

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

VOL. 1, No. 16.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1919

\$1.00 Per Year; 5c Per Copy

DOMINION TRADES CONGRESS CALL FOR CONVENTION

Thirty-fifth Annual Convention of Dominion T. & L. Congress September 22.

To the Officers and Members of Provincial Federations of Labor, Trades and Labor Councils, National Trades Unions, Federal Labor Unions and International Local Trades Unions, in the Dominion of Canada, greeting: Fellow Labor Unionists and Brothers—

The thirty-fifth annual session of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will convene in the Royal Connaught Hotel Auditorium, City of Hamilton, beginning at 10 o'clock, Monday morning, September 22nd, 1919, and will continue in session from day to day until the business of the convention has been completed.

The City of Quebec, the Ancient Capital, was the scene of last year's memorable convention. This year the Congress has selected the beautiful city of Hamilton, in Ontario, as the place of its annual meeting. This is the long-established programme continued of affording each section of the Dominion a fair opportunity of having the Congress, and of giving the members of the Congress the advantage of coming in close contact with the citizens of every quarter of the Dominion.

Since last the Congress met most vital changes have taken place and exceptional conditions have arisen. The world has passed from a state of almost universal war to one of general peace. A period of transition has come, with reconstruction and readjustments. Out of the chaotic confusion created by the war many new and unaccustomed elements have arisen to affect the social, political, national and international affairs of all countries, Canada included. A wave of industrial unrest has swept over this country, making itself felt in most abnormal conditions. Labor has never before found so much need of calmness, determination, vigilance and organization. The momentous question of International Trade Union Affiliation has assumed proportions that far exceed in importance to the Trades Union Movement anything heretofore experienced. Not during the most anxious years of the war were there more cause than this year for prudence and activity. The problems to be solved during this year's convention are of paramount importance and will demand the very best that is in the delegates in attendance at the Hamilton Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

There is to be a full session of the Federal Parliament, probably in October, a few weeks after the close of this convention. Organized Labor must bring every energy possible to bear upon the study of the legislation that will be deemed necessary for the protection of its vital interests. In a word, the best intelligence of Organized Labor must be brought into play, not alone for the purposes of criticism, but especially with constructive action in view.

The particular attention of affiliated organizations is called to Article III, Section 2, governing the introduction of resolutions, which reads:

"Sec. 2.—That all resolutions for the consideration of the Congress shall be received by the Secretary-Treasurer not later than ten days prior to the opening of the convention, the same to be printed and issued at the opening session of the Congress. Resolutions submitted contrary to this section can only be introduced and dealt with by the Congress, on a two-thirds vote of the delegates present. The executive shall appoint a committee on resolutions from the credentials delegates and the said committee shall meet at least one day prior to the opening of the convention for the purpose of considering all business submitted to them."

Representation and Election of Delegates.

The Congress shall be composed of delegates duly elected and accredited from Provincial Federations of Labor, Trades and Labor Councils, International Local Trades Unions, whose per capita tax is paid from headquarters on their total Canadian membership in good standing, Trades Unions, Federal Labor Unions and National Trades Unions in the Dominion of Canada. But in no case shall there be more than one central body to be chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

The basis of representation shall be as follows: International Local Trades Unions, whose per capita tax is paid from headquarters on their total Canadian membership in good standing; Trades Unions and Federal Labor Unions shall be allowed one delegate for each one hundred members or under, and one for each additional one hundred or majority fraction thereof. Trades Council and National Trades Unions, three delegates each; Provincial Federations of Labor, one delegate

(Continued on Page 2)

IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN THERE? VOTERS' LIST

It is impossible to do your duty to your city this fall unless you are off the voters' list. Labor, organized and unorganized, lays claim to good citizenship. Make it a special point to see that your name is enrolled on the voters' list. The ballot is the strongest power in the land.

FAMILY BUDGET STILL GOES UP

Parliamentary "Investigations" and Other Camouflage of No Effect

The average cost of the weekly family budget of staple goods was slightly higher, being \$13.72 at the middle of June as compared with \$12.53 in May, \$12.79 in June, 1918 and \$7.35 in June, 1914, says the Labor Gazette. The index number of wholesale prices for June was the same as that for May, being 284.1 as compared with 280.6 in June, 1918, and 135.3 in June, 1914.

In prices there were increases in some lines, but decreases in others, so that the general level of wholesale prices as shown by the index number was unchanged. Grain showed little change, cattle and beef were down, but hogs and pork advanced. Butter, fish, vegetables, woolens, flax products, metals, and chemicals were lower; but fruits, cottons, silks, jutes, hides, leathers, boots and building materials were higher.

The index number of wholesale prices for June was therefore unchanged from May, at 284.1, as compared with 280.6 in June, 1918, and 135.3 for June, 1914.

In retail food prices, some seasonable changes occurred, there being slight increases in some meats, and in eggs, cheese and potatoes, but milk and butter were lower. The average cost of a list of twenty-nine staple foods in some sixty cities at the middle of the month was therefore slightly higher, being \$13.72 as compared with \$13.53 at the middle of May, \$12.79 in June, 1918, and \$7.35 in June, 1914. In fact, with the exception of coal and wood were lower, but in rentals there were advances.

FIVE OF SEVEN ALDERMEN ELECTED FROM LABOR RANKS

Kenora, Ontario, has five labor men sitting on the city council consisting of seven aldermen. Labor men state that they could elect men to the other two seats but they desire other interests to have some representation.

NO WAGE INCREASES

The U.S. Congress has passed several large appropriation bills without making provision for wage increases of government employees. This includes the customs branch of the treasury department, custodian force in public buildings, immigration, fisheries and penitentiary guards and attendants.

UNITY THE REMEDY

It is claimed that employers in Jackson, Mich., are blacklisting trade unionists and are agreeing not to hire employees on strike. Editor Henley of the Square Deal tells workers that the way to block this game is for every wage earner in Jackson to unite.

ONE MOBBER ARRESTED AFTER TWO YEARS

Just two years ago 1,200 workers were deported from Bisbee, Ariz., by a mob of alleged patriots, loaded in freight cars and dumped into New Mexico. The first arrest has been made in the case of W. D. (Billy) Woods, an alleged company guard.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR TO CONFER IN HOLLAND

President Gompers and A.F. of L. Treasurer Daniel J. Tobin have crossed to Amsterdam to attend an international conference of trade unionists. Since the war started there has not been a meeting of the International Federation of Trades Unions, of which Carl Legien, Berlin, is secretary. It is probable that changing the headquarters and the labor program of the league of nations will be discussed at the Amsterdam meeting.

BOTTLERS RAISE WAGES

After a two-days' strike practically all of the 60 bottling firms of St. Louis, Mo., signed the wage scale of Bottlers' Union No. 303. Wages are advanced \$3 a week.

COOKS AND WAITERS UNITE

Cooks and waiters of Clarkburg, W. Va., have organized and are lined up with the bona fide trade union movement.

WINNIPEG LABOR SPLIT OVER THE O.B.U. QUESTION

Two Central Labor Bodies Result of Internal Dis-sension

"It is now becoming apparent that while a number of local unions are voting in favor of the One Big Union, these decisions are being secured with minority votes when the total membership of the respective bodies is considered," says the Manitoba Free Press in its news columns this morning. "Serious ruptures between the factions favoring international affiliation and the O.B.U. are anticipated in labor circles generally. The O.B.U. supporters have been most diligent, while the international organization supporters have shown less concern in respect to this vital question to the worker. In the case of the vote of the trades and labor council in this connection, for instance, only 110 delegates were present at the meeting at which the decision in favor of the O.B.U. was reached. Many of these did not vote because of the fact that their unions had taken no definite stand, and they did not care to express their personal views on the matter. The total vote reported in favor of the O.B.U. was 65."

"When it is remembered that the trades and labor council has a membership of approximately 300, and that more than 65 votes were cast in the decision favoring the O.B.U., the true nature of the 'unanimous' vote claimed by the radical body will be laid bare. Several of the unions who have been committed by the vote of their delegates are already reorganizing to hold their international affiliations. Included among these are the blacksmiths, the machinists, the brotherhood of carmen, the steamfitters, the sheet metal workers and the teamsters. There is apparently no doubt as to the success of the reorganization of the trades and labor council."

INTEGRITY OF CONTRACT IS CORNER STONE

Agreements Between Man and Man Must Be Kept By Both Sides

The cornerstone in the success of our union has been our adherence to contracts that we have made at whatever cost.

"Any normal minded man will agree that agreements entered into between man and man should be kept on both sides. Any normal union members will agree that an agreement made by a labor union should be kept. But it sometimes happens that a grievance rises, legitimate or otherwise, passions become inflamed, and the participants are no longer normal, and perhaps they want to cease work until the difference is settled exactly to suit them.

"Such a procedure is forbidden by our constitution as well as by our contracts, and if we permit members to repudiate our agreements with impunity, it means that we allow such members to destroy our industrial credit, as we term it, and to take away from us our reputation as an organization that keeps its agreements, whose reputation is fundamental to our success in the future as it has been in the past.

No one can question the wisdom of continuing the policies that have made our union what it is, and it is particularly gratifying that the policies of the past are a part of the future. —Amalgamated Journal of Steel Workers.

GO OVER HEADS OF STRIKE COMMITTEE

The strike of engineers, signalmen and other employees of the Northern Railway system, which began a week ago Wednesday, was settled after negotiations between the company and the men. Although the strike committee has repudiated the terms of the agreement it is evident that the majority of the strikers accept it.

POPULAR UNION THIS: BUYING A BREWERY; GOT YOUR CARD?

Because the coal miners of Wales can not buy enough beer owing to the shortage, they are buying a brewery. A company has been formed to purchase and operate it and the capital of \$100,000 is being subscribed by various miners' clubs, which are taking out shares in the concern in proportion to membership.

ACTIONS SPEAK MUCH LOUDER THAN WORDS

While the Dominion government, through its trade commission, is frantically trying to buy Canadian-made goods, Nova Scotia coal miners are walking the streets out of work while the national government is permitting the government owned railways to import coal from West Virginia. Example is mightier than precept.

MUCH CONFUSION NOW PREVAILING IN UNION RANKS

New in History of International Unionism Has Such Been Witnessed

In the annual report of the General Federation of Trade Unions, London, Eng., it is stated that "never in the history of the international trade union movement has there appeared so much confusion."

There is a call for one conference representing the trade unions of America, Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Serbia. Another conference includes Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. There have been other conferences called by the parliamentary committee of the British Trades Union Congress and the British Labor party. The report shows that neither of the latter two are connected with the International Federation of Trades Unions, and are "consequently, without jurisdiction."

The report refers to the efforts of the British federation to maintain its economic status, and declares that the management committee is agreed with the other members of the International Federation of Trades Unions to keep that organization clear of political control.

"The future for trade unionism is not easy," says the report. "The outlook demands that everyone connected with the trade union movement shall keep it free from complication and that everyone shall endeavor to strengthen its organization and power for defense."

"SAVING" THE WORKERS.

The Southwest Bell Telephone Company, at Topeka, Kans., is interested in the welfare of its telephone girls, and has organized a "union" for these workers. The girls were not troubled about drawing up a constitution or preparing plans for the new organization. They were called in one at a time and told "we want to fix it all nice for you."

The girls who signed were tendered a banquet by the company, which is guaranteed its dividends while under government control and can charge its union-smashing costs to operating expenses. The regular union of telephone operators is struggling against this power.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT ON UNION MAN

Nobody Doubts But That Teddy Would Have Been a Live One

"If I were a factory employe, a workman on the railroads, or a wage earner of any sort, I would undoubtedly join the union of my trade. If I disapproved of its policy I would join in order to fight that policy; if the union leaders were dishonest I would join in order to put them out. I believe in the union and I believe that all men who are benefited by the union are morally bound to help to the extent of their power in the common interests advanced by the union."—Theodore Roosevelt.

PENNSYLVANIA R.R. DROP WOMEN FROM PAYROLL

Women were extensively employed by the Pennsylvania railroad during the war, but they are now being rapidly displaced. Between March 1 and April 1, 589 stenographers and typewriters were released. On March 1, 1919, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company (eastern lines), had on its payroll 11,100 women employees. On April 1 there were only 9,977, and on May 1, 9,601, a decrease of 1,500 in two months.

\$25 TO \$100 FINE.

"On and after May 20, 1919, no female shall be employed or be permitted to work in any hotel or restaurant more than nine hours in one day; nor more than six days a week; nor more than 54 hours a week." For the violation of this law a fine of \$25 to \$100 is imposed, says the State of Arkansas.

FERNIE MINERS HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF ONE BIG UNION

Hold Meeting and Instruct Officials to Negotiate New Agreement

At a largely attended special mass meeting of the Fernie Miners' Union, comprising some 5,000 workers, called for the purpose of considering and discussing the strike situation and the One Big Union constitution, it was decided by a large majority to instruct officials of the United Mine Workers of America to negotiate a new working agreement. By so doing they bid farewell to the O.B.U. to which they have been strong supporters in the past. President Christophers, of the United Mine Workers of America, was present at the meeting.

The trouble between the miners and the operators arose over an order issued by Commissioner Armstrong in April, when the eight-hour law was put into effect in British Columbia. Commissioner Armstrong ordered that surface men working nine hours in District 18 should continue at the same scale of wages, but work only eight hours. In some parts of the district there were a few surface men working 10 and 11 hours, and they also demanded that they continue at the same wages, but only work eight hours.

Commissioner Armstrong's order provided nine hours' pay for eight hours' work in the case of these men as well, but the District 18 officials refused to accept the offer, and the strike was called, commencing on May 24th.

The miners striking in District No. 18 are not receiving a cent of strike pay from the international union, because their strike was not authorized by the international.

However, now that international officials have taken hold of the situation, a satisfactory ending of the difficulties is confidently expected.

ENFORCING EIGHT HOUR DAY BY LABOR'S EFFORT

National Work Day Provided By Law Becomes Effective

The national eight-hour law, passed by the French parliament, is being enforced—not by the government, but by the workers through their economic power. General strikes of coal miners, metal workers, garment workers, dress-makers, clerks and others for the immediate and complete application of the law has developed a fighting spirit in nearly every labor organization and it is predicted that the shorter work day will soon be a national fact.

The French workers are also quite universally demanding lunch time and "preparation" time in beginning and quitting work to be included in the eight hours as against the employers' demand for eight hours of "effective" work. The agreement won by chemical and sugar workers, for instance, provides that the work day shall begin the moment the worker enters the factory and 10 minutes before the eight hours expire. The employer thus pays for the time required by the workers to prepare for the day's work as well as for the "wash-up" period at its conclusion.

COMPENSATION IN FULL

The Pennsylvania State Compensation Board, in session, decided to grant disabled foreigners who wish to return to their native lands all the money coming to them in a lump sum so as to permit them to engage in business abroad.

CHINESE RESTAURANTS GRANT WAGE INCREASE

The girl workers in an Ottawa Chinese cafe have had their demands complied with in getting a raise of \$5 a month and one day off each week. This action is worthy of commendation when you consider that there are girls working in Ottawa for seven days a week with 72 hours to their credit, and a salary of \$5 per week.

TORONTO WILL NOT BUY RAILWAY NOW

All talk of the city buying out the Toronto Railway Company this year appears to be at an end. Mayor Church on Monday said the proposed purchase was "off." The company's franchise will expire in the autumn of 1921, when the city will take over the railway.

From Saskatoon comes the report that the organization of a live labor church is anticipated in that city shortly.

AND THIS IN CANADA, LAND OF THE FREE

One battle scar from the fields of Flanders should be a sufficient badge of citizenship, loyalty and guarantee for British justice throughout the world. Verenchuk, twice wounded in France, jailed, denied bail, denied jury trial, and none to espouse his cause but Organized Labor.

T. & L. COUNCIL BUSY SESSION

General Meeting of Executives of Unions Called for Near Future

A general meeting of executives of all orthodox unions of the city was planned, Saturday half holiday closing was recommended, the secretary was instructed to write the minister of labor and postmaster general re lockout of postal employees, a committee was appointed to deal with the matter re an editorial in the Edmonton Free Press published during the recent strike, and other business transacted at the meeting of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council Monday evening. There was a good attendance of delegates and a big interest in labor matters was manifested.

Of biggest importance emanating from this meeting was the instructions received by the secretary of the council to write all secretaries of local unions affiliated with the A.F. of L. or the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress calling a general meeting of executives of these unions for a general discussion of the labor situation in the city.

ASKING UNIONS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND FOR DEFENSE

At a recent meeting of the Saskatoon Trades and Labor Council a motion was passed requesting all unions to levy an assessment of one day's pay as a contribution to the Defense Fund to pay lawyers and other expense required in seeing that the men in Winnipeg charged with sedition are given a just and impartial trial by a jury of their peers.

MACHINISTS ARE FAVORABLE TO AMALGAMATION

The officers of the International Association of Machinists have announced that the question of amalgamation of the metal trades unions has been submitted to a vote of the membership of the machinists and has been approved by a majority of 8,000 votes.

This is not the O.B.U. plan, but is the plan endorsed by the District Council of the Metal Trades a year ago, providing for an amalgamation of metal trades unions, and while a move toward industrial unionism, it is opposed generally by the zealous advocates of the One Big Union idea.—Oregon Labor Press.

TEACHERS ORGANIZE

Teachers in the normal school of Superior, Wis., have organized and affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers.

IRON WORKERS WANT 44-HOUR WEEK

A 44-hour week is now the immediate goal of Structural Iron Workers' union No. 7, of Boston, Mass.

Structural iron workers of Dallas, Texas, have raised wages from \$6 to \$7 a day.

CARPENTERS GET RAISE AFTER FIVE WEEKS

Mansfield, Ohio.—After a five-weeks' strike carpenters of Mansfield secured a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour.

SCAB LABOR NOT GIVING THE SERVICE

The alleged inefficiency of the present postal service in Calgary, and the question of the reinstatement of some or all of the former workers who were considered to have resigned when they joined the sympathetic strike, was the cause of a long discussion at the last regular meeting of the Calgary City Council. The result was that an amendment to a resolution was passed, calling on the Dominion Government to consider accepting applications for re-employment from the old employees "individually, who had been discharged during the sympathetic strike."

MEAT CUTTERS GAIN
Organized Meat Cutters of Seattle have established their new minimum of \$40 a week for journeymen in nearly 150 shops in this city.

REAL DEFINITION UNION BARGAINING HERE PRESENTED

Who-so-ever Wants a Concrete Example Can Find It

If anybody wants a definite statement of collective bargaining as Organized Labor understands the term and insists upon, here is an order issued by Postmaster General Burleson of U.S.A. in respect to dealing with telephone and telegraph operators which should be sufficiently clear, concise, direct and explanatory for the densest and most unwilling intellect:

Employees of telephone companies shall have the right to bargain as individuals or collectively through committees or their representatives chosen by them to act for them. Where prior to Government control a company dealt with representatives chosen by the employees to act for them who were not in the employ of the company, they shall hereafter do so. The telephone companies shall designate one or more of its officials who shall be authorized to deal with such individuals or representatives in matters of better conditions of labor, hours of employment, compensation or grievances, and such matters must be taken up for consideration within five days after presentation.

"Such employees shall have the right to organize or to affiliate with organizations that seem to them best calculated to serve their interest, and no employee shall be discharged, demoted or otherwise discriminated against because of membership in any such organization, as prescribed in Bulletin No. 9, issued by me, dated October 2, 1918. In case of dismissal, demotion or undesirable transfer of employees where no real cause is shown by company for said dismissal, demotion or undesirable transfer, it shall be considered that discrimination was practiced and upon such finding the employee shall be reinstated to former position with full pay for time lost or shall be reimbursed for any loss sustained by reason of demotion or transfer.

"Inability or refusal to perform the regular work of position occupied by them, excessive use of intoxicants, dishonesty, inactivity to subscribers or the public shall be considered sufficient cause for dismissal.

Where requests or demands are now pending, the telephone companies shall immediately proceed to negotiate a settlement.

All telephone companies are hereby directed to comply with the requirements of this order, and failure to do so on the part of any official will result in disciplinary action.

TEAMSTERS' WAGES RAISED IN MANY PLACES IN STATES

Rock Island, Ill.—Through arbitration ice wagon drivers have raised wages \$3 and \$4 a week.

Peoria, Ill.—Practically every employing teamster in this city has signed the new agreement of the Teamsters' union.

Jackson, Mich.—A one-year's agreement secured by the Teamsters' union provides for an eight-hour day and wage rates that range from \$21.60 to \$26 a week.

Memphis, Tenn.—A strike of milk drivers in this city has ended and the dispute will be referred to arbitration. The drivers are assured that unionists will not be victimized.

Boston.—Over 500 members of the Meat Cutters' union suspended work to aid market teamsters who are on strike to shorten the work day. They ask that the hours be from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. the other days in the week.

CO-OPERATIVE BUYING IS BEING DISCUSSED BY UNION CIRCLES

Clarksburg.—Trade unionists are discussing co-operative buying and a committee has been appointed by the central body to report on starting a co-op store.

MONTREAL FACING FURTHER TROUBLE

The local labor situation is again assuming a troubled aspect. The week opened with workers in seven trades to the number of nearly 5500 on strike, and with the threat of 2000 wire workers going out this afternoon if the employers do not agree to treat with the men.

The workers on strike are as follows: 4500 textile workers, 250 cigar makers, 200 blacksmiths and horse shoers, 200 bakers, 200 wire workers, 50 electricians and 50 fur dyers and dressers.