LABOR NEWS FROM COAST TO COAST

OTTAWA.

CIVIC EMPLOYES SEEK INCREASES.

Hearing a deputation from inside City Hall employes, requesting a bonus for this year, was the principal business at a long session of the Board of Control Tuesday afternoon. The employes requested a bonus of $400 for all married men receiving salaries of $1,500 or less, and $250 for single men.

The matter will likely be again dealt with at the next meeting of the board, when the deputation will be present with data to forward the claim.

Messrs. W. F. Bryce, J. Patry and William Leech formed the delegation from the inside employes, and asked for a bonus for the present year to assist them in meeting the increased cost of living.

Mr. Leech, acting as spokesman, pointed to the salaries paid to retail clerks because of competition for their services. He suggested that all married men receiving up to $1,500 a year be paid $400 as a bonus, and all single men $200. He thought these amounts would be necessary to bring the purchasing power of their wages to the same level as they were in 1914. He gave figures showing the salaries paid in the City Hall. They were: 61 employes receiving $1,000 a year or less; 37 employes, $1,200 or less; 27 employes, $1,500 or less; 15 employes, $2,000 or less; six employes, $3,000 or less; two employes, $4,000 or less; two employes, $5,000 or less, and one $6,000. He added that two were getting $750 and two $500.

A deputation from Federal Union No. 15, including Mr. C. I. Clarke, Mr. Harry Mooney and Mr. Ed. Traverse, asked for a general increase in the salaries of civic laborers amounting to an average of 10 cents an hour. This was also deferred for further information.

STREET RAILWAY ORGANIZER'S BEREAVEMENT.

Word reached Ottawa this week of the death at Toronto on Sunday evening last of Mrs. Magnus Sinclair, wife of the general organizer of the Street Railway Employes for Eastern Canada. Magnus' many friends in Ottawa extend to him their sympathy in his sad bereavement.

CIVIL SERVICE FEDERATION TO HAVE PERMANENT ORGANIZER.

Mr. Frank Grierson, of the Finance Department, has applied for and has been granted six months' leave of absence, with a view to leaving the public service. Mr. Grierson is president of the Civil Service Federation. It is understood that he will be appointed a paid officer of the Federation, and will act as general organizer throughout Canada. Mr. Grierson is one of the best known men in the Civil Service, and is editor of the Civilian.

STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYES' NOMINATIONS.

At the last regular meeting of the Ottawa Street Railway employes, the annual nomination of officers took place. Many of the officers were elected by acclamation, but for the presidency there will be a contest between Frank McRae, who took over the office after the street railway strike last summer, and George Jardine, who has been the financial secretary for some time. There will also be a contest for the executive officers. Officers elected by acclamation are as follows:—

Treasurer—E. Earle.

Recording secretary—E. O'Connor.

Financial secretary and business agent—W. P. Jennings.

Delegates to the Allied Trades and Labor Association—W. P. Jennings, F. McRae, Geo. Jardine, E. O'Connor and J. Hurry.

The executive is composed of the president, the recording secretary, the business agent and five others who are to be elected.

I.L.P. TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

The time of the Independent Labor Party on Sunday afternoon was largely taken up with discussion of ways and means to raise funds for use in the January municipal elections. On motion of Mr. Harry Cain, chairman of Dalhousie Ward, it was decided to send a committee to each Labor union in Ottawa soliciting funds, seeking new members, and generally spreading I.L.P. propaganda. Circular letters will also be sent to each union, and public subscription lists will be opened. A committee was appointed to visit Ottawa unions. The committee follows: Messrs. A. McKie, F. LaFortune, G. E. Fauteaux, Kennedy, D. Millar, Colfe, Dunn, W. Jennings, J. Kavanagh, Stinson, J. Jameson and R. Plant. This committee will act unde rthe orders of the I.L.P. executive, which was appointed an election committee. The aldermanic candidates will also visit the meetings of Ottawa trade unions. A series of propaganda meetings will be held throughout Ottawa.

The I.L.P. provincial secretary Mr. Joseph T. Marks, will be invited to come to Ottawa and address meetings during the municipal campaign. Mr. Marks, who played a considerable part in the Labor campaign during the provincial elections, will in the future give his whole time to organizing the I.L.P.

In connection with raising campaign funds it was decided that the special committee would circulate subscription lists among I. L. P. members and give each member an opportunity to collect.

Mr. James Johnson, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, announced his willingness to contest Victoria Ward in the municipal elections. He was endorsed with applause. This leaves By and St. George wards vacant on the Labor slate, but assurances were given that they would be filled before nomination day.

HAMILTON.

I.L.P. CONVENTION.

The convention of the Independent Labor party is called for Thursday, December 3rd, in the Molders' Hall, when the nomination of candidates for the January municipal elections will take place. This was decided at last Friday's regular meeting of the Central Branch held in the Labor Hall. When President Harry Bourne opened the session there wasn't a vacant chair.

To all appearances the convention respondent is not going to prognosticate what will be the I.L.P. slate of candidates, but judging from gossip among the Laborites, every effort will be made to capture the 1920 City Council. Apparently there are plenty of eligible candidates available, all of whom can meet the required property qualification obligation.

Before the convention is held the special selection committee will meet to complete its work regarding the selection of candidates, the names of whom will be submitted to the membership.

To all appearance the convention will prove lively, there being many aspirants for office, particularly for the Board of Control.

The membership got a surprise last Friday night when School Trustee William Barrett, who for four years has represented Ward 8 on the Board of Education, gave notice that he would not again accept nomination for school trustee. Despite the many glowing tributes paid to Mr. Barrett by various speakers regarding his faithful stewardship, Mr. Barrett declined to change his mind.

Messrs. Foster, West and Pilton reported that the membership campaign which aims to enrol 3,000 new members so far had been successful. [illegible] had to be ordered from the printery.

Controller Halford reported respecting the late Allan Studholme library collection, which had been presented to the I.L.P. by Mrs. Morrow, daughter of the late member for East Hamilton. Following the report, made at the start of the session, A. P. Gibbon offered the party The London Times' history of the war, 22 volumes, which cost $132.00. Thes offer was gratefully accepted and Mr. Gibbon was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his valuable gift. J. Jenkins also donated two volumes. He was also thanked. The meeting adjourned at 11.20 p.m.

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WOMEN'S LABOR PARTY

The Women's Labor Party think the time is ripe to elect women to the Board of Education and city council. It is possible at the January civic elections, women candidates for school trustee and aldermen will be nominated at the I.L.P. convention. At last Monday's regular meeting of the W.L.P., the big assembly discussed the matter, and it was decided as far as possible to place women candidates in the field. At the meeting of the selection committee the W.L.P. has been invited to send two representatives as their counsel will be well worth while. The Canadian Labor Press is with the Women Labor Party and wishes them every success in the venture.

After the business session the ladies indulged in a social, during which progressive euchre and dancing held sway. The prize winners were: Mrs. C. R. Strong, and Charles Murphy. Mrs. Bain and Mr. Longfellow won the consolation prizes. The committee in charge of the entertainment were: Mrs. T. Murphy, convener; Mesdames Rolio and Diamond, E. Madden, jr., Mr. Pasel furnished the dance music. On Monday December 8th, an open meeting will be held when speakers from the I.L.P. will attend. The membership is growing, many members being enroled last Monday. In elections, locally, the members of the W.L.P. did splendid work. As vote-getters they are past-masters. Much of the success of the I.L.P. at the provincial election was due to them.

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BUILDING BOOM.

There's a building boom in Hamilton. Such was reported at last Monday's meeting of the Building Trades Council. There was a big representation of delegates when President Frank Dwyer called the delegates to order. The special committee tackling the task of framing a new schedule of wages for all affiliated tradesmen, reported progress. It was reported that a conference between the employers and Sheet Metal Workers, officials, regarding the returned soldiers' matter would take place soon. It is expected the matters at dispute will be adjusted. A query by a delegate elicited the information that the veterans who have been undergoing vocational training courses, even though employed by private firms, were being remunerated by the government. It was said as many as seven "vets" were working in one shop. The council's membership was augmented, credentials being received from the plasterers, hoisting engineers, hod carriers and building laborers' unions. Regarding trade the delegates said there was work galore. No building tradesmen need be idle, it was said. Building operations were unusually busy for this period of the year and would continue.

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LABOR TEMPLE FOR AMBITIOUS CITY.

It won't be the directors' fault if Hamilton does not possess a labor temple next year. For long have the directors been puzzled as to what should be undertaken in order to accelerate the building of a new home suitable to house the increasing number of local unions here. Last Sunday the Labor Temple Association met in the Labor Hall. The large assembly discussed ways and means of raising money to start building operations. It was finally decided to make another appeal to the Trades and Labor Council, local unions, Independent Labor Party branches, and trades unionists, to subscribe for more stock. It is believed no trouble will be experienced in raising the amount required. Speakers will address the various local unions. The directors stated that during the war they had avoided clashing with the various patriotic endeavors to which the trades unionists of the city were generous contributors. Hamilton was in urgent need of a labor temple, and construction cannot be longer delayed. Controller Halford was chairman of the meeting.

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HOSPITAL STRIKE DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

The threatened strike of the six union hospital engineers happily didn't materialize. As previously urged by the Canadian Labor Press, a "get-together" of the parties interested was held last Wednesday afternoon, in the City Hospital. Controller Halford, Ald. Aitchison, and Ald. O'Heir, labor representatives of the City Council, attended, acting in behalf of the Trades and Labor Council. T. H. Pratt, hospital governor, presided. The union men came out victorious, and the result was creditable to everybody concerned. Howard Longfellow, Local No. 700, Steam and Operating Engineers' Union, was present. Dating October 1, the engineers' pay will be as follows: Chief engineer, $132 per month and free house, light and heat; second engineer, $140 per month, and the four assistants, $124.50 per month. Last July the employes got $90, 85, and $65 per month, respectively. Furthermore, the men will be paid bi-weekly, instead of monthly.

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TIN WORKERS' MEMBERSHIP INCREASING.

H. G. Fester, corresponding secretary Trades and Labor Council, was the principal speaker last Saturday night at a mass meeting of the Iron, Steel and Tin Workers' Union. During the meeting 32 initiations took place. So large has become the membership that the local has had to rent the Molders' Hall. It was stated that within two weeks 200 employes from two large iron and steel firms would enrol. Mr. Fester's appeal for the striking molders and coremakers realised $16.80 from the sale of drawing tickets.

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After a deputation of Hamilton policemen had waited on the Police Commissioners last Monday, the "blue-coats" received an advance of $200 per year, effective January next. Officers of high rank get a proportionate advance. Chief Constable Whatley got $400 more per year. After December 31st the pay will be as follows: Chief constable, from $3,100 to $3,500; deputy chief, from $2,090 to $2,300; inspector of detectives and divisions, from $1,872 to $2,075; detectives and sergeants, from $1,694 to $1,850; patrol sergeants, from $1,522 to $1,725; first class constables, from $1,417 to $1,617; second class constables, from $1,312 to $1,512; third class constables, from $1,207 to $1,407. In the immediate future the police benefit and pension fund will be amended.

TORONTO.

STRIKE PROBE EXPENSIVE.

Costs of the probe of the electrical workers' strike last September are estimated at close to $8,000, half of which will be paid to Messrs. Peter White and H. L. Symmes, counsel for the Toronto Railway Company. Judge Barron will receive $1,275 in fees and $250 for expenses, Crown Attorney Corley and his assistant $700, and J. G. O'Donoghue, counsel for James T. Gunn, $600 for the 12 days during which he was in attendance. The remainder of the sum is made up in witness fees, costs for serving subpoenas and for reporting the probe. An estimated total of the expenses reaches the figure of $7,875. The full expense falls on the Dominion Government.

ELECTRICAL BOARD NAMED.

Judge R. D. Gunn, of Ottawa, has been named chairman of the Board of Arbitration in the dispute between the Toronto Street Railway Company and its electrical workers. The other members of the board are W. H. Moore, Toronto, for the employers, and Fred Bancroft, Toronto, for the employes.

PHOTO-ENGRAVERS ORGANIZE 100 PER CENT.

Local No. 35 of the International Photo-engravers Union is right up to the front again and is now a 100 per cent. organization, says the Banner. The Phoenix Engraving Co., which broke off relations with the union some considerable time ago is again in line and is now a straight union shop. Splendid progress is being made and several of the chapels have recently secured wage increases ranging from $3 to $5 per week.

METAL TRADES STRIKE NOT YET OVER.

True to the profession of personal service, made upon assuming office, to assist in the solution of Labor disputes, Hon. Walter R. Rollo, Minister of Labor, is now bending his energies towards the settling of the last phase of Toronto's ill-fated general strike of the Metal Trades Workers, in May last.

While little publicity has been given the fact, of late, there remain a considerable number of moulders who have not yet accepted the terms offered by the employers and are consequently still on strike.

Recently, the Minister, accompanied by an official of his department, made a special trip to the east end of the city and laid a groundwork upon which negotiations may be reopened between the strikers and the employers. While as yet, there is no surface indication that a settlement is near, it is quite probable that steps will be furthered during the course of the week to bring the conflicting parties together to finally adjust the dispute.

TORONTO FIRM TAKES STEPS TO PROTECT ITS WORKERS.

If every firm in Toronto were to follow the example of the Patterson Candy Co., it would do much to settle the unrest that now exists among the wage-earners, and they would find that in the long run they would receive better service from their employes.

The Patterson Candy Co. have taken the first steps toward improving the working conditions of their employes. The firm has made a contract with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. to insure the life of every member of the staff, according to length of service, as follows; one year, $500; two years, $600; three years, $700; four years, $900, and five years, $1,000. Also included is an accident policy, which holds good whether the person is hurt in the factory or the street. The premium is paid in full by the firm and relieves the employe of any expense whatever.

They are also providing a free nursing service, which means that if any employe is taken ill, they immediately notify the foreman of their department, and the Victoria Nursing Service, who have agreed to look after the employes, will be on the job as soon as they receive instructions from the firm.

Another much appreciated boon established is a recreation room with piano for use of their employes in their leisure time. A lunch room has been provided for them also, where they can get hot tea, coffee, cocoa, and milk. In fact, everything that will be of any comfort to the employes has been put at their disposal.

HYDRO MAY PURCHASE T. S. R.

Mr. R. J. Fleming, general manager of the Toronto Railway Company, in an interview last Thursday, said that negotiations were being conducted between Sir Adam Beck and the related Mackenzie radial and electrical interests with a view to the purchase of these interests by the Hydro Commission.

I.L.P. MEMBERSHIP GROWING.

The executive of the Independent Labor party, at a meeting last week, approved the application of some 100 men who desire to join the party.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS NEGOTIATING.

The Electrical Workers' Union announced that negotiations are in progress between the electrical contractors in Toronto and a committee of the union regarding the demands of linemen for an increase in wages, to go into effect in January next. At present these men are receiving 75 cents per hour and are asking for $1 per hour, but will, it is understood, compromise at 90 cents per hour.

"PULL" TO CEASE AT TORONTO.

Premier E. C. Drury gladdened the hearts of the members of the Civil Service Association of Ontario at their annual meeting last week at the Parliament Buildings, when he announced that in the future, as long as he was at the head of the Provincial Government, there would be put into effect in the Ontario Civil Service a system of promotion according to merit, and that "pull" would be eliminated. That the statement met with the approval of his hearers was evidenced by the applause with which it was greeted.

With a frankness which won him the goodwill of the meeting he proceeded to say that this was the only definite policy regarding the Civil Service he was prepared to state, but he made it clear to all that no effort would be spared to ensure justice to all concerned and to make the service as efficient as possible.

Passing to the question of salaries, Mr. Drury said he realized that it was a subject requiring careful consideration, and he was quite thoroughly convinced that some salaries were far too low. But, said he, "it is something in which I must ask you to be patient. I am trying now to discover the financial situation of the province, and nothing can be done until I have satisfied myself what that situation really is."

There was a prospect, he said, "that if prices of commodities dropped salaries which were now quite inadequate would become sufficient. Meanwhile the Government employes might feel sure that the matter would receive sympathetic consideration."

EASTERN CANADA.

CO-OPERATIVE STORE FOR WOODSTOCK.

For some time past a number of working men connected with organized labor bodies in Woodstock have been steadily working together for the purpose of developing public interest in the distribution of the necessaries of life by co-operative methods. The same culminated on Saturday afternoon in a public meeting, held in the City Hall, after an address in explanation thereof had been delivered by George Keen, of Brantford, general secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada.

John Scott, president of the I.L.P. presided.

At the close of the address, it was unanimously resolved to organize a society to be known as The Woodstock Co-operative Society, Limited. The following were elected provisional directors to undertake the organization and incorporation of the institution: Messrs. H. Webster, John A. McKenzie, William J. Robbins, Ald. Roddick, John Scott, William Barnard, Henry Daw, and Mesdames Mary Starr, Gillott Ferguson, Dixon and Elizabeth Scott.

BROCKVILLE TO HAVE LABOR COUNCIL.

If the feeling disclosed at the inaugural meeting for the formation of a Trades and Labor Council in Brockville, held Monday afternoon in the Locomotive Engineers' Hall, is representative of organized labor as a whole, there is every reason to suppose that the formation of a governing body for labor in that town will be brought about within a short time. The meeting, which was attended by officers of 13 of the 15 unions and orders operating there was enthusiastic, and the consensus of opinion of the majority of delegates was that steps should be at once taken to form the council. The secretary was instructed to communicate with P. M. Draper, secretary of Dominion Trades and Labor Council, with a view to securing a charter from that body. He was also instructed to invite Tom Moore, president of Dominion Trades and Labor Council, to install the officers of the local council.

A resolution was passed providing that the council when formed should take an active interest in all civic matters. The matter of securing a labor temple was taken up and the secretary was instructed to look for a suitable home for the council.

A general discussion on labor matters, both local and general, completed the proceedings.

ST. JOHN CIVIC EMPLOYES' OFFICERS.

At a meeting of the City Public Service Employes' Union, St. John, N.B., held recently, the following officers were elected: Fred Nice, president; John Patterson, vice-president; J. C. Whittaker, recording secretary; Edward Marshall, treasurer; Robert F. Goodrich, financial-secretary, and George Eagles, sergeant-at-arms.

LONDON CLERKS ORGANIZING

A branch of the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, is to be organized in London shortly, according to labor men. This association will include all retail clerks in the city, both male and female, and the purpose of the organization is to bring about early closing in London.

LABOR CHURCH IN PORT ARTHUR.

A committee has been appointed from the ranks of labor church workers in Port Arthur, with the view of forwarding the Labor Church movement, which started some time ago in Winnipeg. Rev. Andrew Boyd, Wiley street, is chairman of the committee, and Mr. P. R. Hamil is secretary and treasurer. Mr. Percie Cox, of the Pasco band, is looking after the musical and choir arrangements. Mr. Boyd, when spoken to regarding the new venture, said that as yet it was only an experiment.

No permanent minister has been appointed, but it is understood Mr. Boyd will assume this position until a permanent appointment is made.

IMPERIAL "VETS" WILL GET GRATUITY.

Some fifty thousand men domiciled in Canada who served in Imperial units during the war are entitled to the increased gratuity which was recently voted by parliament, and the great proportion of them are now clamoring for the payment. They are likely to have to wait for some months.

An order-in-council defining the procedure is being drafted. It will be necessary to secure concisely the record of each man, and this is not available in Canada. Regarding each case there will have to be correspondence with the British authorities. The gratuities paid a three-year man serving with the Imperials was approximately $160, so under the Canadian scale, those eligible will get upwards of $400 additional. Only those who were domiciled in Canada before the war and have returned to reside here permanently will receive the gratuity.

MOULDERS AND CORE WORKERS STRIKE.

In accordance with the terms of the ultimatum to the management some time ago, the moulders and core makers employed by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, Sydney, together with the apprentices in the company's foundry, quit work on Thursday last.

Their demands are far a wage increase, which the company officials claim cannot be made at this time owing to unsettled conditions in the steel trade. International headquarters of the moulders' union instructed the men to negotiate further and this was followed by the men's notice to the company that unless the demands were met within 48 hours they would go out.

CLAIM BOYCOTTING OF STRIKING UPHOLSTERERS.

Labor men of Kitchener have drawn the attention of the Department of Labor at Ottawa to reports on instances of boycotting of upholsterers who went out on strike. While many of the striking men won out there are still some who are still out. Others secured positions elsewhere.

A labor temple is suggested by some Kitchener labor men. They point out that most cities of the size of the Twin Cities have such a building.

MONTREAL MILLINERS ON STRIKE.

Two hundred milliners went on strike at 10 o'clock Friday morning, threatening to tie up the ladies' hat business in Montreal. Four firms are affected so far, the Acme, Atlas, New York, and Fashion Hat companies. The girls, who are asking for an increase in wages, have opened quarters at the Monument Nationale.

MAIL CARRIERS NAME OFFICERS.

Branch No. 16, Windsor, of the Letter Carriers' Union held their regular meeting recently. The annual election of officers was held, when thee following were named: President, C. H. Taylor; vice-president, J. McKeran; secretary-treasurer, E. J. LeBoeuf. Mr. LeBoeuf was elected by acclamation and both he and Mr. Taylor are entering on their third consecutive year in office. Mr. Taylor was also elected delegate to the convention in Peterborough in September of next year.

SYDNEY MINES WANT PRICES PROBED.

The Sydney Mines Trades and Labor Council sent a delegation to the last meeting of the Sydney Mines Town Council, asking the co-operation of the civic authorities to have the Board of Commerce appoint a commissioner to investigate the high cost of living in this town. After the delegation expressed their views, the Mayor and council promised to give the Trades and Labor Council every assistance possible and appointed a special committee to work in conjunction with a similar committee of the Labor Council. Application will be forwarded at once to Commissioner O'Connor, to initiate an investigation, to probe into the prices of all domestic commodities, which, it is claimed, are higher here than elsewhere in Cape Breton. [illegible] it is said, will raise the price of milk shortly from 18 to 20 cents per quart.

MONCTON BRICKLAYERS ORDERED BACK.

Some few weeks ago the bricklayers and masons employed on the T. Eaton mail order building at Moncton went on strike because the contractor insisted on employing non-union laborers. The heads of the International Unions have ordered the men back to work pending an investigation, and it is expected that the grievance will be adjusted satisfactorily to both parties. The instructions to the bricklayers were contained in the following telegram from their head office in Indianapolis, Ind.:

"We deny the right of any building trades council to order our members out on strike. All sympathetic movements must first be approved by our international executive board. If bricklayers working for the Fuller Company at Moncton carry membership in your union you will inform them charges will be preferred against them and their membership suspended, unless they carry out orders. For what reason was the strike called? If men do not return to work we will try to get your company bricklayers who will conform to our instructions."

MONTREAL FIREMEN TO GET GOOD INCREASES.

The budget of 1920 contains the first official information as to the increase of wages offered to the officers and men of the fire department. The captains are to receive $2,040, twenty lieutenants are to get $1,740; eighty lieutenants are to get $1,500. The engineers are to get $1,500. The rates for the five classes of firemen are as follows: Fifth class, $1,080; fourth class, $1,176; third class, $1,272; second class, $1,368; first class, $1,464.

The offer of the administrative commission to the firemen is the same as that they have offered to the policemen. The captains of both services have received the same offer of pay, but on the other hand, the fire lieutenants are offered less than the same officers of the police department, the offer to the latter being $1,800 a year.

GUELPH TRADES COUNCIL.

At the Guelph Trades and Labor Council meeting there was a spirited discussion over a letter received from T. J. Hannigan, secretary of the Hydro-Electric Municipal Association, asking the council to endorse Sir Adam Beck as chairman of the Hydro Electric Power Commission for a term of six years. The result was that a resolution was passed endorsing him as chairman for three years, as they considered six years too long. They also want the municipalities to select their representative on the commission on his merits only, not because he might happen to be the choice of Sir Adam.

FORT WILLIAM LABOR PARTY HEARS HON. HARRY MILLS.

The executive of the Labor party held a very successful meeting recently to meet Hon. Mills, who addressed the gathering. He assured the committee that the mining areas of that district would receive special consideration as a result of his appointment to the portfolio, and that every effort would be made to have development go ahead with the vigor which the richness of the areas warrants. It was his opinion that the Ontario laws with regard to mining stood in great need of considerable amendment in order to bring about the greatest possible development and to this he would in the near future be giving special attention.

TWO PLATOON SYSTEM RECOMMENDED FOR STRATFORD

The Fire and Cemetery Committee last week decided to recommend to the Stratford City Council that the two platoon system be established in the Fire Hall as soon as possible in the new year.

This action was taken following a petition presented to the Council at the last meeting by the fire laddies, and in view of the fact that such action has been taken in many other places.

LONDON TYPOS CELEBRATE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

London Typographical Union No. 133 celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last Saturday. In keeping with the occasion a banquet was held in the Tecumseh Hotel at which Mr. [illegible] superintendent of the Ottawa Journal Newspapers, and a trustee of the Printers' Home, was the guest of honor. Other guests included Hugh Bentley, secretary of the Ontario and Quebec Typographical Conference, James Dury, of Montreal, general organizer of the I. T. U., J. Gallagher, of Toronto, vice-president of the Mailers' Union, John Prendergast, of Detroit, and others.

London Typographical Union has made good progress during the last few years and has negotiated fine agreements with the Master Printers in that town.

WESTERN CANADA

WINNIPEG CIVIC ELECTIONS OVER.

After one of the bitterest fights in the history of the City of Winnipeg, the Labor party and the Citizens' Committee have even representation on the City Council. The odds, however, are in favor of the Citizens' Committee, for they were also successful in having their mayoralty candidate elected over the Labor nominee. The issues before the electors were not as clear-cut as in many centres, and were chiefly the aftermath of the general strike there last May. The chief issue was the reinstatement of the civic employes who went out during the strike. Their places have been filled chiefly by returned soldiers, and had the Labor group been elected these positions would have been again offered to the men who lost them through striking. However, the Labor victory is a good one, and will do much to wipe away the misunderstandings arising out of the general strike. It may be interesting here to note that the Labor candidates were all endorsed by the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council, and in defining the position of the council the secretary at a meeting on the eve of the election stated that while the members of international labor organizations may differ with their O. B. U. brothers on the industrial fields, they were all agreed that Labor should have representation on public legislative councils.

Mayor C. F. Gray was elected Mayor over S. J. Farmer by a majority of about 3,000. The Mayor, however, is in the peculiar position of having the deciding vote on almost all questions affecting Labor.

The Labor men elected to the Winnipeg City Council are as follows: E. Robinson, John Queen, A. A. Heaps, W. B. Simpson, J. Blumberg, J. L. Wiginton and H. Johns.

PRINCE RUPERT ELECTRICAL WORKERS ASK INCREASE.

The operating staff of the Prince Rupert telephone exchange have been negotiating for some time with their employers but have made little progress. They have served notice on the management that unless their demands for a 20 per cent. increase in wages is granted they will walk out without delay.

P. P. FOR SASKATCHEWAN.

The torch of democracy is spreading its light in dark places. Saskatchewan urban citizens are to have proportional representation in the very near future, according to the speech from the throne at the opening of the third session of the fourth Legislature for that province. Next?

VICTORIA METAL TRADES NEGOTIATING.

A very peculiar situation has arisen in Victoria over an agreement which was to cease when peace was declared. Some of the foundries in Victoria have notified their employes that they will no longer be bound by the agreement. The men claim that peace has not yet been officially declared and in this they are supported by not a few. However, the Department of Labor has taken the matter in hand and it is expected that a satisfactory agreement will be reached. Fair Wage Officer Bulger stated that Victoria should be proud of the men who are at the head of labor in that city.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN'S NEW AGREEMENT EXPLAINED.

A large meeting of the Railway Shopmen's Federation was held in the Labor Temple, Winnipeg, recently to discuss the new working agreement with a view to attaining to a common understanding of its contents. R. J. Tallon, who occupied the chair, was one of the negotiators of the contract, and he was able to give the meeting a clear conception of just what the schedule means. General satisfaction was expressed, it was stated, after an understanding was reached, and it was realized that the gains made were considerable, especially when the difficulties which the negotiators had to contend with, were appreciated.

SASKATOON TRADES COUNCIL.

Voicing the opinion that the manner pursued in the dismissal of the four professors from the University of Saskatchewan is a vital blow at the British principles of justice, the Saskatoon Trades and Labor council went on record at its last regular meeting as being in favor of a royal commission to investigate the reasons, and will petition the provincial Government to that end. It is stipulated in the resolution that was carried unanimously that at least one member of the commission should be a labor man, and that the commission should be constituted of educational authorities and that politicians should not form part of the personnel.

"Resolved that this Trades and Labor council supports the policy as advocated by Dr. J. L. Nicol and C. M. Johnson, of placing the proposed new collegiate on the west side."

After considerable discussion as to the exact wording and meaning of the above resolution, it was unanimously carried by the Trades council, after a short address from both of the gentlemen named therein.

NO MORE PAY FOR ALBERTA CIVIL SERVANTS.

Premier Stewart told a deputation of the Civil Service Association yesterday that there would be no further increases in salary to Government employes. Bonuses and higher pay have recently been granted but do not meet with approval, so a delegation waited on Mr. Stewart. The Premier announced that his decision was final.

Co-operative Stores a Remedy To Reduce High Cost of Living

General Secretary Kerr, of Canadian Co-Operative Movement, Gives Interesting Data On the Subject In An Address At Woodstock.

At Woodstock, last Saturday, George Kerr, of Brantford, general secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada, delivered a very interesting address on the Co-operative Movement in Canada. Mr. Kerr is considered one of the best authorities in Canada and has done much in bringing into existence co-operative stores throughout the Dominion.

In opening his address Mr. Kerr remarked that throughout the world, during the war years, unexampled interest had been taken in the co-operative movement, and the same applied to Canada at the present time. This was attributable to the great shortage in production of the necessaries of existence, owing to the diversion of the energies of millions of men and women, and of billions of capital, from useful and necessary services to uses of destruction. This had been from our viewpoint unavoidable, but unfortunately in every country economic difficulties had been seriously and unnecessarily increased by the people who control the production and distribution of the necessaries of life fixing prices and profits upon the basis of demand and supply, instead of what would be an equitable reward for the capital and labor involved. On the other hand, the co-operative movement had directly, or in the last analysis, placed prices upon cost irrespective of what the circumstances of the times enabled them to demand from the consumer.

This policy, at the outbreak of war, had a tranquillizing effect on the people of Britain, calling from a Cabinet Minister the admission that the movement had performed a great national service, and some time ago a statement from Premier Lloyd George that there was tremendous admiration for the work done by the movement, and a desire on his part, and that of the Food Controller, to work with co-operators. In France, at the moment the very existence of the nation was in jeopardy, the competitive trade interests were fleecing the poorly paid French soldiers at the front, to the extent of hundreds per cent. of profits. On the other hand, the French co-operative societies organized travelling bazaars behind the lines, charging only four per cent. above wholesale prices, and returning any small margin there might be above operating expenses to the common funds of the soldiers. The French Government had expressed its great appreciation of the various services of French co-operators to the nation, and in recognition of their great social value had subsequently placed the resources of the State at their disposal.

In Russia to-day, the co-operative movement was the only stable factor in a general state of economic chaos, many millions being dependent thereon for the means of existence, and the Bolshevik Government being under the necessity of working in connection therewith.

The speaker stated that the father of the movement was Robert Owen, who, at the inception of the industrial era, appreciated that the new mechanical agencies of production were concentrating wealth in the hands of the few, and by reducing the general standard of comfort of the people, were impairing their moral fibre. Being of the opinion that man was the creature of his environment, Owen felt that what was co-operatively produced should be co-operatively enjoyed, if the people were to develop their moral, mental and physical attributes to the full extent of their natural opportunities. The weakness in his methods was that they were paternalistic, and the efforts made thereunder were almost entirely unsuccessful for that reason.

The present and ever-growing success of the movement throughout the world was to be attributed to the principle of self-help in mutual association adopted by twenty-eight working weavers, now universally known as "The Rochdale Pioneers," in 1844. Commencing in a very modest way, with a retail store and a capital of $140.00, they had established a system of business in the old land which made it today the greatest business enterprise in the world, having thousands of retail stores and numerous wholesale warehouses, factories and mills, as well as steamships and estates and plantations overseas.

The speaker stated that the system adopted by the Rochdale Pioneers, and now generally practised throughout the world, was to charge current market prices for commodities, pay a fixed but moderate rate of interest for the use of the capital invested, and return the surplus commonly called profit to the consumers in proportion to their purchases; each member having one vote only, irrespective of the capital invested. This principle of division of surplus revenues was carried right through retail and wholesale distribution to the factories, mills and plantations. In illustration of the effect thereof, Mr. Keen quoted the experience of two members taken at random from the books of a co-operative society in the Maritime Provinces. One had an investment of $300, in respect of which he received in six months $9.00 as interest at 6 per cent., but upon his purchases of $336.39 he was paid, at 10 per cent., $27.36, a total of $36.36; while another member who had only an investment of $25.00, receiving but 75 cents as interest, had, on his purchase of $418.83 a dividend of $41.83, or a total for the six months of $42.58. In other words, while one man had twelve times the capital investment of the other, he received less financial advantage because his purchases were smaller. The profits were made on purchases, and not on capital, and they were, therefore, returned to the shareholding members on that basis.

Apart from the enjoyment by the consumer of surplus profits made in the production and distribution of the necessaries of life, the economy of the system was determined by the extent to which the waste of capital and energy in providing a competitive service could be reduced. The British Food Controller some time ago published statistics showing that the average co-operative store fed 5,000 people, the chain store 700, the ordinary grocery 333, and the small general store 314. British co-operative stores, in addition to that great economy in distribution, had the advantage also of supplying almost everything needed in a working class home. On the British co-operative basis four grocery stores would be sufficient to supply the needs of the consumers of Woodstock, thereby releasing much capital and energy now unnecessarily employed in distribution to much-needed productive purposes.

As to the co-operative position in Canada, the speaker quoted the case of thee society at Sydney Mines, N.S., a town with a population of 10,000, where last year a turnover of $778,415.00 was done, a net profit of $102,770.00 made, and $93,427.00, or 12 1-2 per cent., returned to the consumers in cash on their purchases. Out of twelve societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada last year, nine of them made an aggregate net profit of $123,362.00 on a capital investment of all of them of $162,360.00, or 75.9 per cent. Of this amount, however, $113,969.00 was returned to the consumers on purchases.

Mr. Keen then outlined the conditions necessary to the successful operation of retail societies, emphasizing appreciation of the moral principles behind the movement, a social vision, and the necessity for associated loyalty in conformity with thee international co-operative motto of "Each for All, and All for Each."

CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARY INCREASES

Reclassification Bill to Be Made Retroactive to April 1st Last.

It is understood that the Civil Service Reclassification Bill is to be made retroactive to April, 1919. The necessary legislation will be introduced at the coming session of the House. The effect will be that all salary increases provided in the bill take effect from April last.

The semi-official announcement that the Government has decided to make classification retroactive to April 1, 1919, thus carrying out the provisions contained in Bill 136, ratified by Parliament at the first [illegible]

The Government's decision which it is understood, was reached at a meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, marks the triumphant culmination of the relentless efforts put forth by the Civil Service Postal Clerks' Association and the Civil Service Association of Ottawa, and the Dominion Customs' Association to have the Reclassification Act become operative on April 1, 1919, as had been announced during the session just closed.

While the officials of the different Civil Service Associations are reluctant to comment upon the Government's decision till an official announcement is forthcoming, they are practically unanimous in stating that the semi-official intimation causes no great surprise among the civil servants, as they had felt all along that the Government would ultimately fulfill the pledges made repeatedly by different ministers.

When questioned regarding the Government's move and the events leading up to the latest developments, both Mr. Frank Grierson, president of Civil Service Federation, and Mr. J. C. O'Connor, president of Civil Service Association, paid tribute to the splendid work accomplished by Mr. W. J. Cantwell, president of the Dominion Postal Clerks' Association, who was undoubtedly the dominant figure in the fight waged by the civil servants. It was Mr. Cantwell who presented to the Senate Committee at the last session the brief in favor of the adherence to the original plan and purpose.

The decision to antedate reclassification is really the closing chapter in the battle carried on by civil servants throughout Canada during the past three years to have their salaries keep pace with the constantly increasing cost of living the Civil Service Associations have repeatedly impressed on the Government the necessity for immediate action in this direction. Some relief was provided in the form of bonuses, but it was shown that only a graduated scale of adequate salaries could meet the situation.

O. B. U. NOT BOTHERING CAR MEN.

Louie Beuloin, vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Carmen, speaks in a very optimistic strain of the prospects of his organization, which is now 100 per cent. organized in Canada; in fact there is not a shop or industrial centre in the Dominion that is not now in line, says the Banner.

Louis says that they are not bothering even a little bit about the O.B.U., which is a dead issue as far as the brotherhood is concerned, for the members of the B. of R. C. are all pleased with the splendid progress they are making and the material increases in wages they have secured during the last couple of years. Under the new agreement that has been entered into with the different railroad systems in Canada, the advance runs all the way from four to nine cents an hour, the lower scaled men receiving the largest increase.

AMERICAN LABOR TO CO-OPERATE WITH FARMERS.

"I am hopeful that a settlement will be reached in the near future so that the men will receive a wage sufficient to meet the increased cost of living," said Mr. Frank Morrison, secretary to the American Federation of Labor, at Toronto recently, speaking in reference to the miners strike in the States.

Mr. Morrison reached Toronto from Montreal, where he has been probing the possibilities of holding the next convention of the A. F. of L. Mr. Morrison is on his way to Buffalo to attend a conference there, but is taking advantage of the trip to visit his parents in Walkerton. He himself was born in Franktown, Ont.

During the last twelve months, said Mr. Morrison, the A. F. of L. has increased its membership by one million and in Canada it has a membership