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GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO AMEND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT DURING THE PRESENT SESSION

Some Important Changes Contemplated, Including An Increase In Indemnities—Twenty-five Hundred Maximum Will Be Removed—Children's Allowance Will Be Increased.

(By Our Own Correspondent)
The government have introduced a measure to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act. The proposed amendments will undoubtedly improve the act. Dependents' indemnities will be increased from twenty to thirty dollars per month; children's allowance will also be increased from five dollars to seven dollars and fifty cents per month. The maximum indemnity which is now twenty-five hundred dollars will be removed.

Another amendment is in effect to permit the Compensation Board to include any number of workmen who express a desire to come within the scope of the act. Last year the board asked to be allowed to determine who should be protected by the act, but the legislature refused on the grounds that it gave them judicial powers. If this amendment is approved by the House, any group of workmen can secure the protection of the act by making an application to the board. The board will have power to refuse an application but such a contingency is extremely unlikely as the greater the number of persons insured the more economically can the act be administered.

It is also rumored that the Workmen's Compensation Board will be entrusted with the administration of the Factories Act, at least that portion of it which deals with the proper protection of machinery, sanitation, etc. This change will also make the Factories Act more effective. The protection of machinery is fast becoming a part of all modern compensation acts, as it is now found to be more economical to prevent accidents than to pay for them.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF LABOR CHURCH PROMISED SUPPORT

Question of Housing To Be Taken Up By Executive of Labor Party

The Labor Party meeting on Tuesday evening was rather interfered with by the fact that the Co-operative Society was meeting in the next hall and most members are co-operatives also and did not reach the Labor Party meeting until around 8:45.

However quite a lot of business was transacted. The party promised support to the W.A. of the Labor Church who are organizing a tag day on Saturday, March 27 in support of the families which are in hard circumstances in Winnipeg. On the question of sending representatives to the proposed Defense Committee there seemed to be much misunderstanding and the matter was eventually left in the hands of the Executive.

The reports of the Paper Committee and the Treasurer showed that the party was keeping up in line with its plans.

The Executive Committee was instructed to meet with the Labor representatives on local elective bodies and take up a number of questions, including that of housing, that are agitating the minds of Edmonton citizens at the present time.

The MacDonald-Cooper Letter Its Revelations and Motives

By The Editor.

It is doubtful if very great surprise has been occasioned by the statements contained in the letter of the MacDonald-Cooper Company to the Canadian Board of Commerce. But while the person is naive indeed who today believes that competition exists in the sphere of big business, some of the assertions of the local firm are worthy of note; not because they are in any sense surprising, but because of the source from which the information is obtained.

"We are not willingly a party," the letter reads "to any arrangements as to prices at which we shall sell; but we are compelled to take profits greater than we consider fair, reasonable or necessary, for the reason that if we sell these controlled lines at figures less than the prices fixed by the manufacturers, the latter refuse to supply us with their goods. In some instances we are compelled to take almost double the margin of profit on which we could operate successfully."

We are not dealing just here with the cause of this seeming rebellion of the MacDonald-Cooper conscience. There is no reason, however, to doubt that the firm is relating a significant fact in the above quotation. When the reader makes his purchase of this week's supply of groceries he is likely to remember with a pang that "in some instances we are compelled to take almost double the margin of profit on which we could operate successfully."

(Continued on page 4.)

IS SOCIALISM A MENACE TO FAITH BROTHERHOOD TOPIC

The Men's Brotherhood of First Baptist Church will continue its discussion on "Is Socialism a Menace to Faith," on Sunday afternoon, March 14th. E. E. Roper, editor of the Free Press has been invited to take part in the discussion on Sunday. The meeting takes place in the church auditorium at 3 o'clock.

CONVENTION OF A.F. OF L. WILL BE IN MONTREAL

Headquarters in Windsor Hotel and Meetings in Craig Street Drill Hall.

Frank Morrison, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, was in Montreal last week, completing preliminary arrangements for the annual convention of the A. F. of L. which is to be held in that city in June.

When Montreal was first suggested as the seat of the next A. F. of L. convention, the project was in danger of falling through, as it was thought impossible to secure the necessary accommodation in the city. This has now been obtained, and it is announced that the headquarters will be at the Windsor Hotel, and the meetings will be held at the Craig Street Drill Hall.

A large number of delegates are expected to attend coming from all over the world, and the convention will probably be the largest ever known.

Montreal Trades and Labor Council have selected a committee to act in preparation capacity, etc., for this convention. The committee is composed of J. T. Foster, President; Gus France, Vice-President of the Provincial Executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada; Jos. Gauthier, Vice-President of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council; Alphéus Mathier and A. Bastien, general organizers for the American Federation of Labor for the province of Quebec. In addition to this committee, all local unions have been invited to appoint a delegate to the convention, to complete a reception committee for the convention.

WARREN S. STONE BEING BOOMED FOR PRESIDENT

Admirers Say He Is Logical Man To Lead Non-Partisan Movement in U.S.

It is rumored that Warren S. Stone, chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and President of the Plumb Plan League, may become a candidate for the United States Presidency.

Admirers in the northwest and middle west are starting to boom him for the White House job, according to a private letter received at Washington recently by a Labor leader. The writer, a Labor man and a warm friend of the Brotherhood chief, says he is being suggested as the logical man to head the Labor ticket or to lead a non-partisan movement supported by liberals, farmers and laborites with a platform declaring for government control of the railroads and announcing a practical program for reducing the cost of living. Stone began the agitation to reduce the cost of living that led President Wilson to call the first industrial conference.

According to one of his associates, he has no presidential aspirations.

MANCHESTER BUILDING TRADES PROPOSAL TO SOLVE HOUSING QUESTION

The bricklayers' union of Manchester, England, has secured the co-operation of all the other unions engaged in house-building and has proposed to the Manchester council that the workers be given the contract to build 2,000 houses as an experiment. They believe that, working under their own leaders, responsible legally and financially for the output, and with the "team work" engendered by the knowledge that the whole return on the project will go to the workers and not to any contractor, they can do more and better work than any private contractor. The Manchester council has accepted the offer and awaits formal approval from the British government.

Manchester needs 20,000 workers' homes at once, and 50,000 within a short time. Private enterprise has failed to provide the houses. If the experiment succeeds the workers in the building trades industries propose to expand their committee into a national guild, which shall build houses all over England.

The union label stands for morality, cleanliness, honesty, civility toward woman and protection of the young.

In the Legislature

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

The third week of the session came to a close with but little material evidence that progress has been made. The many bills which are now printed lie in a state of neglect on the desks awaiting the mental pruning knife of Alberta's legislators. The skill with which the said weapons is used, like other instruments depends largely on its temper. Unlike many other instruments, however, it is very sensitive. This year it seems to have a premonition that it will soon be replaced by something more suitable. It has lost its edge. It also moves rather slowly under certain climatic conditions and can always be seen at its best if the weather is nice a few days prior to Easter.

Just why the legislature is always summoned in February is a cabinet secret but secrets sometimes escape. February is the most suitable month for the farmer members; it is also the most suitable month for cabinet ministers who are not farmers. They know that the farmer member likes to get back to the plough about Easter, hence if a long session is desired which few of them like, the legislature is called early in February. If a short session is desired then it is called late in February. It is a simple but effective method of determining the length of the session without appearing to be unduly autocratic. This year the session will be short because Easter falls early in the month. It may be that next year the session will be still shorter as some of the cabinet ministers at times display an inclination to abolish the legislature altogether. They seem to be quite satisfied with their ability to legislate if left alone, and often regard the legislature as something designed for no other purpose than to interrupt their benevolent yearly program. Fortunately the private members are beginning to chafe at the restraint imposed upon them as a result of the implied power in the cabinet. Three resolutions were disposed of during the week all of which might well be regarded as a protest against our system of government, which in the last analysis is government by cabinet in council. The first resolution by Turgeon was a plea for the private member to be allowed to vote as he pleases on a government measure, without the government in the event of an adverse vote regarding it as a vote of no confidence. The resolution was ruled out of order because it interfered with the King's prerogative, as it has always been the King's prerogative to call for the resignation of a premier whom he thought had lost the confidence of a constituent assembly. The second resolution was from Davidson, who asked for the abolition of the senate. The resolution was defeated, the front benches of both parties arguing that it was a federal question which ought not to be discussed by a provincial legislature. The front benches' argument was not very convincing. While it is true that the federal government appoint the Senators, it is equally true that the senate by virtue of its constitutional power exercises an influence on provincial legislation. An influence that can always be relied upon to retard or block any departmental measure, without the government minister with a trade, it is much better for employers and employed to make up their minds as to what they really want," said Lord Askwith.

It might seem a strange order and an undue interference with individual liberty to enact that persons must belong to a union or association if they were to take part in a trade, said the speaker, but he pointed out that nobody might practice at the bar unless he is a member of one of the Inns of Court, and nobody might practice as a solicitor unless he was on the solicitor's roll.

He instanced the agreement which he managed to effect between the coal owners of South Wales and their employees as an example of the successful working of the principle. The employers recognized the advantage of the men belonging to a union, and they said that, though they did not care to compel the men, they would use their best endeavors to see that persons working in their mines were members of a union. In a short time there was not a non-unionist in South Wales. A hint had only to be given by the manager that a man had better not come from England unless he became a member of the union, and that the whole of the mining industry in the district must not be disturbed because a non-unionist came in. He believed that agreement was doing more to maintain peace in the mining industry in South Wales than almost any agreement made during the war.

EMPLOYEES DENOUNCE POLICY OF CANADIAN WESTINGHOUSE CO.

Steam and Operating Engineers' Union at Hamilton, Ont., report trouble with the Canadian Westinghouse plant at that city. It is stated that the firm is firing union men, and the company's policy was denounced at a recent meeting of the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council.

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ALL DEPENDENTS OF DECEASED SOLDIERS TO RECEIVE INDEMNITY

All dependents of soldiers, sailors or airmen killed during the war have been notified by the board of pension commissioners that, under the terms of the peace treaty, all pensioners of the deceased men are to receive indemnity for their loss.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IS ADVOCATED

Labor Member Presents Resolution Calling for Change in Electoral System

(By Our Own Correspondent)
The Labor member for Centre Calgary moved a resolution on Thursday afternoon for the appointment of a special committee to investigate and report on how the provincial electoral system can be best improved. His plea for a special committee was based on the claim that any change to our electoral system should be preceded by an educational campaign. He was in favor of proportional representation which if adopted would involve redistribution and that the whole question could be best examined by a committee vested with power to issue periodical reports. If the government undertook to carry on a campaign of this nature, their reports might be given a party bias which would render the whole campaign ineffective, he asserted. He described the Calgary system the single transferable vote as the best system now in operation. He thought if proportional representation was adopted it would not materially effect politics in the province as all that it could claim to do was to guarantee a more representative legislature. A lengthy discussion followed on the merits of proportional representation. The mover finally withdrew the motion as a result of a statement made by the Premier that he would appoint a special committee at the next session of the legislature. This committee would be assisted by the clerk of the council who is at present engaged in collecting data relative to the question raised.

WAGE WORKERS SHOULD ALL BE TRADE UNIONISTS

Industrial Courts Bill Provides for Settlement of Industrial Disputes Without Jail Sentences.

Every wage worker should be a member of a trade union, declared Lord Askwith, in speaking on the industrial courts bill, which provides for a settlement of industrial disputes without resorting to fines or jail sentences. Lord Askwith was chief Labor conciliator under the Asquith government, which was succeeded by the present Lloyd George ministry.

"As compared with interference by a government minister with a trade, it is much better for employers and employed to make up their minds as to what they really want," said Lord Askwith.

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PRINTERS' HOME AT COLORADO SPRINGS FINE INSTITUTION FOR RECOVERY OF TRADESMEN WHO HAVE LOST HEALTH

Fred. McCreath Receives Breezy Letter From Harry W. Falconer, of Moose Jaw, Who Is Endeavoring to Regain His Health At The Home

Harry W. Falconer, of Moose Jaw, President of the Western Canada Conference of Typographical unions, suffered an attack of flu last year and found it difficult to recuperate following his illness. He decided to take an extended vacation and chose the Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs as the place to spend it. The following extremely interesting letter to President McCreath of the Trades Council, gives a fine description of life at the printers' big institution:

Union Printers Home,
Colorado Springs, Colo.,
February 14, 1920.

Dear Friend Mac:

Have had you in mind a very great deal of late, and have been trying to get around to writing you a few lines.

GOVERNMENT FILES MANY EXHIBITS IN WINNIPEG TRIAL

Defence Charges Citizens' Committee As Being Real Instigator of Any Riots.

(By Gordon Cascaden)
(Special to The Free Press)

More than 1,000 exhibits were filed by the government in the trial of seven labor men charged with seditious conspiracy in connection with the big 1919 Winnipeg general strike.

Nearly all these exhibits were seized in the homes of men active in the organized labor movement, having passed through the hands of the best informed workers in every section of the Dominion. Most of them consist of economic works prohibited by the Canadian government at the time of the strike but now let into the country because of a recent order issued following a general protest by both farm and urban labor men.

The other exhibits are made up of letters seized in the homes of these unionists as well as permit cards, copies of the Strike Bulletin, photographs, wage contracts and other documents in some way connected with the strike.

One hundred and thirty-five witnesses also gave evidence for the crown, five of them, however, not appearing in person. They are in sunny California, the balmy Florida or sanatoriums outside Canada's boundaries, but each tells a story of the awful conditions which existed here when the workers decided they would all take a holiday at the same time.

The Defence did not put on any witnesses or file any exhibits.

Following introduction of this mass of evidence the jury retired while the Defence and Prosecution battled for more than two days regarding the subject matter of the appeals to the jury.

The defence fought strenuously for admission of everything within the covers of the exhibits, declaring it did not have anything to fear from a thorough examination of everything connected with the strike of the labor movement in general. It also wanted the scope of the trial broadened so that it might include an inquiry into every cause of the tie up. It charged that the employers' organization, which masqueraded under the sweet sounding name of "Citizens' Committee," really was the real instigator of any riots.

A. J. Andrews, K.C., one of the principal spokesmen for the so-called "Citizens' Committee" during the strike, and who has sworn, as crown prosecutor, to see that "even handed justice" is received by the men on trial, and the battery of the legal fraternity at his command, fought successfully against admission of all this evidence, Judge Metcalfe upholding their arguments.

They filed certain books and certain volumes of the Western Labor News and the complete files of the Strike Bulletin, for example. But they marked only little parts from this article or that article and read them to the jury. They objected resolutely to the Defence being permitted to read other parts of the same articles or from other articles explaining the marked passages of the Strike Bulletin. "We are not afraid if everything is put before the jury," the defendants said. Judge Metcalfe refused, however, to let the defendants read what they desired, himself marking, with a black pencil, parts which they might use.

Efforts to settle the strike after it once began and any activities of the so-called "citizens' committee" would not be considered in this trial, Judge Metcalfe said, following lengthy arguments.

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but I had gotten so far behind in correspondence with a lot of old friends that I have been trying to square myself with them. My leisure time is much more limited than I had expected. This is owing to rest hours during the day, when reading, writing or talking are absolutely prohibited. At first these restrictions looked like an unnecessary hardship, but I am now prepared to endorse them. Best, fresh air, sunshine and good food are the principal medicines prescribed here. Judging from the improvement they have worked in my case I think they are a pretty good line. I think it would be a grand thing if every member of the I.T.U. could spend at least a couple of months at an institution such as our Home, because of the lessons taught on regularity and caring for one's health. If I continue to improve as I have done since coming here I believe I will go out as a bright and shining example of Home treatment. I am certainly feeling much better and have put on twelve pounds in two months. I will probably be here at least two months' longer.

Good Discipline. Although I met many surprises, I am very well satisfied both as to personal treatment and the conduct of the Home in general. One hears lots of kicking, but isn't that the case wherever you find two or three printers gathered together? Of course this kicking is all done in a very low tone of voice, for, believe me, Bob, everyone around here has a very wholesome respect for both Supt. Daley and his wife and the authority behind them, for I understand they are a nasty pair to run into in an argument. I believe, though, that that

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ONTARIO ANNUAL CONVENTION I.L.P. TO BE IN LONDON

In Same Hall Where Question of Political Organization First Discussed 3 Years Ago

The Ontario Annual Provincial Convention of the Independent Labor Party will be held in London on Good Friday, April 2nd and the following Saturday. The London branch of the I.L.P. has appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements for the holding of the convention.

The splendid auditorium of the Masonic Temple has been secured for the event, being centrally located and convenient in every particular. It would seem an appropriate place, says the Industrial Banner, in which to hold the annual gathering, for delegates who attended the annual convention in May, 1917, of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario, will remember it was also held in the same hall and it was at this convention that the incoming Executive Board was instructed to call a meeting in some central point in the province as soon as possible for the purpose of forming a Labor Party and that all bodies favoring the taking of independent political action, should be invited to send representatives to the same.

It would therefore seem very appropriate indeed that this year's convention is to be held in the same city and in the same assembly hall in which scarcely three years previously the question of forming such a political organization was first discussed.

LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday, March 15th
Trades and Labor Council.
Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees No. 69.

Tuesday, March 16th
Painters and Decorators No. 1018.
Sheet Metal Workers No. 371.
Moulders No. 373.

Wednesday, March 17th
Amalgamated Carpenters No. 2807.
Plumbers & Steamfitters No. 488.

Thursday, March 18th
Machinists No. 559.
Railway Clerks and Freight Handlers No. 648.
Canadian National Railway Federation.

Friday, March 19th
Carpenters U.B. No. 1225.
Dunvegan Carmen No. 550.
Retail Clerks Association No. 1176.

Saturday, March 20th
Typographical No. 604, special meeting.