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Bank clerks in Oakland, Cal., who have been receiving \$30 per month, plan the forming of an organization to better themselves in the way of wages.

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CLEAN-UP AND KEEP IT UP.
The clean-up campaign begins on May first and ends when Edmontonians get tired of a clean, healthy and beautiful city. If this were an old community there might be some small excuse for the condition that many parts of the city are in. But tumble down shacks of all shapes and sizes, sordid, evil-smelling neighborhoods such as may be found in the very centre of the city, are enough to bring the blush of shame to patriotic citizens of a young community that should yet have the brightness and bloom of youth. A walk down one of the streets in the east end of the business district is sufficient to make one wonder if there is any public spirit left in Edmonton.
By all means let us clean-up, build-up, paint-up, and keep-it-up. There certainly is need for it, and Edmonton by it can be made a cleaner, brighter, healthier, happier place to live in. On with the crusade against the enemy King Dirt and his camp followers disease, and pestilence, and death!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
The miserably small vote on the money by-laws last week shows a deplorable indifference and lack of public spirit on the part of property holders in this city. There is no significance in the fact that the by-laws did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority, because the vote was too small to be significant of anything but indifference or laziness or some other malady equally as dangerous to the city's welfare.
If those entitled to vote on money by-laws had turned out in large numbers to swamp the proposals submitted, the Free Press would have said that there was a marked disposition to refrain from borrowing money for the capital expenditures proposed by the Council. But in view of the handful of voters who turned out, it is impossible to know what the bulk of property owners do think of the by-laws.
What is the cause of such indifference and what will be the result if persisted in? The Free Press fears for the city's future welfare if there is not a greater interest taken in civic affairs. Wake up Edmonton!

"BIG BUSINESS"
Many misinformed people presume that Labor is opposed to trusts and combines. They believe that Labor deprecates "big business." Nothing could be farther from the truth. On the contrary, Labor believes in "big business," because big business means elimination of competition, which is a source of endless economic waste.
One has only to look around the wholesale district of any fair sized city to realize the economic waste that is prevalent in the conduct of competitive business. Numerous establishments selling the same articles and maintaining a duplication of selling staffs and overhead of all kinds, is wasted effort that the consuming masses pay for. Travel on any railway line in any province and half your fellow passengers are "drummers," many of them selling the same class of goods. They may be capital fellows, but that does not alter the fact that their employment is a source of waste. We venture to suggest that one great distributing warehouse in Edmonton could take the place, and do the work more efficiently with half the combined staff, of the many wholesale establishments operating in this city; thus releasing a veritable army of men for productive employment.

We have previously in these columns pointed out the waste that exists in connection with insurance. The indefensible duplication in that line is particularly noticeable and easy of correction. We have remarked about the shameful exploitation of natural resources through the competitive system. In Alberta alone with its three hundred mines—when there should be a tenth of the number—far more coal has been wasted than mined for use. And if the reader will let his mind wander through the various lines of production and distribution, it can be plainly understood why Labor favors "big business."

Speaking on Trusts in the year 1907, Samuel Gompers said: "The trust is, economically speaking, the logical and inevitable accompaniment and development of our modern commercial and industrial system. It lessens the waste in production which is bound to occur under individual initiative. In fact, the trust may be said to have successfully solved the problem of the greatest economy in production." Mr. Gompers pointed out further that the "trust-busting" attitude of the time his address was delivered, was a short sighted policy. What was needed was "trust reform" which would "see to it that the will of the people, and not the mandate of corporate influences, shall be paramount."
It is economically unsound to oppose "big business," but it must be understood that big business must be conducted in the interests of the people if the economy in production and distribution is to inure to the common welfare of the consuming masses.

WAR AGAINST THE WORKERS
The strike of railwaymen across the line is one of those lamentable affairs in which the forces of Labor are divided. The workers affected went out without official sanction, and have, it would seem, formed secessionist organizations, forcing the established unions to defend their position. It is regrettable that such incidents should occur to disintegrate the workers' organizations, especially at this time when conditions are such that working class solidarity is so essential.
A notable phase of the present struggle in the States is the attitude of the Government toward the strikers. Wholesale arrests of officials on the charge of "radicalism" have taken place, and all the machinery of the Attorney-General's department is being used to break the strike. The seriousness of the situation is such that A. F. of L. officials are becoming alarmed, and Secretary Frank Morrison has issued a statement to the effect that the strike was "just a plain ordinary strike for more pay." Mr. Morrison states further that, "the absolute failure of the Attorney-General to grasp the true facts is evident."

There is no doubt that the strike was "a plain ordinary strike for more pay," but that the Attorney-General fails to "grasp the facts" we cannot believe, and doubt if Mr. Morrison is serious in making that statement. There is every reason to believe that officialdom would have taken similar measures to break the strike if it had been an authorized one, and the most "safe and sane" union officials would in all probability have been branded as dangerous radicals and thrown in prison on that score. The realization of this no doubt is behind Mr. Morrison's statement.
There is no reason for the workers to be deceived. It is plainly evident that a war has been declared on the working class of America, the preliminary skirmishes of which have only as yet taken place. It is too bad that, as in the present instance, the workers are in many places dissipating their strength in spasmodic and poorly managed encounters with the enemy. All the solidarity and strength of the toilers must be considered if the Labor movement would be successful in bringing about a new social order with justice for the producing masses.

We wonder if it would not be possible to organize an office assistants' union in Edmonton. There is a lot of material to work with.
Repeated requests for union label goods will create a disposition on the part of the merchants to stock union made articles.
Keep up the clean-up.

SHOP DURING THE MORNING HOURS

Items That Prove Interesting to Careful Buyers

Two Yard Wide Linoleum Linoleum in this width is easy to handle. This is a good cloth that will stand lots of hard wear. We offer a splendid range of patterns in tile, matting, wood block and floral designs, for any room in the home. \$1.25 Per square yard.	Useful Cocoa Mats Made from clean fibre, strongly woven; will stand the weather and keep the dirt out of the house. Worth their price many times over as a labor and dirt saver. Price \$1.65	Bordered Curtain Scrim On cream or ecru grounds with floral borders in colors of rose, green or blue. An effective and inexpensive curtain material, 36 inches wide. 35c Per yard.
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Choice of finest English All Wool Serges that will never be surpassed for wear, comfort, style and service. All sizes. All types. **PRICES \$45.00 to \$60.00**

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Children's Mercerized Lisle Socks Heavy Mercerized Lisle, in white, also dark shades of red, green, brown, black, etc., with contrasting colored tops. Splendid wearers. Sizes 4 1/2 to 10. Prices 65c to \$1.00	Children's Silk Socks Cute little Socks of Silk, white with two-tone fancy tops. These are of a heavy quality silk and will give splendid wear. Sizes 4 1/2 to 8. Prices \$1.00 to \$1.25
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Women's Fine Footwear for Spring and Summer Wear

Our women's shoe department is complete with all the newest and best styles in high and low footwear for the warmer weather. Below we mention just a few of the fine lines we offer at moderate prices.

Women's patent leather Pumps, with fast black binding, light sewn soles. Louis heels. All sizes. \$7.00	Women's patent and black Kid (Shimmy Pumps). Very neat tongue effect. High heels. All sizes. Price \$8.50
Women's black kid Pumps, made on a new snappy last, soles not too heavy and heels are not extremely high. Selling at a considerable saving. Price \$7.50	Ladies' Oxfords in patent, black kid and dark brown; with Cuban, military and French heels. All widths and sizes. Prices \$7.50, \$8.50, \$9.00, \$9.50 and \$10.50
	Just received a large shipment of Mary Jane Pumps. Sizes 2 1/2 to 6 1/2. Price, per pair \$7.50

HUDSON'S BAY CO.

The action of the Teachers' Alliance in appointing a full-time secretary is to be commended. The Free Press wishes Mr. Barnett well in the position. If a superabundance of energy and earnestness counts for anything the teachers are fortunate in their selection. We also understand that the publication of an official organ is contemplated and we will be glad to welcome the new journal into the field of free expression of ideas.

Those responsible for the statement that organized Labor is opposed to the Saturday half-holiday for retail clerks, have been given a very definite rebuff. The action of the Trades Council on Monday evening in favor of the week-end half-holiday was nothing if it wasn't emphatic.

The needs of humanity is the propelling motive of organized Labor.

Now that we can calmly take a retrospect of the events of the past year, haven't the "intelligent minority" made an awful mess of things?

CIGARMAKERS IN CONVENTION AT CLEVELAND

Trying to Improve Constitution So As To Meet Tobacco Trust With Winning Chance

By the Federated Press

(CLEVELAND.—The Cigarmakers International union to which Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor belongs as a journeyman cigarmaker is in session here in a twenty-day convention if possible to improve its constitution that it can meet the Cigar and Tobacco trust with something like a chance to win.

Many of the delegates, especially the radicals from New York, Boston and Chicago, and even George W. Perkins, general president are saying that the cigarmakers' national organization must change radically to survive. It is a matter only of good leadership and a constructive program is the organization on which depends 150,000 workers in the cigar industry is to be saved. Of these only 30,000 are organized. This is the first convention since that of 1912 held in Baltimore.

What will hold the radicals back is the way in which representation in the convention is determined, locals of 50 members or less, even small groups of 25 members can combine and send one delegate while the big and radical unions have only one delegate for each 100 members.

The four biggest locals, Boston, 97, with 2200 members, New York, 90, with 1800; New York, 141, with 1700; New York, 144, with 1500 may have less than 50 block votes for a total of 7,500 members while a combination of small locals with a total of 2500 members may outvote them.

Problems which the cigarmakers union must face are the inroads of the machine upon hand rolling, bunching and packing cigars and the great demands for finances to support strikes.

In order to have their schools open on time the Board of Education in Springfield, Ohio, has granted a 20 per cent. increase in pay to teachers.

New Styles Big Values



That's the shortest description we can give you of our new Spring Showing. There is lots more to say and even more to see.

Men's and Young Men's Suits, made out of beautiful all wool fabrics, tailored to look well and give long service. There's economy for you in these clothes—

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