

# Official Report of Trades Congress of A. of L.

At the 35th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held at Atlantic City this week, Secretary P. M. Draper made the report for the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. Organized labor has gone ahead by leaps and bounds, and Canada now has 248,827 union men, and 2,274 branch unions. Important legislation has been enacted and labor has had a voice on many commissions. The report follows:

Another period of labor history, replete with earnest endeavor and achievement, has been incorporated into the records of Canada's twentieth year, and viewing the situation from both the industrial and political aspects, the organized labor movement has every reason to be proud of the progress made since the last convention of the American Federation of Labor.

The marked increase in Canadian trade union membership recorded in 1917 was surpassed in 1918, and indicates a rapid rate of growth, probably without precedent in the history of organized labor of the Dominion. At the end of 1918 trade union members in Canada numbered 248,827. The two following years showed a decline of 24,556, reducing the membership to 224,271. In 1916, although there was a loss of 41 local branches, the membership increased to 17,564, increasing the total to 160,467. The year 1917 showed the substantial increase of 44,232 members, bringing the total to 204,699, comprised in 1,974 local branches, a gain in branches for the year of 132. At the close of 1918, the membership for all classes of trade unions in Canada numbered 224,271, an increase of 2,274 branch unions, a total increase for the year of 47,857 in membership and 396 in local branches. There are 30 international organizations, 112, 215, or more local branches in Canada, and between them comprise 1,897 of the branch unions in the Dominion, an increase of 135 over the number recorded in 1917. The total international membership at the close of the year 1918 was 201,432, a gain of 56,536. The local unions of the Dominion are distributed throughout the nine provinces as follows: Ontario, 820; Quebec, 27; British Columbia, 224; Alberta, 181; Manitoba, 27; Saskatchewan, 112; New Brunswick, 75; Nova Scotia, 75; Prince Edward Island, 3. In addition to the international organizations having branches in the Dominion, there are 45 independent units in the Dominion, 27 of which have reported a membership of 27,212. The remainder of the 45 independent units in the Dominion are 18 in Ontario, 2,135 as compared with the reported membership from 28 independent units which were in existence in 1917. The majority of these independent units are in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and some of them are of a semi-religious character, the membership being confined to adherents of the Roman Catholic faith. Of the 41 independent bodies in the Dominion, 31 are located in Quebec, which province shows an increase of 12 in this class of organizations since 1917. In 1918, a convention of "national" unions of the Province of Quebec was held, 27 unions being represented. Officers were elected, and it was decided to hold a similar convention in the city of Three Rivers in 1919, when the question of forming a federation of "national" unions would be considered. The remainder of the 45 independent units were located as follows: British Columbia, 5; Ontario, 3; New Brunswick and Manitoba, 2; Nova Scotia, 1; Prince Edward Island, one each.

The large increase in membership has given added vitality to the movement and enabled the different organizations to make a more effective stand for increased wages to meet the increased cost of living. In the political field considerable progress has been made, both in the organization of the labor movement by the government and in the organization of the Independent Labor party in the different provinces of the Dominion. With the entry of the Union Government into power there was an immediate change in policy and representatives of organized labor were invited to Ottawa to confer with members of the Cabinet on questions vital to the interest of the workers of the nation. It was recognized that labor should be represented on all important commissions and committees appointed by the government.

The past two years have also demonstrated the possibility of organizing the women workers and the machine and textile industries. Important progress has been made in bringing women into the ranks of the organized workers. The enfranchisement of women by the Dominion Parliament and in the majority of the provinces of Canada has made it all the more necessary that the women should be organized industrially as well as politically. With their knowledge of industrial conditions and the need for improvement in these conditions it is being made easier to convince the women workers of the need of organization, and special efforts will have to be made to enlist the services of women workers, organizers and to bring more of the women workers into the ranks of organized labor.

A commission has been appointed

## TRADES COUNCIL HAS NO AUTHORITY TO CALL STRIKE.

The general strike situation appeared last Saturday, says the Edmonton Free Press, in a report from Ottawa. The Secretary of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council, a labor member of the Manitoba Legislature and who returned from Ottawa, made a public statement that neither the Winnipeg Trades Council nor any other trades council has any authority to order general strikes. He asserted that the trades council is entirely a voluntary organization, whose charter is granted by the Trades Congress of Canada, and its charter gives it no such authority. Mr. P. M. Draper, Secretary of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, made the same assertion on Friday night at a meeting at the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council.

## TORONTO METAL TRADES STILL OUT.

Several thousand metal workers are still on strike in Toronto, although the unions have signed agreements for the 44-hour week, according to a statement given out by the Metal Trades Council.

## MOOSE JAW CARMEN ON STRIKE.

The street cars at Moose Jaw were held in session last Saturday night to stay there, so far as the regular crews are concerned, until the requests of the men for shorter hours and higher wages had been met. The strike has nothing to do with the general labor unrest. It is a private and personal affair between the employees and the company.

## CO-OPERATION OR OVER THE FALLS.



Why Not Use Common Sense and Row Together? — Montreal Star.

# FROM COAST TO COAST

## INTERNATIONAL MACHINISTS GROWING STRONGER IN CANADA.

The progress being made in Canada by the International Association of Machinists may be judged from the fact that the majority of the four new local unions in the Dominion during the previous month. This brings the total of Canadian local unions to 35, distributed among the different provinces as follows: Alberta, 7; British Columbia, 9; Manitoba, 9; New Brunswick, 3; Nova Scotia, 1; Prince Edward Island, 1; Saskatchewan, 11; Saskatchewan, 11.

## VANCOUVER TRADES COUNCIL CLAIMS FOR STRIKE.

The following is the basis upon which Vancouver voted to go on a general strike. "Realizing that the workers have a right to face the worker, that problem that cannot be solved under capitalism and that the end of that system is not yet, also realizing that the present situation is a political one, due to the action of the Dominion Government in the Winnipeg strike, and that as the workers are disabled and the dependents of the men who have died on the fields of France and Flanders are working class—therefore be it resolved that the following be the policy of the workers in Canada now on strike in support of the Winnipeg workers: (1) The reinstatement of the postal workers who struck in Winnipeg; (2) The settlement of the postal workers' grievances; (3) The right of collective bargaining through any organization that the workers deem worthy of their needs; (4) Pensions for soldiers and their dependents on the basis laid down by the national organizations; (5) A minimum recompense for service overseas by the granting of the sum of \$2,000 gratuity; (6) The nationalization of the coal mines, plants, abattoirs and elevators with a view to removing the evil of hoarding of foodstuffs; (7) The enactment of legislation to provide for the minimum wage in all industries where unemployment is prevalent. Failing the granting of these demands by the Dominion Government, resign, and places these matters before the Dominion Government (Signed) J. Kavanagh, Secretary Trades and Labor Council.

## KINGSTON BUILDING TRADES' BIG VICTORY.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners have been on strike in Kingston for several weeks past for an increase in wages to 70 cents an hour and an eight-hour day. In spite of the fact that all their demands have been met by the employers.

## MONTREAL BARBERS POOR-EST PAID ON CONTINENT.

John Hart, organizing secretary for the Journeymen Barbers of America, who has been in Montreal directing the recent barbers' strike, makes the following statement regarding the present situation in that city: "The barbers' strike in Montreal is practically settled for the time being, the endorsement of financial assistance by the Journeymen Barbers International Union of America will hold good for a period of two years, dating from June 2, 1918, to June 2, 1921. In spite of the miserable conditions which have existed in Montreal for the past 20 years, many of the employing barbers are not cognizant of the fact that the average journeyman barber in Montreal is the poorest paid barber in North America today. "We are going to bring about conditions for the barbers of Montreal which will eliminate the tip evil and make it possible for all barbers to earn a just and living wage. "The Barbers' International Union does not disapprove of tipping but it is in their intent and endeavor to improve the financial conditions for the membership of our great family of 50,000 journeymen barbers so they shall not be dependent upon this unnecessary imposition which the public is daily subjected to."

## LONDON ELECTRICAL LINE MEN GET 8-HR. DAY.

The strike of Electrical Linemen in London, Ont., has been settled by a compromise, according to last reports. The strikers receive an increase in wages and have been conceded an eight-hour work-day. The union put up a splendid fight and emerged from the struggle with flying colors.

## HALIFAX LABORITES WILL ASK HELP OF DOMINION CONGRESS.

A meeting specially called by the Trades and Labor Council, Halifax, to hear grievances of those who had suffered loss by the explosion, and who had not been adequately compensated by the Relief Commission, was held last week. Mayor Parker was one of the chief speakers. He was asked to submit a report to the Relief Commission. He had made many mistakes, one of which was their ordering the houses on the Richmond slope torn down, when many of them could have been repaired and would thus have helped in solving the housing problem. Other speakers, taking up similar lines, mentioned the names of James Rudge, J. Edmonds, and Messrs. Thomas, Horne, Kane, Turner, Vaughan, Gardner, Little and Murphy, and also a woman whose husband had been killed in the explosion.

## COBALT MINERS TAKE STRIKE VOTE.

Interest in the mining camps of Northern Ontario is centred on the local situation. On Monday of last week the Cobalt Miners' Union presented a demand to the mine managers, asking for a minimum wage to underground workers of \$4.50 per day, with only four hours on Saturday, \$4 as a minimum wage to surface workers, and recognition of the union. Also, demanding a bonus of 21 cents per day when the price of silver averages 50 cents or over, with an additional 21 cents daily for each ten cents an ounce above 50 cents. The mine managers were given till Wednesday evening to make a reply to the demand. The time limit expired without anything being done, and on Sunday last a strike vote was taken. The result of the vote is not yet known. When the ballots are counted a meeting of the union will be held to consider the action to be taken.

## HULL TRADES COUNCIL'S LABOR PROGRAMME.

Hull Trades' Council is getting busy in the presentation of the demands that are to be made on those who aspire for public office. At the last meeting the following programme was presented:—Compulsory education; representative government; the right of workmen to form unions; technical schools for the working classes; the eight-hour day; proportional representation; whole-sale and retail liquor stores (one for each of the city) and the open sale of beer and wine.

## WINNIPEG AND EDMONTON UNIONS LOSE CHARTER.

Martin F. Ryan, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, has revoked the charter of two local unions of that order at Winnipeg and Edmonton. The revocation was announced at A.F.O.L. headquarters on the ground that action of their members in appropriating money for organizing the One Big Union which has led to strikes now progressing in western Canada, is a disregard of union laws. Other members of international unions are said to be preparing similar orders affecting their workers.

## TORONTO WORKERS GET INCREASES.

The electrical workers' union of Toronto has made a new agreement with the electrical contractors' association whereby the men are to receive 75 cents an hour, instead of 60 cents as at present. A voluntary increase of ten cents an hour, or a maximum wage of 75 cents an hour, has been granted to the domestic, sanitary and heating engineers' and plumbers' and steamfitters' union of Toronto. Four hundred men are affected.

## WESTERN PRINTING TRADE CONFERENCES AMALGAMATE.

Amalgamation of the Printing Pressmen's unions of all cities from Port Arthur and Fort William to Edmonton with the Western Canada Conference of the International Typographical Union and all trades connected with the printing industry, was ratified in Winnipeg last week by the formation of the Western Canada Conference of Pressmen. Delegates were in attendance from all the western cities, and from these A. T. Neale, of Edmonton, was elected president, and F. Reynolds, of Saskatoon, secretary.

## TORONTO NURSES DEMAND EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

The nurses employed in all the Toronto hospitals this week served six months' notice upon the hospital management of their intention to strike unless granted an eight-hour day.

## VANCOUVER RAILWAY MEN TO LEAVE TRADES COUNCIL.

The Federal Trades Union at Vancouver, embracing all railway shop workers—except blacksmiths, has voted to withdraw from the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council. Their stated reason was owing to the persistent efforts of the Trades and Labor Council to have the shopmen join the sympathetic strike.

## KINGSTON COMMITTEE IS ENDEAVORING TO SETTLE STRIKE.

A committee consisting of Mayor Norman, W. F. Nichols, and J. M. Campbell, president of the Board of Trade, was appointed to try and bring about a settlement in the strike of metal workers at the locomotive works, Kingston, who have been on strike for a month.

## VANCOUVER POSTAL WORKERS REFUSE TO STRIKE.

Postal workers of Vancouver at a meeting on Monday night refused by a unanimous vote to take a strike ballot, declaring that their attitude was not changed by the events of the last six days in the strike brought about in sympathy with Winnipeg and that beyond the postmen of that city, who have been dismissed from the public service. The meeting expressed a greater solidarity between the workers and the unions of various trades, workers in the same industry, by the formation of a system of all trades and councils of federated trade.

## PEMBROKE WORKERS FORM UNION.

Workers of Pembroke have broken the ice in the formation of a Federal Union, chartered by the American Federation of Labor. The initial meeting at the Town Hall was in the nature of a feeler and a test as to the attitude of the workers of the town generally as to how far they had advanced towards becoming a part of the organized labor movement. The settlement was made on the basis of a minimum wage of \$4.50 per day, with only four hours on Saturday, \$4 as a minimum wage to surface workers, and recognition of the union. Also, demanding a bonus of 21 cents per day when the price of silver averages 50 cents or over, with an additional 21 cents daily for each ten cents an ounce above 50 cents. The mine managers were given till Wednesday evening to make a reply to the demand. The time limit expired without anything being done, and on Sunday last a strike vote was taken. The result of the vote is not yet known. When the ballots are counted a meeting of the union will be held to consider the action to be taken.

## VICTORIA REFERS STRIKE TO TRADES COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the strike committee Saturday night it was decided to refer the question of action on a sympathetic strike at Victoria to a full meeting of the Trades and Labor Council which will be held Monday night.

## SYDNEY MINERS OPPOSED TO O. B. U.

The "One Big Union" propaganda was not doing anything to do with the whirlwind of industrial unrest sweeping western Canada but very few friends or sympathizers in Nova Scotia, judging by the tone of the local press, who are studying the question. At least the workers in the industrial centre of Sydney Mines do not hesitate to condemn the "One Big Union" movement as revolutionary and autocratic, and smacking of Pro-Germanism in every sense of the word. "Under our present system and through the influence of the A. F. of L. and the U. M. W. of America, with which the mine of Nova Scotia are now affiliated, we can generally settle our industrial disputes without any unnecessary loss to the men affected or the employer of labor. It is doubtful if the same could be said if all workers were enrolled in 'One Big Union' controlled by a handful of officials who are not familiar with the varied conditions and circumstances. Nova Scotia workmen have enjoyed liberty and independence of thought for too long to entertain the suggestion the 'One Big Union' scheme. We hear in the west, the U. M. W. and the A. F. of L. will answer our purpose when any trouble arises that affects our welfare. Employees of labor are obligated to place their feet under the same table as the men delegated by our local unions to plead our case whatever it may be, increase of wages, shorter working hours, better working conditions or any grievance that demands consideration in our best interests. There are not two local unions in Cape Breton, and none on the mainland that will endorse the big union scheme," said a labor official.

## 8th. Annual Conference Of Interprovincial Typos

The eighth annual conference of the Ontario and Quebec Typographical Unions was held in the Windsor Hotel, Ottawa, on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Many important matters were discussed and legislation will be asked for the betterment of the printing industry.

Addresses of welcome were delivered on behalf of the city by Mayor Fisher and Controller Nelson. Mr. D. Ross, Mr. W. M. Southam, and Mr. E. Low on behalf of the employers. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. James Hoban, second vice-president of the International Typographical Union; Mr. James Drury, International organizer from Montreal, and Mr. Byron W. Hallam, secretary-treasurer of the Western Canada Conference of Typographical Unions, who extended fraternal greetings from the west.

In the course of his remarks, at the opening session, Mr. James Hoban, second vice-president of the I. T. U., said:

"The Typographical Union found a solution for the 'One Big Union' imperative for every Typographical Union to establish technical schools. If you go into the penal institutions you find a printing school. Many of the men who get the moral soundness to lead a decent life are made into printers in such institutions and employers wonder why some of their employees are not competent."

Mr. Hoban urged the necessity of employee teaching apprentices the technical as well as the practical part of the business. This would tend toward creating a greater measure of efficiency.

"Technical schools," the speaker said, "would be the price of the alley of incompetence and place him on the avenue of efficiency."

Mr. Hoban then urged for a closer co-operation between the employer and the employee.

During the afternoon the delegates were taken on a tour of Ottawa and in the evening were guests of the Dominion Typographers.

Second Day.

At the morning session a number of important matters were up for discussion, including the betterment of conditions for apprentice printers, the question of a memorial for soldier printers who had made the supreme sacrifice, and the matter of a proper method of teaching the printing and proof-reading schools of the Department of Civil Re-establishment.

The meeting also went on record as being opposed to the One Big Union.

There was quite a lot of discussion on the memorial proposal, and it was openly voiced by the majority at the meeting that the memorial should take some form of a work of mercy which would be more appropriate than a monument. It was the opinion of the majority that the memorial in the form of an annex as an addition to the Printers' Home in Colorado Springs would be most suitable.

Mr. H. C. Hocken, M.P., editor of the Orange Standard, addressed the meeting at the opening of the second day.

Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed at the meeting with regard to the apparent policy of the Council on such matters as representatives and officials of the coal companies could be represented. He said that such a council could be created in the west, and it was pointed out that the English-speaking miners did. He said that the germ of such a council was already in the minds of the committees that had met the operators.

## SYDNEY MINE WORKERS WANT FIVE-DAY WEEK.

The efforts of the miners of Nova Scotia to obtain a five-day week with eight hours were described to the Industrial Relations Commission at its enquiry held in Sydney, N.S., on Friday. Billy Barrett, president of the Nova Scotia branch of the United Mine Workers of America, who outlined the miners' decision to the commission, said that ultimately they also hoped to get a six-hour day, a substantial increase in wages. This system, he thought, would act as a cure for unemployment, as a large number of men are not now at work would be absorbed.

Mr. Barrett complained that he had found that in his dealings with the coal operator did not tell the truth. He said that a coal operator refused a salary increase to his men on the ground that his company was not making a profit. A few weeks afterwards the annual financial report of the company published showed that it had made a profit of \$4,000,000.

David Reed, secretary for the United Mine Workers of America and vice-president of the Trades and Labor Congress, discussed the creation of a system of industrial council on such matters as representatives and officials of the coal companies could be represented. He said that such a council could be created in the west, and it was pointed out that the English-speaking miners did. He said that the germ of such a council was already in the minds of the committees that had met the operators.

## KINGSTON NOW HAS RETAIL CLERKS' UNION.

Wm. Baxter, the hustling local A. F. of L. organizer in Kingston, with the assistance of the Organizational Committee of the Central Labor Union, has succeeded in organizing a local union of the Retail Clerks' Protective Association in Kingston.

## "REDS" SPREADING THE ONE BIG UNION.

That the spread of the "One Big Union" in western Canada is due to the intense activities of the radical or "Red" element is the opinion of Mr. Byron W. Bellamy, of Medicine Hat, and secretary-treasurer of the Western Canadian Conference of Typographical Unions, who was present in Ottawa attending the Ontario and Quebec Conference of the union.

Mr. Bellamy, who was present at the convention in Calgary last spring when the O. B. U. idea was launched, and he stated that with an understanding was not on the official programme of the meeting. The motion backing the formation of the "One Big Union" was pushed through the convention owing to the number of radical delegates attending. "Radical" delegates, he said, were present at his conference in Regina, this month to further urge its adoption.

Mr. Myland then brought in the financial report, as follows: Receipts, \$122,925; expenditures, \$148,575; surplus, \$164,390.

It was moved and seconded that the only paper bearing the label of the