men should be supported just as loyally as the Labor candidates for the Board of Control.

Labor is not contesting the mayoralty nor two seats on the Board of Control. In some of the wards, also, the workers are not placing candidates in the field. However, workers are urged to use their vote in supporting the men that have supported them. If this is done and the workers vote for the Labor candidates, the 1921 City Council will be one at least sympathetic to Labor and one that will be of credit to the Capital City of Canada.

The Associated Federal Employes of Ottawa.

Federal Union No. 66.

THE FLOOD TIDE IN CIVIL SERVICE AFFAIRS.

The days are fast passing when the general attitude toward trades unionism adopted by the worker could be summed up in the phrase: "What am I going to get out of it?" or "Of what benefit will it be to me to join the union?" The question now is more generally expressed in the form of: "Will my joining benefit the workers as a whole?" The touchstone, the keyword, is still "benefit"; but it is the benefit of the many that is sought after, that is regarded as the goal to be striven for, rather than the individually selfish advantage to be derived.

The spread of education, with its attendant awakening of the school, the co-operative instinct in men and women, is teaching the great lesson that man can best help himself by helping his fellow man. Nevertheless, we do still fall somewhat short of the ideal. One finds this self-centred attitude occasionally expressed; but it is already, happily, becoming rare enough to be wondered at when it is met with. Some civil servants even seem inclined to adopt this complaining style; and this, at first blush, would appear to be somewhat curious in view of the fact that the average Government official is a passably educated, moderately intelligent, and not usually ill-informed member of the community. But on looking into the matter, it becomes evident that this mistaken outlook is, after all, not to be wondered at; for it is only in very recent times that the Government worker has come rightly to regard himself sin ly as one of the almost innumerable army of the workers of the world, and not erroneously, as one holding an appointment in a special, segregated service untouched by the usual industrial considerations that affect the general workers of the country.

Civil servants, therefore as a class, have not, until a short time ago, been directly or acutely interested in the trades union movement. They understood, approximately, of course, the general scope and objects of trades unions, were sympathetic towards it, the majority of them; but still their attitude was to a great degree detached, their interest merely academic. Latterly, however, they have realized, and every day more and more of them are realizing it, as is evidenced by the rapidly growing membership roll of Federal Union No. 66, that if civil servants are to partake of the advantages that go with the times, that are ready and waiting for those who are enlightened enough to seize them, they must march with the times, must take their stand with all those other workers who have, solely by virtue of their determination, loyalty, and unity of purpose, improved industrial conditions to precisely the extent that these conditions have been bettered.

The larger viewpoint, and the one from which the movement towards affiliation with organized labor should be regarded, is—the betterment of conditions in the Service as a whole, as distinguished from the narrower, more selfish outlook expressed in the question: "Will it raise my salary, or give me better working conditions?" The lesson is the value to all of esprit de corps, taught so well by the war, should bear good fruit, and indeed is doing so; but we look for a more abundant harvest yet. Fortunately, it is indeed seldom now that one hears the sentiment that at one time was frequently expressed by non-union men, viz.:—"Well, if the union can obtain any concessions, get any better conditions, shorter hours, more wages, more adequate representation, or any advantages whatsoever, I shall benefit by them, whether I am a member of the union or not." Men and women do recognize now that since they share in the victory they should at least take their stand in the fight for it. Ordinary fairmindedness and a decent sense of justice compels the recognition of this reasonable view, and impels all honorable men and women to support the organization that is working for the benefit of all alike. The old attitude was, after all, merely an ill-informed rather than an innately selfish one. Because intelligent unselfishness undoubtedly is largely a matter of the enlightment that enables us to see where we are wrong. But let us endeavor to enlighten ourselves a little further. Up to the time of the formation of Federal Union No. 66 were not civil servants unconsciously guilty of that same ungenerous and unjust action of gathering, to some extent, the fruits of victory, while standing aloof from the fight? Organized labor, through the trades unions and federated associations of workers, has been fighting the powers of reaction for years, and has been steadily winning. Every concession from the employing class, every improvement in industrial conditions, has been battled for, and won by the workers themselves; and while those workers who were not organized, who did not take part in any of the fighting, have, naturally, at benefitted to the same extent as those whose associations put up the fight, they have, nevertheless, and inevitably, been at some advantage through the general improvement in the state of affairs. Before the general principle of the eight hour day was recognized by employers of skilled labor (and recognition did not come without a bitter and long drawn out fight) it was the rule rather than the exception for office men to work at least eight or nine hours. Working hours extending from nine a.m. to six p.m., with one hour for lunch or dinner, were considered, by nearly all employers, to err, if anything, on the side of generosity. Organized labor has, as it was inevitable that it should, raised the status of labor as a whole, organized and unorganized. It behoves those sections then, that remain still unorganized to take the obviously sensible and fairminded method of organizing and uniting to strengthen yet further the hands of those who have already assisted them and at the same time given evidence of the power and wih to assist them still more.

Now, as to our particular civil service problems, and they are indeed acute during this transition period, let us endeavor to see what organization can do for us. Organized labor, bear in mind, is the voice of democracy, demanding to have some jurisdiction over the working conditions under which men have to live. An autocratic administration denies men the right to have any voice at all in this matter, which so vitally affects them. And the present administratiton of the Civil Service is, without a shadow of doubt, autocratic to a degree that is positively an anachronism in these days of workers' representation in almost every other field of endeavor. It decisions on matters of vital moment to the civil servant himself are arbitrary; secrecy has ever been its watchword; and, the Government worker, having practically no voice in the administration, has hitherto found himself well-nigh helpless to do anything but complain unavailingly.

The present business of reorganization stands as striking proof of the above assertions. It is the last word in autocracy, for it is being carried on absolutely without Parliamentary authority, by people whose ability is, to say the best that can be said of it, questionable, and whose "expertness" has been taken practically at their own valuation; and the whole matter is being conducted with such a degree of secrecy that the first real intimation of the findings of this firm will undoubtedly come to many an unfortunate letter carrier, minor customs official, sorter and clerk-stenographer through the official intimation that he or she has been "organized" out of a job. That is, unless we can prevent it; and the endeavor to prevent it should be our main business, just now. If any overstaffing is discovered, at any rate let the discoveries be made public property directly the facts come to light. We can force publicity only by organizing, by showing in no uncertain manner, our united will. As Mr. Tom Moore recently observed, administrations do not, as a general rule, enact any particular piece of legislation on its merits, but simply as public opinion demands that piece of legislation. In short, the acts of Legislatures are more often to be regarded as tributes to opportunism than they are to abstract justice. Opportunism is not in itself wrong, except as it becomes a political faith. And we must meet opportunism with the like. Our tide is at the flood. We have the opportunity now, right to our hands, of placing the service once and for all on a broad, democratic basis, to our own and the country's advantage, and to the enduring benefit of our successors and of posterity. The attitude of all political parties in this country at the present time is markedly conciliatory to organized labor. The widespread, almost universal dread of doing anything that could be interpreted as a challenge to organized labor is apparent everywhere. Throughout the Dominion, and indeed, throughout the world, almost there runs the evident desire to adjust labor difficulties. Our own Government is palpably in this frame of mind; and now is our time to induce it to consider the advisability of commencing with the workers in its own employ. Only by an intelligently aggressive policy, by a strong, constructive platform, can this be done.

Federal Union No. 66, in affiliation with the Allied Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, has that platform, has an executive and general council level-headed enough to bring every argument to bear that will induce the Government to ensure that our occupation will be one that any intelligent, self-respecting man or woman can belong to; and has a present membership sufficiently loyal to back the organization in its endeavors to create such a civil service in Canada. Every new member strengthens our hand, renders more certain and swift the ultimate victory. Now is the time for all civil servants to unite in a common cause; and that cause the betterment of conditions throughout the entire Government service, and the consequent improvement in administration for the people throughout the entire Dominion that is bound to follow.

OTTAWA.

TRADES COUNCIL.

Debate at the Allied Trades and Labor Association on Friday night struck a high level. Many important questions were discussed, including the purchase of the Ottawa Electric Railway; the move on the part of the employers to decrease wages and increase hours; the recall and other minor questions.

President Tom Moore and Secretary-Treasurer P. M. Draper of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada took a leading part in the discussions. There were no personalities of any kind and the debate at all times was conducted along purely parliamentary lines.

The policy of Ottawa Central Labor body in regard to decreased wages and increased hours appears elsewhere in this issue as does the statement of President Moore.

No policy was formulated in regard to the Ottawa Street Railway, and the report of the executive council was referred back for further consideration.

A provision in the executive report endorsing a two year term for members of the city council, but objecting to the power of recall being left out of it, caused lengthy discussion as to the benefits of the recall system.

Delegate Draper said that he was not favorable to the system, unless it was upon a proper basis, as it would leave public men at the mercy of a small coterie, who, if their displeasure was incurred, would find it a convenient weapon with which to get rid of an unwanted representative in any public body.

Delegate McDowell, while stating that the recall was a plank in the platform of the I.L.P., of which he was president, said he was also of the opinion of Delegate Draper.

Delegate Leckie suggested the two year term, but with half the council retiring yearly, so that there would be experienced men on the council at all times, with those to be dropped off, to be chosen according to polling percentage.

Delegate Draper pointed out this would not work, with the city adopting proportional representation, as this system of voting elected a minority candidate as well as a majority candidate, and the former would always be the one to get the axe. Finally, after more discussion, at the instance of Delegate Draper, the association endorsed the two year term and sent the clause regarding the recall back for further consideration.

Protest was voiced over the parking of autos and congestion of traffic on Sparks street and other business streets, which was referred to the municipal committee for action.

Delegate Kenny's report recommending the establishment of a co-operating consuming store for the Allied Trades and Labor Association in the city, and for preliminary work in connection with same, was adopted. A copy of this report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Delegates were urged to purchase milk only from drivers wearing the Milk Drivers 'an Dairy Employes' Union button.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION AN ESTABLISHED FACT.

The Workers' Educational Association of Ottawa is now an established fact. Dr. J. H. Putman was chosen as president, and Mr. W. T. McDowell as secretary, at a meeting in Carnegie Library Tuesday night, when classes in Canadian history and economics were enrolled. The duration of the courses will be 15 weeks, one class to be held in each subject weekly. The first class will be in Canadian history, conducted by Mr. Adam Shortt, next Monday evening at eight o'clock. The initial class in economics, under the direction of Prof. S. Cudmore, B.A., will meet in the library on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

Those present last night were asked to indicate their preference of courses, and the majority expressed their desire for instruction in economics. Only five members favored instruction in English literature so that it was not considered advisable to start a class in this subject until a larger number of students are secured, which Dr. Putman stated he was confident would be shortly after Christmas. Mr. W. J. Sykes, B.A., will instruct the class in literature.

G.T.R. CARMEN CONSIDER STAFF REDUCTION PROBLEMS

In connection with the recent decision of the Grand Trunk Railway management to reduce operating expenses, which will probably include, among other things, the curtailing of staffs in different branches of the system, Mr. Joseph Corbett, of London, general chairman for Eastern Canada of the Brotherhood of Grand Trunk Carmen, met the Ottawa members of that body at the Windsor Hotel last week and offered advice as to how to face the situation.

It was pointed out at the meeting that as yet the lay-offs in Ottawa had not assumed serious proportions, only eighteen men being discharged during the past month, out of a staff of some hundred.

One of Mr. Corbett's suggestions was to the effect that those men who were working seven days a week should volunteer to give up one of those days. In this manner every six men doing this would provide a full week's work for one of the discharged men, and in this way the situation would be materially relieved. He also stated that the brotherhood was endeavoring to arrange that all discharges necessary should be made on the seniority basis, the youngest men in the service to be let out first. He further stated that other branches of the work, such as the running staff, were willing, he thought, to do what they could to assist the carmen.

One of the points brought up at the meeting was the insanitary condition of the carmen's quarters at the Union station, a number of the men stating that things were far from healthy and comfortable. They were forced to dress and undress in an unlighted, unheated car, while the privies were very badly kept. A new building equipped with lockers and other conveniences, was suggested.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY PROPOSED FOR OTTAWA.

The Associated Federal Employes of Ottawa, Federal Union No. 66, were sponsers for a resolution at Ottawa's cen al labor body calling for a committee to investigate the advisability of organizing a co-operative store in Ottawa. A committee was duly appointed and at the last meeting of the Allied Trades and Labor Association the following report, signed by Delegates J. L. Kenny, W. E. McCagherty and Controller John Cameron, was unanimously adopted:

"Your committee has held a number of meetings and begs to report in favor of the establishment in Ottawa of a consumers' co-operative society, which would operate a store on the Rochdale plan. This plan has worked out very successfully wherever it was tried and properly followed. Your committee sees no reason to doubt that it would be equally successful here.

"Believing that the time is ripe for preliminary action, and realizing that the first step is the securing of moral and financial support from the trade unions in Ottawa, your committee begs to recommend that it be authorized to issue a brief circular to local unions, asking for the support of their members in the establishment of a consumers 'co-operative, and requesting each local to make a small contribution to defray the expense incident to having Mr. Geo. Keen, of Brantford, general secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada come to Ottawa and address a public meeting. Mr. Keen has successfully organized many co-operative societies and your committee feels confident that if each local union will take enough interest in the matter to see that a good proportion of its members (and especially the members' wives) attend such a meeting, the co-operative movement in Ottawa will get away to a good start."

FIREMEN TO HAVE ONE DAY OFF IN SEVEN.

The corporation of the city of Ottawa will have to engage 35 additional firemen at an estimated annual cost of $48,000, in order to conform with the act passed at the last session of the provincial Legislature, giving the firemen one day off duty in every seven. This day off is in addition to the day secured when the firemen change from day to night duty.

Fire Chief Graham was given authority by the Board of Control, last Thursday, to engage and equip the additional men, who will go on duty on January 1, when the act comes into force.

The amount provided in the estimates for the maintenance of the fire department during 1920 was $269,000, and this with the $48,000 will make a total of $317,000 needed for 1921.

TORONTO.

TRADES COUNCIL.

The Toronto Trades and Labor Council meeting at the Labor Temple last Thursday night endorsed a recommendation that the present luxury tax be replaced by the establishment of a maximum income of $3,000 a year, the Government to take all income in excess of this amount.

The abolition of the luxury tax, and the substitution of a general tax of 1% on all sales was recommended in a communication from the International Jewelry Workers' union. A motion that this be relegated to the Legislative Committee for action was defeated by an amendment by Delegate McCallum to the effect that an income tax be advocated, to replace the luxury tax, providing that $3,000 be established as the maximum income for any person, all amounts received annually by any individual over this sum to be paid to the Government.

A motion by Delegate Doggett that the Trades and Labor Council urge upon the Federal Government the establishment of unemployment insurance, was carried almost unanimously.

Delegate James Simpson, in opposing the motion, said it was time for the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to express its official opinion on the tariff question to the Tariff Commission. The tariff, he considered, had such a direct bearing upon unemployment that the voice of Labor on that subject would dispose of the necessity of making a separate motion regarding unemployment insurance.

Delegate James Simpson, James Richards and V. Todd were recommended for the Advisory Industrial Committee of the Board of Education. Delegates Fred Bancroft, H. J. Stevenson and John Doggett were nominated for appointment to the committee, but withdrew their names.

The report of the Political Defence Committee, dealing with the action taken in the interests of the Winnipeg strikers who were imprisoned, showed that the total amount contributed through meetings and private subscriptions was $3,163.71, and total expenditures $3,111.64, leaving a balance of $52.07. In the expenses were included an item of $718 for legal services rendered by J. G. O'Donoghue, and another of $1,006, sent direct to Winnipeg.

Considerable discussion arose in connection with a motion by Delegate A. E. O'Leary, seconded by James Simpson, that the report be audited, and an itemized statement of receipts and disbursements be printed and circulated amongst members of the Trades and Labor Council and all outside subscribers. An amendment was moved by John Macdonald to the effect that the report be audited, but that no printed statement be circulated. It was contended that the cost of printing would be an unnecessary expense, at a time when all funds are needed owing to probable widespread unemployment this winter. The amendment carried.

The question of the employment of white girls in Chinese restaurants was the subject of much warm discussion. A letter was read from President Tom Moore of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, stating that he had taken the matter up with the Dominion Government, and found it was not regulated by federal statute, but came within the bounds of provincial jurisdiction. He recommended that the council get in touch with the Ontario Government and ascertain definitely what the law provides.

Delegate Russell of the Cooks and Waiters' Union, declared that a provincial law was to have become effective yesterday prohibiting the employment of white girls in restaurants operated by Celestials, but that the regulation had been hoisted by Attorney-General Raney until an investigation was made into the matter. He alleged the existence of disgraceful conditions in Toronto.

While one delegate was in the course of a defence of the Chinamen, he was interrupted by a woman delegate who exclaimed: "If you had had sisters who worked with Chinamen, as I did for two years, you would not talk like that." This statement was greeted by loud cheers.

A motion was finally passed, sponsored by Delegate Fred Bancroft, that the matter be referred to a joint body composed of the Ontario executive of the Trades and Labor Congress and the legislative committee of the Trades and Labor Council.

EASTERN CANADA.

MONTREAL TRADES COUNCIL.

That steps should be taken to study the whole immigration question with a view towards its effect on the present and future conditions of Canadian workmen, was the subject of a brief discussion raised at the Montreal Trades and Labor Council last Thursday night. Delegate Joseph Lemieux, who raised the issue, wanted a committee of ten members of the council appointed at once with a view of dealing with the matter. Immigration, said he, meant salary cuts for the workmen. Steps towards the restriction of immigration had been taken by the United States, and it was time that Canada did something, he declared.

President J. T. Foster suggested that it might be preferable to send the matter to the executive committee and consideration would be given the subject there. At the same time he drew the attention of the council to the fact that the Canadian Government has just passed an order-in-council providing that each immigrant of the working class must have $250 cash before being admitted.

The matter was sent to the executive for study.

President Foster informed the council, in answer to an enquiry, that the executive was working in harmony with the Plumbers' Union in regard to the injunction proceedings taken against J. R. Blais, of that union. One of the delegates stated that of late plumbers' headquarters had been raided, and that such visits were becoming common.

Gustave Francq, who is vice-president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and in charge of the organization campaign in progress in the province of Quebec, stated that as a result of enquiries he had ascertained that there are 43 locals of international trades unions in the city of Quebec, instead of four, as claimed by the National and Catholic propaganda organization. He read a list of these 43 unions.

Delegate Francq read the report of the representatives of the council who had attended the recent convention of the Quebec Labor Party. At that convention resolutions were offered asking that the "Republic of Ireland" and the Soviet Government of Russia be recognized. These were replaced by another resolution to the effect that the convention believed in the right of small nations to manage their affairs without interference from larger nations. This substitute resolution was adopted.

Authorization was given the executive committee to set about the task of building up a label section of the council.

The council was informed that no reply has been received as yet from the Provincial Government in answer to the request that a Royal Commission be appointed to investigate into the school situation in Montreal, following upon the refusal of the Catholic School Commission to re-engage a number of teachers. It was recommended by the executive that the trades unions give all possible assistance to the Teachers' Union which is affiliated with the council.

The delegates were not in accord with the requests made by the Union of Teamsters, Chauffeurs and Stablemen for support in having laws passed for various purposes of their trade. One request was that there be a law to provide that every carter must have a license before he can work, the same as cabmen are required to take out. Another request was for a law prohibiting the engagement of those under the age of 20 from working as drivers in Montreal. A third request was for a law to more severely punish drivers who become intoxicated while in charge of a vehicle, and a fourth request was to the effect that the fine of short weight coal dealers be increased to $200. Various reasons for these requests were given, but the matter ended with the communication being sent to the executive committee for study. The argument used for increasing the fine against coal dealers was that too often it happened that the carters were blamed for the shortages, and were punished by the courts. Gustave Francq and Alphetus Mathieu remarked that the principle of licensing men to permit them to work at their trade was very apt to be a dangerous principle and react on the workmen who sought to benefit.

LANARK LABOR PARTY TO HAVE CANDIDATE.

Members of the U.F.O. in Lanark County do not see eye to eye with the Labor party on the question of D. H. Gemmill, of Smiths Falls, being the joint candidate of the U.F.O. and Labor in the next Federal election. The Labor party, it is said, takes the ground that it has the right to nominate a candidate to contest the riding, and that the U.F.O. should support him.

W. J. Johnston, U.F.O. member of the Legislature for South Lanark, contends that Mr. Gemmill should submit himself to a joint convention, and take his chances of receiving the nomination. If Mr. Gemmill received the nomination in this way, Mr. Johnston says that he would support him.

The question has been a subject of correspondence between the Labor and U.F.O. parties, with no decision in view yet.

ST. JOHN LONGSHOREMEN WIN.

It was said unofficially last week that the dispute between the waterfront workers at St. John and the steamship companies, had been practically brought to an end, and that both sides were satisfied with the outcome.

H. C. Schofield, representing the Robert Reford Company, who has acted as chairman of the various meetings held in this connection, said that the waterfront interests, comprising the 'longshoremen, ship liners' and coal handlers' unions, were satisfied to carry on this season's port work under the slightly changed conditions which have been made in the working arrangements. The coal handlers have been granted the dollar an hour rate for both day and night shifts, which was the chief bone of contention in the whole dispute, and at a meeting of the 'longshoremen and ship liners the proposals made by the steamship men regarding slight changes in working conditions were approved.

ST. CATHARINES LABOR PARTY OUT FOR CONTROL.

With property qualifications removed, the St. Catharines labor party is out for control of the city council next year. Six candidates were last week chosen to contest the nine seats:

Peter Grant, Arthur Greenlaw, James Nee, J. W. Cheevers, Leo Cunningham and Alderman Murphy, a sitting member.

The candidature of Mayor Lovelace for a second term was endorsed.

ST. JOHN LABOR ADVANCES.

Through the efforts of organized labor the cigarmakers received an increase of $1 per thousand cigars, writes F. A. Campbell, of St. John, N.B., to the American Federation of Labor. Employment is steady. Condition of organized labor is good. We have a committee of five actively at work to promote the use of union-labeled goods. A new local union of hotel and restaurant employes and one of textile workers were organized.

SAULT STE. MARIE HAS TWO NEW UNIONS.

Employment is fairly steady at Sault Ste. Marie, writes Will Armstrong, in his monthly report to the A. F. of L. Condition of organized labor is good. Two new local unions were organized—one of blacksmiths and helpers, and the other of boilermakers and helpers.

MONTREAL ALARMED OVER UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment in Montreal is on the increase, with no immediate prospects of improvement, according to the opinions of Labor authorities who are in touch with the situation and are following conditions with much interest and no little alarm. A conservative estimate places the unemployed in Montreal at from ten to fifteen thousand, with the possibility that more will be added in the course of a short time. There is a great influx of laborers from the west, particularly from the construction camps of northern and western Ontario. The lack of rain in the fall caused many saw mills to close, and hundreds of men have been thrown out of employment as a result.

RENFREW TRADES COUNCIL.

Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, will address a public meeting in Renfrew on Tuesday evening, December 21st. At the regular meeting of the Trades Council Wednesday night, R. Ireton and Angus McNab were appointed a committee to secure a place. Labor unions at Arnprior and Pembroke will be invited to attend.

It was decided that if any union using the Labor Hall for its regular meetings does not become a shareholder in the furnishings that it be charged an extra rental of $1 a month, this to go into the fund that it is proposed to raise for the celebration of Labor Day next year. It is the intention of the various unions to raise sufficient money for that occasion so that it will not be necessary to solicit contributions from the business men and other citizens. It was also decided to tax the members of the unions five cents a month to defray the expenses of the Trades Council.

SILBY BARRETT EXPECTS ACCEPTANCE OF MONTREAL AGREEMENT.

Silby Barrett, International Board member, last week left Cape Breton for Indianapolis to attend a meeting of the International Executive. As questions of importance to Canadian miners are to be discussed, Mr. Barrett found it impossible to neglect the interests of the Nova Scotia miners by staying at home until the district elections had been finished.

Before leaving Mr. Barrett said that he expected the Montreal agreement to be accepted in Nova Scotia. With the exception of the Waterford locals the Cape Breton miners were almost solid for accepting the award and he expects a fifty-fifty split on the mainland. Mr. Barrett expects to return home in a month's time. The meeting of the International will last about two weeks.

WESTERN CANADA

B. C. MAY HAVE BANK.

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance for British Columbia, has come out with a proposal to establish a Provincial Government Bank, on the ground that British Columbia is discriminated against by the present chartered banks. He declares that through the branch bank system the money of British Columbians in the form of deposits is sent away to Montreal and Toronto, and there loaned out to business houses, while business men on the coast are refused credit. In outlining the plan he said, in part: "I propose to get the power for the Government to accept deposits from the peopel of this province. This money would be put to a fund that cannot be spent by the province, but only loaned out, as, for instance, to municipalities to help them develop. The money deposited with the banks here is the money of the people of this province, and I am going to try to keep it here for the development of this province and to give the people the benefit of its accumulated interest." The proposal has created a lot of interest because, while suggestions of a purely coast bank have been made frequently by campaign speakers, it has never been given what may be called official sanction.

WINNIPEG CIVIC ELECTION RESULTS.

With the declaration on Monday night that Dan McLean (Citizens') and W. B. Simpson (Labor) had been elected Aldermen for a two-year term in Ward 3, the civic government of Winnipeg was complete. The results of the party issue show that labor has lost some of its representation. The retiring council consisted of 14 members, of which seven represented labor; the new council consists of 18 members, and has but six labor Aldermen. The complete council with the seven men who did not automatically retire this year, is as follows:

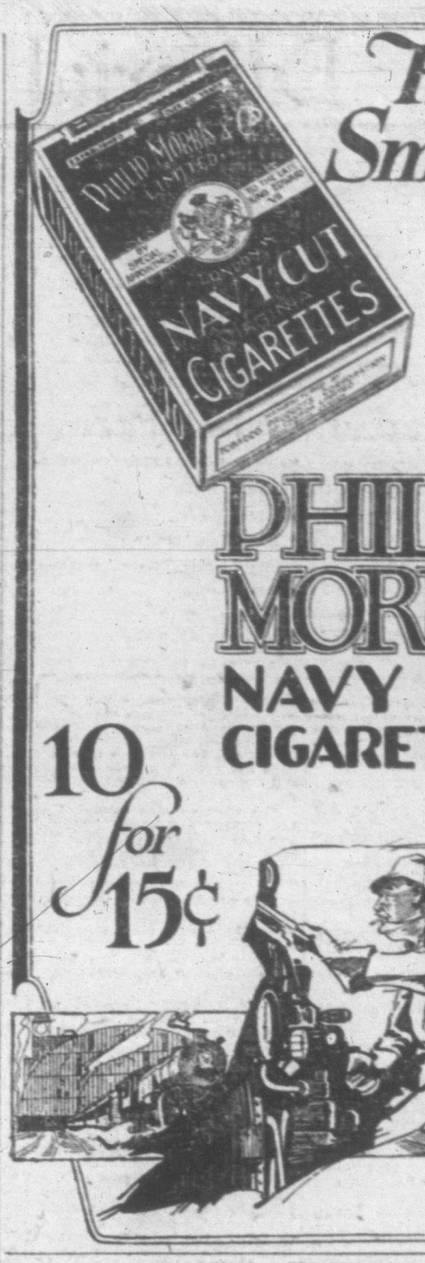
Mayor—Edward Parnell (Citizens').

Aldermen—Ward 1, F. O. Fowler, J. G. Sullivan, H. Gray, J. K. Sparling, W. Douglas and H. A. Pulford, all on the Citizens' ticket. Ward 2, F. H. Davidson, George Fisher, J. A. McKerchar, Thomas Boyd, John O'Hare, all Citizens', and Mrs. Jessie Kirk (Labor). Ward 3, J. Blumberg, H. Jones, J. Queen, A. A. Heaps and W. R. Simpson, all Labor, and Dan McLean (Citizens'). On the school board, labor had but one representative last time, but will start the new year with four members in their interests. The full board, with the old and new members, is as follows:

Ward 1, Duncan Cameron, Arthur Congdon, R. W. Craig, W. J. Bullman, and F. S. Harstone, all of the Citizens' ticket. Ward 2, J. T. Hair, Arni Anderson and G. Coulter, all Citizens', and Mrs. Maude McCarthy and J. Simpkin, both Labor. Ward 3, Robert Jacob, H. A. McFaden and R. R. Knox, all Citizens', and Mrs. Rose Alcin and C. E. Beeken, both Labor.

VANCOUVER OPENS PUBLIC WORKS TO HELP UNEMPLOYED.

Vancouver city council voted the sum of $100,000 as a special appropriation to be used in road work in order to provide employment. The British Columbia Government followed suit by voting $100,000 to be spent on preliminary work on the University site in Point Grey, such as land clearing and road making.



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