

LABOR PROGRAMME PRESENTED

CANADIAN ORGANIZED LABOR'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME OF FIFTEEN CORRECTIVE JUSTICES IN EXISTING LEGISLATION

Trades and Labor Congress of Canada Requests Canadian Government to Invite Provincial Premiers to Meet With Them and Reach a Common Understanding as to the Obligations Canada Has Resumed in Becoming a Member of the League of Nations.

Labor's legislative demands have been presented to the Canadian Government by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. A new departure has been inaugurated and instead of a large deputation appearing before the Cabinet the legislative programme has been printed and copies sent to the Government accompanied by a letter from Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, asking that a conference be held between the Cabinet and the Executive Council of the Congress to discuss the programme.

The legislative programme is divided into 17 sections and deals with the Treaty of Peace and the Washington and Genoa Conferences, Old Age Pension, State Insurance for Sickness, Unemployment, Tariff, Industrial Disputes Act, Collective Bargaining and Democratic Development of Public Services, Minimum Wage, Fair Wages, Employment Service of Canada, Franchise Act (1920), Co-operative Legislation, Public Ownership, Copyright Act, Amendments to the Copyright Act, Registration of Union Labels, Renewed Protest Against the Increased Cost of Military and Naval Forces, Rural Mail Carriers' Conditions.

The programme follows: 1. Acceptance of the conventions and recommendations of the Washington (1919) and Genoa (1920) Conferences of the International Labor Body, that is to say, that we have carefully noted the declaration in Council P. C. 2722, 6th in 1919, issued by your Government, and that we have accepted it as a basis for our action. We further request that the Dominion Government have actively participated in every meeting of the International Labor Body and the governing body thereof.

Speaking before the Windsor Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, 1920, Hon. Arthur Meighen, Premier of Canada, referring to the League of Nations and the Labor Section, which he termed the Magna Charta of Labor, said: "The duty of the Government of Canada as well as of all other Governments is to seek to make practical progress towards putting in effect its terms by co-operation with the other countries concerned. Canada abides not merely to the letter of the convention but to the spirit of it, and we are ready to do so to the very end of the Government."

Arbitration for Municipalities in P. of Quebec

Under the new arbitration law of the Quebec Provincial Government, which will compel all municipalities and their employees to settle their disputes, Hon. A. Gailipault, Minister of Labor, informed a delegation of police from Montreal, last week, compulsory arbitration will be provided between cities and municipalities employing at least ten men in the police, fire, waterworks or incineration departments, and their employees. If any employee goes on strike before the dispute has been adjudicated by the arbitration board they will be liable to a fine of from \$10 to \$100 a day, while if any municipal corporation goes on strike in similar cases they will be fined from \$100 to \$1,000 a day. There is no provision for compulsory arbitration for the award of the arbitration board as it is felt that public opinion will force the parties to accept such decisions.

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BRITISH LABOR WILL REJECT PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL REDUCTION IN WAGES

Mr. J. R. Clynes, one of the moderate labor leaders in Great Britain, declares that wages are not too high and in many cases too low. "British labor will reject any proposal for a general reduction in wages with the object of securing a reduction in prices," says J. R. Clynes, M.P., writing to the Times, in reply to Mr. Roscoe Brunner, who demanded that wages be reduced immediately by a substantial percentage throughout all industries. Mr. Clynes qualifies the general statement by saying that "wage reductions may be reached in certain individual cases by mutual agreement between employers and workers," but he repeats that as a matter of general policy the demand arose only through national bodies or through responsible executives, will not agree to reductions. Indeed, the demand arose only because the pressure of ascending prices was too great for the worker to bear.

GUELPH TEXTILE WORKERS RESIST WAGE REDUCTION

Membership in the United Textile Workers' Union Proves Beneficial.

Textile workers employed in the Guelph factory of the Dominion Linen Company, Limited, have won a complete victory against a reduction in wages and increased hours of toll after a strike of some two or three weeks.

Some two or three years ago the Dominion Linen Company brought out to Canada a number of workers from Great Britain. These girls were receiving an average wage of \$15 for a 51 hour week. An effort was recently made to increase the hours to 53 weekly for the same wages. These workers, employed at the Dominion Linen Company, who are members of the United Textile Workers of America, resisted the move on the part of the employers, claiming that the contract, under which they were engaged in Great Britain, called for an average wage of \$15 per week of 51 hours. When the Dominion Linen Company gave notice of their intent to lengthen the hours of toll the workers appealed to the United Textile Workers of America for protection. General Organizer John Thomas was sent to Guelph and investigated the dispute. Representatives were made to the employers to work out an agreement. This they refused to do and a strike was declared. The United Textile Workers of America took the matter to the Department of Labor and the Immigration authorities. Messrs. Compston and Wilson, representing the Department of Labor and Immigration, were sent to Guelph and conducted an investigation. The result of the activity of the United Textile Workers of America has resulted in a complete victory for the employees of the Dominion Linen Company, wages and hours having been maintained.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS

Ontario Government Scored For "Passing the Buck." "Woman, her place in the home and position in industry," was the theme of an address given in the Grand Opera House, Brantford one night last week by M. M. MacBride, M. P., Independent Brantford. He is representative in South Ontario of the women's movement. He said that the Government is responsible for the failure to prohibit the employment of white women in Oriental hotels; that the Government is responsible for the failure to prohibit the employment of white women in Oriental hotels; that the Government is responsible for the failure to prohibit the employment of white women in Oriental hotels.

TORONTO LABOR PREPARING FOR GENERAL ELECTION

At a meeting of the Labor Representation Committee of the Toronto Trades Council, and the executive of the Toronto Branches of the Independent Labor Party, held at Toronto last week, plans were laid for the forthcoming general elections. "We expect an early appeal to the country," said John Bruce, general organizer of the International Association of Plumbers. "It was decided to call the Labor Representation Committee together to select candidates for the Toronto ridings and get them before the people at an early date." It was also decided to make an appeal to the trades unions and members of the party to raise a fund of \$10,000 for the campaign.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT FORMALLY OPENED ON MONDAY AFTERNOON

Unemployment Insurance and Old Age Pension Amended Bills to Be Introduced. With much gold lace, etc., etc., the Fifth Session of the Eleventh Parliament was formally opened on Monday. The Speech from the Throne, not unlike previous ones, outlines some of the proposed legislation to be introduced by the Government during the session. In these measures are included unemployment insurance and old age pensions in which the workers of this country are most vitally interested. No mention is made of the Government's obligations concerning the International Labor Organization but the workers of this country expect the Government to carry out its promises before the session concludes.

Much opposition to the Government is expected and already Hon. W. Mackenzie King, the leader of the Opposition, has declared that as the Government has no mandate from the people it should resign and go to the country. In his speech on Tuesday the Leader of the Opposition referred to the tariff and stated quite clearly that there should be no change in the existing customs tariff until after an appeal to the people.

Many resolutions touching on various questions have been submitted to the House and interesting debates will no doubt take place on some of them. It is expected that the Government's action in connection with the re-opening of the Toronto shipyards will be aired in the House and an explanation of their attitude demanded.

NO INCREASE IN ALLOWANCE UNDER ONTARIO COMPENSATION ACT

There will be no attempt at this session of the Legislature to increase the allowance under the Workmen's Compensation Act from the present figure of 66-2-3 per cent. of an injured workman's wages to 100 per cent. Hon. Walter Rolfe, who proposed the increase some time ago, made the announcement to a deputation from the Ontario Builders' Exchange last week. The builders requested the Minister of Public Works to proceed with what construction is possible to assist in tiding over depression in building and impressed the Minister with their belief that this is the worst time at which any increase in taxation could be levied on their business.

ROCHDALE SYSTEM OF CO-OPERATION ONE FAVOR-ED BY LABOR

Fake co-operators have had slandering where workers are organized. Trade unionists are acquainted with the Rochdale system of co-operation which is based on correct principles and these workers decline to contribute funds to alleged co-operators, who elect officers and manage the entire affair. Under the Rochdale system every member has an equal vote regardless of the amount of stock he holds. Goods are sold at the prevailing market prices, and members are then given a refund over actual expenses, in proportion to the amount of money they have expended at the co-op store.

POWER OF LABOR LENINE'S GREATEST FEAR

The Petrograd Pravda prints an article by Nikolai Lenin, the Russian Bolshevik Premier, declaring that the fight between the labor unions and the Soviets for supremacy will break up the whole Bolshevik state system, unless a settlement is reached. "The Communist Party in a United Russia," declares the majority of the Russian laborers, "are not interested in themselves at the expense of the general welfare of the Communist state," it says.

HAVE INSURANCE OFFICES TO ASSIST WAR VETERANS

In order that information regarding the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act may be made more easily accessible, arrangements have been made to establish insurance sections in connection with local offices of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment throughout the country. Major C. B. Topp, D.S.O., M.C., who is in charge of the administration of the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act under the Pension Board, is at present in Western Canada in connection with the organization of these sections. Insurance is now being applied for at the rate of about 125,000 a week, the total amount in force being approximately \$5,000,000.

GOMPERS FAVORS SEPARATE VOTES FOR DOMINIONS

Defending the grant of a separate vote to each of the British Dominions in the Assembly of the League of Nations, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared last week: "They are more often with progress than against it. It is not only that the vote of the representative of these Dominions and Commonwealths were more often with the United States than with Britain."

"It was my experience," continued Mr. Gompers, "and I look upon it as something of a disappointment, that the vote of the representative of these Dominions and Commonwealths were more often with the United States than with Britain."

GOVT CHANGES POLICY IN BUILDERS' DISPUTE

The Building Trades Union of Great Britain, which recently voted against the proposal to dilute the industry with 50,000 ex-soldiers, has forced the Government to recede from their position. Mr. McNamara, Minister of Labor, advised dilution of the union by setting aside the work of ex-soldiers, and Alfred Mond, first Commissioner of Works, whose department has contracts worth ten million pounds, and employ union labor, held it was inexpedient to precipitate a national strike by McNamara's policy. Mond was supposed to have contented with the Builders' Federation, and the Government gave way. The organization of a new department to instruct ex-soldiers in erecting concrete houses is now suggested. Trade unionists have no objection to discharged men undertaking the work, and would furnish skilled instructors.

TORONTO GARMENT WORKERS OPPOSE RE-INTRODUCTION OF PIECE WORK

Declaring that the strike at Toronto of the International Labor Union of Garment Workers was of recent origin, but had been in effect since December 15, the general organizer, Mr. Ambar, of the International Union of Garment Workers, called for a renewal of last year's wage agreement. "We had an agreement with the clothing manufacturers which ended December 1st," said Mr. Ambar. "This agreement called for a minimum of \$14 a week for men and \$17.50 a week for women workers. The system of piece work was the work of the agreement called for a 44-hour week.

PROFITS IN COAL?

There is apparently no end to the anomalies and the enormities of the coal trade in the United States. Only a few weeks ago, when the ordinary private consumer was paying from \$14 to \$19 a ton for his coal, the Secretary of the Navy Department was able to buy coal at just under \$3 a ton, and that the dealers expressed themselves as satisfied with their profits. Today by the latest news from Paris tells of the French Government fixing the price of American coal in France at \$9 a ton, and of the French coal dealer's price in London at \$12 a ton. This really amounts to an embargo on American coal. Why? Not because the American coal dealer would have to sell at a loss, but because "after payment of freight" he "would not net more than \$4 a ton."—Christian Science Monitor.

NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST O.B.U. MEN RULES MANTOBA'S COUNCIL OF INDUSTRY

United Brotherhood of Carpenters Were Wholly Within Their Rights in Demanding That Closed Shop Clause of Agreement be Observed by Employers. One Big Union carpenters who were dismissed from employment on a Winnipeg building were not discriminated against by the contractor as charged by R. H. Russell, organizer for the O. B. U., according to a statement issued by the Council of Industry of Manitoba, last week by Dr. C. W. Gordon, chairman. According to the statement, the employers were by virtue of an agreement with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, to employ none but members of the brotherhood on the work, and were bound to dismiss the non-brotherhood carpenters. In its report on the case the council offered the following observations: "The Council of Industry stands related to all workers in the province in exactly the same way whether members of any organization or of no organization. The council considers it to be essential to the maintaining of harmonious relations between employer and worker and to the stabilizing of industry in the province that during the life of an agreement the parties thereto shall honorably adhere to its terms in letter and in spirit. It is the policy of the Council of Industry that the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners were wholly within their rights in demanding that such action should be taken by the employers as would result in the maintenance of the terms of the agreement between the General Contractors' section of the Winnipeg Builders' Exchange and the Brotherhood while that agreement is in force. That the employers in this case were of necessity bound to exercise their right of dismissal of men in the employ of the retention of whom service would involve them in an infraction of their agreement with the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, which they had been carrying on the job from the beginning. The Council of Industry has proceeded upon the assumption that the agreement between the General Contractors' section of the Winnipeg Builders' Exchange and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is within the limits of the law of the province of Manitoba, and the council will continue to interpret the agreement until otherwise advised. The council is always prepared to accept any demonstration that this assumption is incorrect. The legality of the agreement between the General Contractors' section of the Winnipeg Builders' Exchange and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is not well founded."

8-hr. Workday Bill Introduced in Ontario House

Eight-hour working-day legislation was introduced into the Ontario Legislature last week by Serjt.-Major J. McNamara, Soldier-Labor member for Riverside and M. M. MacBride, Independent Labor member for South Brant. Not only does the bill propose penalties for employers who refuse to grant the eight-hour day, but also for employees who work more than eight consecutive hours in one day. The fine proposed for willful neglect to comply with the eight-hour law is \$1,000. Exceptions to the terms of the bill are those engaged in agriculture, superintendents, foremen, time-keepers, pumpmen, elevator assistants, guards, watchmen, hospital and nursing attendants, and those employed in work affecting human life. Overtime shall be legal only in cases of emergency, and then no more than ten hours shall be worked. The day is set out, shall be 24 hours, beginning at six o'clock each calendar day. Between each working day of eight hours there must be eight consecutive hours of rest.

WILL CROOKS TO RESIGN SEAT IN BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS

According to the Herald, the Labor organ, Will Crooks, Labor member of the British Parliament for Woolwich, will give up his seat on account of ill-health. The Independent Labor Party has chosen J. Ramsay MacDonald, former member of Parliament for Leicester and former chairman of the Labor party, to run for the seat of Mr. Crooks.

MAY BREAK UNION BUT CAN'T BREAK HUMANITY

"Though you can't break humanity, you can't break right," declared George Sherwood Eddy, lecturer and author, to a group of business and professional men at Houston recently. "You may be able to break the union—the Czar did it in Russia," he added significantly. The speaker reviewed conditions throughout the world, and said, "The people who have been held down by entrenched privilege are awaking to their power and are thinking that the time has not yet permanently crushed."

BRANTFORD LABOR HAS CONFIDENCE IN McBRIDE

The Brantford Branch of the Independent Labor Party of Ontario has expressed its full confidence in their representative in the Legislature, Mr. M. M. McBride. At a meeting of the Ontario Executive of the I. L. P. on Saturday the 13th inst. the action was carried out of the party, but the electors of South Brant, to whom Mr. McBride is responsible, have expressed their full confidence in the Legislature, where he will continue to fight the workers' battles.

WORLD WAR DID NOT PERMANENTLY DIVIDE WORKERS

The world war has not permanently divided workers in the opposing nations, according to the report of the International Labor Office, Times of Manchester, Eng. "Beneath the surface controversies that seem to rend asunder the whole international labor movement, there exists a reality of solidarity, an example of which has just been furnished by the shipwrights' strike in this country. The strike will be remembered, struck against the attempt of the employers' federation to reduce wages during the war, and the strike still continues. The employers turned to German yards to do the work for them at rates which the low exchange rate made cheap. But at this point the German Ship Joiners' Union came in. Acting through the International World Federation of Shipbuilders and Ship Joiners, they placed an embargo on any backlog work from Britain. The ship manufacturers of the Aberdeen line was sent to Hamburg for repairs, but the German union prohibited the work. This practical solidarity is going to matter more for the future of Anglo-German relations than any amount of diplomatic conference."

TRADE UNIONS GIVE WORKERS PROTECTION

Wage reductions of a drastic nature have been the rule in many industries during the past few months, and it is noticeable that the reductions are being effected in those industries that are indifferent to the welfare of their workers. Employers are not anxious about going to the mat with workmen who are united in strong organizations and have intelligent officials at their head. If the non-unionists do not appreciate what is back of the present so-called "open-shop" movement, their labor is in a sorry state of affairs. — Typographical Journal.

CLEVELAND REJECTS NON-UNIONISM

The Cleveland city council rejected the builders' exchange proposal that the union shop policy of city officials in the erection of municipal buildings.

CONVICTED MEN MUST REQUEST OWN RELEASE

In the Manitoba Legislature this week Mr. J. F. Dixon, one of the Labor members for Winnipeg, introduced a resolution requesting the Manitoba Legislative Assembly to petition the Canadian Government for the release of the Winnipeg strike leaders. The Manitoba Legislature, Premier Norris, speaking on the resolution, stated that while in Ottawa some time ago he personally appeared to the Canadian Government for the release of the convicted men. He was informed that it would be impossible to grant the release of the prisoners unless they personally made the request. Premier Norris, further intimated that just so soon as the men requested their release it would be granted.

TRADES CONGRESS OPINION REITERATED BY PREMIER NORRIS IN MANITOBA LEGISLATURE

The officers of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada have repeatedly expressed the same opinion as the Manitoba Premier Minister, The Winnipeg strike leaders prefer to follow the advice of the Defence Committee, which is more concerned in the destruction of the International Trades Union movement than in securing the release of the convicted men.

GOVERNMENT MAY CONTINUE POST OF COAL DIRECTOR

Owing to representations made by employees and mine operators of district 18, Alberta and British Columbia, it is possible that the Government will continue the Post of Director of Coal Operations after the present session of Parliament. Miners have communicated with the International Trades Union, stating that the post be not discontinued, and on Friday last a delegation representative of the operators appeared before the Government with a similar request.

MINE OPERATORS REFUSE TO SIGN AGREEMENT

A strike took place at the Indian Coal collieries in the Sydney, N. S. district last week because the operators refused to sign the proposed agreement entered into by the United Mine Workers and the operators.

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