

Dept. of Labor April 12-20  
(Circulation Branch)  
Ottawa, Ont.

EDITED, CONTROLLED AND PUBLISHED BY THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

VOL. 1, No. 47

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1920

\$1.00 Per Year; 5c Per Copy

## BEST CONTRIBUTION TO DEBATE ON SPEECH FROM THE THRONE IS ADDRESS OF LABOR MEMBER

Alex. Ross, in Well Reasoned Speech Points Out the Need of Legislative Action That Will Relieve Present Distress—  
Defends Group Organization.

The speech of Alex. Ross in the debate on the Speech from the Throne was a masterly and impressive address. There was no criticism for criticism sake. Mr. Ross dealt with the questions under discussion in a constructive, logical manner, as will be seen by a careful perusal of the address which is here reproduced in full:

In speaking to the Speech from the Throne, I regret that I cannot find anything in the Speech to entice me. To me it is unfortunate at a time when so much is expected from men who are holding the highest office within the gift of the people of this province, that such an inane, meaningless, colorless Speech should be delivered. There is nothing in the Speech that would indicate that its authors are aware of what is expected of them or if they are aware then they are politically bankrupt. We are told in the Speech that the visit from the Prince was a source of inspiration to the people of the West and that the Imperial relations are closer than ever. Such a display of Imperial affection will indeed be comforting to those who are looking for work or those who are hoping they may have a house to live in next year, or the farmer who expects something will be done to bring about better transportation facilities or the many other things that are so vital to those living in the Province. The Hon. member from Vegreville complained because he was selected to move the acceptance of the Speech. I think the Hon. member has a legitimate complaint, at least he has my sympathy.

an convinced that if we are to change our method of electing representatives to this Legislature we should do it as intelligently as we know how and to have a committee at work issuing reports between now and the next session would, I believe, materially help to prepare an Election Act that would meet the general approval of this House and the electors, and would enable the members to become familiar with the proposed legislation. The last Federal Redistribution Bill, I understand, was prepared by a Parliamentary Committee. It is not only a much more democratic method of preparing legislation of this character, but its preparation will have an educational value which is much to be desired if this Government intends to adopt Proportional Representation in any form.

Industrial Conferences.

I was glad to see the Government accept an invitation and send a delegate to the Industrial Conference at Ottawa and also to the International Conference at Washington. Both these conferences made tangible contributions to some of our economic problems, particularly the conference at Ottawa. The delegates assembled at that conference agreed on certain principles in regard to the rela-

(Continued on Page Two)

## O.B.U. MEETS NO ENCOURAGEMENT IN PROV. OF ONTARIO

Philosophy of O.B.U. Does Not Appeal to Labor Movement in Premier Province

The One Big Union has not met with much encouragement in the province of Ontario and the way, we are told, made to the blandishments of the wrecking crew who are laboring overtime to destroy the International Labor Movement must be distinctly discouraging to say the least, says the Industrial Banner. In fact it is so dead in Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford, London, St. Thomas and other Ontario cities that it is only when a "so-called" Labor paper comes to hand, with horrible O.B.U. cartoons, presumably produced to create a scare among employers that it is ever heard of.

The philosophy of the O.B.U. does not appeal even a little bit to the Labor Movement in the premier province, where the workers have no desire to see the chaos and disunion introduced into Ontario that has followed in the wake of the disruptions in Western Canada, wherever they have succeeded in securing a foothold, for they are not unaware of the fact that the unions in Ontario have secured valuable concessions, increased wages and shorter hours while the activities of the O.B.U. forced thousands of unwilling workers into strikes, that were foredoomed to failure and which resulted in thousands losing their situations and being forced to accept charity during a hard winter, in an effort to keep body and soul together.

The workers of Ontario would rather have a united movement, undivided and powerful enough to force concessions by legitimate methods than allow itself to become the dupes of would-be Labor leaders, whose first aim is to destroy a movement with over 4,000,000 members, which every day is broadening out, growing stronger and thus is in a better position to defend and protect their interests.

The worker who would willingly consent to change the conditions of labor that prevail today in the premier province for the unsatisfactory conditions that prevail in Western Canada would be worse than a fool, he would be able to abundantly qualify for the Luny House.

When the wrecking crew can show

(Continued on page 4).

## REGULAR MEETING TRADES COUNCIL MONDAY EVENING

The regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council will be held next Monday evening, March 1st, in Labor Hall. A large attendance of delegates is requested.

## LETTERS UNCALLED FOR

The following letters remain at the Free Press office, uncalled for:

T. J. Howard (2)  
Secretary I.O.B.B., Edmonton Lodge No. 132  
Secretary Boilers' Union, Edmonton, Alta.

## FORWARD MOVEMENTS; TWO OF A KIND: RELIGION AND LABOR

President Robert McCreath of the Trades and Labor Council will address the Highlands undenominational Men's Brotherhood on Sunday afternoon in the Highlands Methodist church, at 3 o'clock. There will be a special musical program including the Highlands Orchestra, whose music has been a feature of the Brotherhood meetings. The meetings are open to all men, whether residents of the Highlands or not, and a large attendance is expected to hear President McCreath's address. The subject will be "Forward Movements—Two of a Kind—Religion and Labor."

## LABOR MEMBER



ALEX. ROSS, M.L.A.  
Who is contributing to the Free Press each week during the present session.

## TORONTO UNION MEN GET HIGHER WAGES THAN MINIMUM SCALE

In Toronto, it is stated that in the well organized crafts, the members generally are receiving higher rates of wages than the minimum union scale calls for. This is caused by the need of skilled workers though it is a well attested fact that while it is true of union workers non-union workers in the same industry receive many instances indeed are receiving far lower than the union minimum scale, thus showing that while the non-union workers are undoubtedly benefited by the activities of the union, he does not by any means benefit in the same degree as union men.

It is pointed out that in many cases, non-union men not only receive smaller wages than union men, but work a larger number of hours as well.

## EDMONTON FIRST CLUB ADDRESSED BY MAYOR CLARKE

Subject of Mayor's Address Was "What I Saw and Heard at the Coast."

Thursday night's meeting of the Edmonton First club, of which J. A. McDougall is president and G. Latham is secretary, which was held in the Council Chamber, was addressed by Mayor Clarke, who told the members "what he saw and heard at the coast."

The address was of particular interest to those who are interested in improving Edmonton and all that the city stands for. While at the coast, Mayor Clarke, upon invitation, addressed the Kivniss club of Vancouver. He took occasion to enlarge upon the close relationship existing between Edmonton and Vancouver, saying that he believed Vancouver should be to the West what Montreal was to the East.

As the Edmonton First Club has for its objects the betterment of Edmonton and vicinity, there is no doubt but that the invitation they extend for members will be taken advantage of by a great many.

## NEWSBOYS HANDLE STRIKE SUCCESSFULLY AT ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Newsboys of Rochester, N.Y. have proved that they can handle a strike as well as grown-up labor unions. The boys demanded a rate of \$1.75 per 100 copies, and after a good deal of protestation by the papers that \$2 was the least they could charge, they settled on a \$1.80 basis. The Times-Union held out, and was promptly boycotted by the boys, and forced to yield in two days.

The boys ingeniously adopted a new method of warfare by making an agreement with one paper. When that paper's circulation went up 30,000 in one day, its rivals began to see the light. Organized labor stood solidly behind the newsboys.

Rochester is now paying three cents for its newspapers, but if there are any objections by the public, they are not being published.

## In the Legislature

An interesting and exclusive feature contributed to the Free Press by Mr. Alex. Ross, M.L.A. for Centre Calgary

The Alberta Legislature opened on February 17th with all the pomp, dignity and ceremony designed by our imperial ancestors. The Lieutenant Governor did not, like his Royal benefactor, arrive in a golden chariot, but that was not the fault of the Lieutenant Governor. His body guard consisted of a number of venerable soldiers. Like the Lieutenant Governor their step had lost its elasticity, even its ability to keep step. They twined up the stairs and through the assembly hall right up to the speaker's chairs and there marked time with all the ease and much more dignity than a more youthful entourage could have done. The Lieutenant Governor, according to custom refused to read the speech which was prepared for him until a speaker was elected. According to custom he instructed someone else to tell the members that he would not do a thing until a speaker was selected. His medium also informed the gay crowd that through the assembly hall and galleries, that his excellency would retire until a speaker was elected. According to an arrangement between the Premier and Mr. Pringle of Medicine Hat, Mr. Pringle was elected speaker by acclamation. It was not a very democratic method of electing a speaker, but we must not forget that our ancestors will not do so. Mr. Pringle made a very modest speech of acceptance for a man who hails from the Gas City. The Lieutenant Governor refused, found everything arranged according to Hoyle (or Boyle), read the speech which his body guard had zealously guarded during all this performance, then departed for home to prepare for his annual reception at the Government House in the evening. I mention in detail what the Lieutenant Governor did because some carrying critics often accuse him of not earning his salary.

The Speech from the Throne must have been very disappointing to those who expected to hear something at the conclusion of the platform. According to custom it contained but little that was worthy of note. Some reference was made in the speech about the farmers of southern Alberta losing their crop last year. The speaker explained that the crop failure was due to the unusual climatic conditions. No authority was quoted for this explanation, but it seems to be such a reasonable one that no one will likely question it. The speech also informed us that there was a great improvement in the dairying and poultry raising branch of the farming industry during the year. The unusual climatic conditions however was not responsible for this improvement, the credit was due solely to beneficent liberal legislation passed by My government. It is expected that the leader of the opposition will demand an explanation of this rather startling statement.

The speech also mentioned the visit of the Prince of Wales to Edmonton. The mere mention of that visit seems to carry with it pleasant recollections. Every time that memorable visit has been alluded to during the discussion the Edmonton members wake up from their reverie. It would be unfortunate if a non resident member who missed this visit was to submit an order for return, asking how many bottles of pop were consumed during the visit of the Prince.

The speech gave no indication of what legislation might be expected during the session but it clearly indicated that the present government have no policy; no vision; but are simply drifting with the tide. The opposition are in a similar position. Mr. Headley, who is a man of vision, much more liberal in his views than the majority of liberals, but too liberal for his followers, has been shelved for Mr. James Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey will undoubtedly fill the position of leader of his majesty's loyal opposition much better than his predecessor as Mr. Headley always appeared to be out of his element when trying to express the views of his colleagues.

Mr. Ramsey is a prominent business man in Edmonton and an active member of the Board of Trade. His selection is generally regarded as a part of the scheme of the Canadian Manufacturers Association to build up an organization to combat the Farmers' movement. Headley being a farmer, and one who knew the struggles of a pioneer farmer, could not be used so therefore had to quit.

The Government members who have spoken, including the Premier, are very much annoyed about the insidious class movement that has taken root in Alberta. Some of the opposition members admit that the basis of their organization is selfish, but altruism is still given out to the public as the pass word in the liberal party.

There is every indication of their being a short session; the cabinet members claim that they have all the government legislation prepared. Labor legislation consists only of amendments to

## BRANTFORD FIREMEN MAY HAVE TO FOOT OWN UNIFORM BILL

A short time ago, Firemen at Brantford, Ont., were conceded a substantial wage increase, a dispatch stating the new pay would be \$3.50 per day. They work on the two platoon system and a long day off on each week. The controllers, in their task of paring estimates are said to be ready to prune the wage increases asked for by the firemen. The fire fighters have the backing of the Trades Council and the controllers will be counting trouble should they go back on the firehall lads. Furthermore, there's a alarm around the fire hall, gossip being current that a move is afoot to have the firemen foot their own uniform bill.

## INTERESTING ADDRESS ON FARMERS' AIMS

Mr. Andrew Rahn Addresses Labor Party On "Farmers' Platform and What it Means."

Members of the Labor Party and others who attended the propaganda meeting of the party on Tuesday evening, had the pleasure of listening to an exceedingly interesting and instructive address on "The Farmers' Platform and What it Stands For," delivered by Mr. Andrew Rahn of the East Edmonton U.F.A.

Mr. Rahn sketched the history of the formation of the Farmers' organizations from the Territorial Grain Growers who were organized in 1901 to the Canadian Council of Agriculture which came into being in 1910.

One of the rules of the movement had been to forbid the discussion of politics in the local unions. But as far as Alberta was concerned there was something in the air prior to and at the start of the Edmonton convention in 1919, that was to change the Farmers' political status. At that gathering the farmers decided to enter politics and endeavor to elect men who would represent the principles of the Farmers' movement as laid down in the platform adopted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture.

The speaker outlined the Farmers' tariff proposals which call for a gradual reduction of the customs duty on goods imported from Great Britain that will ensure Free Trade between the mother country and Canada in five years.

Other tariff proposals include the placing on the free list of all food stuffs, implements, building materials, fuel, oil, raw materials and machinery for their manufacture.

Mr. Rahn quoted the Farmers' platform with respect to taxation, and said: "As these tariff reductions may very considerably reduce the national revenue from that source, the Canadian Council of Agriculture would recommend that, in order to provide the necessary additional revenue for carrying on the government of the country and for the bearing of the cost of the war, direct taxation be imposed in the following manner:

Would Have Electrical Workers' Protection Act to Safeguard Craftsmen

A delegation of Electrical Workers waited upon Premier Drury of Ontario last week, and pressed upon him the necessity of legislation to safeguard the lives and interests of workers. They asked for an Electrical Workers' Protection act, which would help to safeguard craftsmen to a larger extent from dangers peculiar to the calling, which could in many cases be minimized by strict enforcement of preventative legislation such as has been adopted in several states of the American union.

They also asked for a licensing act that it would be necessary for electrical workers and electrical contractors to hold before serving in their respective capacities. The deputation asked that they be represented on the Ontario Hydro Commission and that several amendments be made to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

St. John will soon have a monthly labor magazine. The bayside city boasts of 10,000 union men, with a labor council composed of 45 trade unions. At the recent fair and carnival held by the council, the funds were increased by \$3,000, which will be held as a nucleus for a labor temple.

The Workmen's Compensation Act. The report of the commission to inquire into the mining industry of the province will be tabled without any recommendations from the government.

## PROF. H. H. GAETZ TELLS CANADIAN CLUB OF RADICAL CHANGES NEEDED IN OUR PRESENT EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Scope of University Extension Department Should Be Broadened; Suggests That High Schools Should Be Removed Into Country

It was a great pity that there was not a larger crowd present in the Y.M.C.A. Hall on Monday last when Professor Gaetz of the Alberta University, and Mrs. McKinney, M.L.A., spoke before the Canadian club at an open meeting on the subject of Education as the best means of inculcating citizenship.

Both speakers made it very plain that from their points of view the disturbances in society at the present time are to be welcomed as the signs of true life in the community. Now is the time when men and women of every rank should be seeking every method of education in order to make a real contribution to the good of the whole. Education never ceases. All of us can go on learning.

Mr. Gaetz showed how the true education trained within the minds of the pupils, capacity of mind to receive learning, the knowledge of facts, the ability to perform actions, and the intellectual perception of the relations between the various facts of life. Judged from this fourfold standard, modern education lays far too much emphasis on the knowledge of facts. In so far as our children's minds are full of anything at the end of their school days, they are full of a mixture of facts which the children find it hard to cor-

relate with each other. In contrast with such results, all reform in education must have as its object the attainment of the all-round training outlined above.

Two specific suggestions were made by Professor Gaetz which are worth while thinking of at greater length. In the first place he suggested that in all the secondary school education, half of the school time should be spent in teaching the young the trade or profession for which he considered himself or was considered best qualified. The professor went so far as to suggest that all the High Schools should be removed out of the towns into the country. His argument was that agriculture being the basic industry of Alberta, all the children should know something about farming. The schools would therefore be situated in the middle of some big farm. On that farm the pupils would do all their own work. They would build their own buildings, mend their own machinery, manage their own establishment, etc., etc. under the trained guidance of the teachers especially selected for the task. What better training could be imagined than such self supporting high schools for the appreciation of all the problems of citizenship?

The fact that the boys and girls would work half the day at some actual industry would bring it about that the boys and girls would be more ready and able to attend high school than they are at present. Now either the parents are too poor to let their children stay at school, or the children themselves feel the creative instinct so strong within them that they are determined to go out and do something when they reach the age of 14. Under Professor Gaetz' scheme the children would be earning at school sufficient money to pay for their own schooling with perhaps some to spare for the home-folks and at the same time would be doing actual and valuable work, so that their creative instinct would be satisfied.

In addition to these advantages there would be the benefit to the children of richer parents that they would be compelled to work side by side with the children of the poor parents at some form of industrial effort. This would inculcate a greater sense of the value of manual labor and would make the next generation have a much more real sense of the equality of men.

Another phase of our present educational facilities which Mr. Gaetz would develop to its fullest capacity is the extension work of the University of Alberta. There were some who did not appreciate the extraordinary value of this extension work. The director had to answer questions of all sorts from all kinds of men every day. The plant was all prepared. It is merely a case of de-

(Continued on page 5).

## INTERESTING INCIDENTS IN 'PEG TRIALS'

Crown Using Hundreds of Exhibits Seized in Raids All Over Canada

By Gordon Cascaden  
(Special to The Free Press)

Winnipeg, Ont. Feb. 26.—The trial of three courts hearing evidence in connection with the trials of those charged with seditious activities during the big Winnipeg general strike of 1919 completed their labors last week, one man being sentenced to nine months' hard labor in the provincial jail for alleged utterance of seditious words, another being acquitted of alleged seditious libel, while charges of seditious libel were dropped against a third.

The seven men, being tried jointly on charges of seditious conspiracy, are still listening to witnesses for the government although their trial started long before the other two. No one seems to know just when the government will complete its case. The defence may call many witnesses.

Fred J. Dixon, accused of seditious libel for articles published by him in the "Strike Bulletin" during the latter stages of the strike, is now free, following a sensational trial. Much of the evidence used against the seven on trial in No. 1 court was used in the other two trials. Hundreds of exhibits, seized in raids in every part of Canada, as well as evidence by Mayor Gray, Mounted Police spies and other members of that force, newspaper reporters who attended meetings and numerous other witnesses, are part of the case being put in by the crown.

Dixon called no witnesses and pleaded his own case although three of the ablest lawyers in Western Canada appeared for the government.

Hugh Phillips, K.C., chief crown prosecutor, made a bitter attack on Dixon and on the men being tried together in addressing the jury.

Dixon followed with a masterly address, giving an historical summary of the fight for freedom of the press and of speech in Canada and Great Britain. He spoke all one afternoon, all the next morning and for one hour in the afternoon. Phillips replied while Judge Galt, in his charge, declared that "the matter was one of the most infamous conspiracies that I have ever known in Canada; it was conceived in Quebec by

(Continued on page 3).

## "The Locals' Page"

Our "News of the Local Unions" column is proving to be one of the most popular features of the Free Press. So important has this department become that we have decided to set aside a special page which will be known as "The Locals' Page," an dwill be found on page four of this and future issues.

The union label makes the strike unnecessary by making compliance with union conditions an advantage in business.

Poverty must be a crime—at least, it is punishable by hard labor.

The Cleveland, Ohio, local of the Metal Polishers' International Union is making good headway in regard to securing a forty-four hour work week for the craft. Already 26 shops, including some of the largest in the city, have signed up union agreements, conceding the same and a minimum wage of one dollar an hour. Other firms are being negotiated with and will undoubtedly come over.

Like the accommodating chameleon, which changes its color to that of the fabric on which it is placed, the public daily has to readjust itself to new and strange conditions. It is to be hoped, however, that the public will not suffer the fate of the chameleon which "bu't himself" when placed on a piece of Scotch plaid.

## LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

- IN LABOR HALL  
101st Street and Jasper Avenue
- Monday, March 1st  
Trades and Labor Council
  - Tuesday, March 2nd  
Letter Carriers, Branch 15; Painters and Decorators, No. 1016; Sheet Metal Workers, No. 371.
  - Wednesday, March 3rd  
Amalgamated Carpenters, No. 2607; Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 488.
  - Thursday, March 4th  
Machinists, No. 559.
  - Friday, March 5th  
U. B. of Carpenters and Joiners No. 1325; Printing Pressmen, No. 255.
  - Saturday, March 6th  
Typographical Union, No. 604; Bakers and Confectionery Workers, No. 276.
  - Sunday, March 7th  
Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, No. 99; Commercial Telegraphers, No. 108.

The Cleveland, Ohio, local of the Metal Polishers' International Union is making good headway in regard to securing a forty-four hour work week for the craft. Already 26 shops, including some of the largest in the city, have signed up union agreements, conceding the same and a minimum wage of one dollar an hour. Other firms are being negotiated with and will undoubtedly come over.

Like the accommodating chameleon, which changes its color to that of the fabric on which it is placed, the public daily has to readjust itself to new and strange conditions. It is to be hoped, however, that the public will not suffer the fate of the chameleon which "bu't himself" when placed on a piece of Scotch plaid.