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AGREEMENT BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS AND ALL-RUSSIAN RED CROSS

We have pleasure in enclosing herewith a copy of the Agreement which the International Federation of Trade Unions has concluded with the representatives of the All-Russian Red Cross, as representatives of the Russian Government, in connection with the Relief Action which is being carried out by the International Federation of Trade Unions on behalf of the famine stricken people in Russia.

AGREEMENT

Between the Commission to fight the Famine of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, hereinafter called the Commission, and the International Federation of Trade Unions, hereinafter called the I. F. T. U.

1.—In agreement with the rights which the Government of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall grant to the I.F.T.U. the latter body shall appoint its representative in Russia, in order to provide the famine stricken Russian population with foodstuffs, medicaments and clothing.

2.—The I.F.T.U. shall establish at Petersburg a Central Office under the management of its special authorised representative in order to carry out the above mentioned object.

3.—The representatives of the I.F.T.U., who shall travel to Russia shall receive visa to their passports, in accordance with the general official provisions of the R.S.F.S. Republic. In Russia these representatives shall receive the necessary credentials from the People's Commissioner of Foreign Affairs and from the Commission.

4.—The Russian Soviet Government shall grant to the representatives of the I.F.T.U., when carrying out their duties in Russia, the same protection and the same personal rights, which the representatives of other Relief organizations (American Relief Association, German Red Cross, Nansen Relief) enjoy in Russia.

5.—The foodstuffs, medicaments, and other articles sent to Russia by the I.F.T.U. shall be admitted without payment of any duty and shall be loaded, transported and unloaded free of charge and receive preferential treatment on all railways and other means of transport of the R.S.F.S. Republic. The staff of the I.F.T.U. shall also enjoy preferential rights when carrying out their duties in connection with the Relief work in the use of all means of conveyance and communication. Lists of the goods to be transported by the I.F.T.U. to Russia shall be submitted before they are shipped to the foreign representative of the Commission.

6.—The representatives of the I.F.T.U. in Russia shall refrain from all political activity and shall abstain from interfering with the domestic affairs of Russia.

7.—The I.F.T.U. shall have the right to make use of the post and telegraph services free of charge in the discharge of their duties.

8.—The Soviet Government shall place at the disposal of the I.F.T.U. all storing, housing and office accommodation, necessary for the relief work free of charge and shall give it the utmost assistance in obtaining combustibles and all other material required.

9.—All goods of the I.F.T.U. shall remain entirely and without question its own property.

10.—The I.F.T.U. shall act in all respects in conformity with the Commission and other interested Governmental bodies. In order to maintain relations between the Central Office of the I.F.T.U. at Petersburg and the Commission the latter shall appoint a delegate in the Central Office.

11.—The present agreement shall become operative after it has been signed by the Executive of the Commission and confirmed by the Executive of the I.F.T.U. at Armsterdam.

12.—The present agreement has been drawn up in duplicate, one copy being deposited with the Commission and the other copy with the official representative in Petersburg.

Berlin, October 18th, 1921.

For the International Federation of Trade Unions:
Edo FIMMEN.
P. GRASSMANN.

For the Commission to fight the Famine of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee:
S. BRATMAN BRODONSKI.
V. KOPP.
I. JONNOV.

ORGANIZED WORKERS ARE URGED TO AID TYPOS

Let organized labor everywhere tell the story of contract breaking by employing printers, who have forced a nationwide strike of employees in this industry, recommends the A. F. of L. executive council in a statement signed by President Gompers and Secretary Morrison.

Trade unionists are urged to form committees to acquaint the public with the treachery of these business men who would establish chaos and broken promies for the pledged word between men. The statement is as follows:

"To All Organized Labor:

"The printing trades unions have been forced into a struggle not of their own making. After the employing printers of the country had made a solemn contract to inaugurate the 44-hour week on May 1, 1921, they began an insidious campaign to break it. They demanded reduction in wages, the establishment of the so-called 'open' shop, and used every other method to force the printing trades in the book and job offices to cease work before May 1, 1921. This was part of the hostile campaign of various interests to destroy all the printing trades unions. When May 1 arrived the employers absolutely refused to grant the 44-hour week and the members of the printing trades unions were compelled to cease work. They were locked out by the contract-breakers.

"Every state and city central body, and all local unions, should come to the support of the printing trades in a practical way. They should resent in a most emphatic manner the violation by the employing printers of the contract to establish the 44-hour week. This can be done by urging all sympathizers of labor, and those who are opposed to the action of the employing printers in breaking their contract, to require the allied printing trades label upon all matter printed for them.

"Committees should be appointed to wait upon the fair-minded business men and acquaint them with the injustice done the printers. As much publicity as possible should be given the campaign.

"It should be pointed out that if the contract-breaking employers are successful it will place a premium on contract-breaking. The trade union movement believes in the maintenance of contracts. It has no patience with those who breaks them. The union label will therefore be the most effective weapon that can be used against those who have paralyzed the printing industry for purposes of greed and to establish autocratic methods of treating the workers.

"This is a matter of great moment. Every union man in America should aid the printers. Victory for the printers will establish the fact that contract-breaking is a disreputable act and should receive the odium it deserves."

LONDON DAILY MAIL REPUDIATES H. G. WELLS

Washington, D.C., Dec. 2.—Discontinuance of the H. G. Wells articles on the Armament Conference by the London Daily Mail and editorial repudiation of Wells by the Mail is regarded by progressive observers here as a most important development in connection with the International Conference.

News of the repudiation of Wells by the Daily Mail reached Washington i na cable dispatch to the New York Times. The Times' dispatch quotes in part as follows from the Daily Mail:

"In the Daily Mail of Friday we indicated our grave doubts as to the propriety of our continuing to publish the articles of H. G. Wells on the Washington conference. It has been made abundantly clear to our readers that Wells in these articles expressed his own peisonal views. We had no thought of asking him to do anything else, as it has always been the custom of the Daily Mail to accord perfect liberty to distinguished writers in our columns within bounds prescribed by good sense and good manners.

"But in the present case our own responsibility has become seriously involved and we have been forced to realize that we could only continue to give complete freedom of expression to Wells at the cost of endangering friendly relations between this country and France.

"We regret having to say that he has not been an impartial reporter of the conference. While he has shown the utmost good will toward Germany and Russia, he has from the beginning displayed a marked aversion for France."

Wells is writing for a group of American newspaper, and considerable interest in Washington centers around the speculation as to whether the example of the Daily Mail will be followed by any of the American group of publications.

Wells is regarded here by a great many as the leader of a group of purely destructive critics sailing under the colors of "liberalism."

ALBERTA LONE LABOR CABINET MEMBER HAS OPPOSITION

Reports received at provincial government offices were to the effect that all the members of the new Alberta government, with the exception of Hon. Alex. Ross, minister of labor, had received acclamations in the nominations for the by-elections. In Calgary Mr. Ross is being opposed by Major Arthur Lincoln, a war veteran, who served with the British flying corps. The ministers elected by acclamation are:—Premier Greenfield, Hon. Vernon Smith, Hon. J. E. Brownlee, Hon. George Hoadley, Hon. Perrin Baker and Hon. R. G. Reid.

LABOR COST OF SHOES NO HIGH-PRICE ALIBI

Boston.—Editor Baine, of the Shoe Workers' Journal, continues his attack on those manufacturers who demand lower wages, and who insist that "high labor costs" are responsible for present shoe prices. The labor editor says:

"A very large retailer, operating a number of first-class shoe stores, has been handling large quantities of a certain well-known make of men's shoes for many years. This year this well-known make is priced to him at $6.83. He is reported as dropping the line and replacing it with another line at $5, which seems to him to be of equal intrinsic value, though perhaps not quite equal in finish or 'snap.'

"This dealer is reported to be regretful to make this change, but feels that a difference of $1.83 in factory price of shoes of equal value in materials can not be defended and that he can not merchandise that difference to the public. The volume of this business is said to be over $100,000 annually.

"Now the shoe at $6.83 is made in a center that is claiming a reduction in wages, while the $5 shoe is made in a center that has made no suggestion of a reduction in wages and where all plants are busy plants and where shoe workers are fully employed.

"But some one says that 'the busy center has lower labor costs and so is able to sell the shoe.' This is not the explanation. On some parts of the work the busy center has a higher labor cost. The difference in the total labor cost is not large.

"The total labor cost of the shoe at $6.83 is approximately $1.20. If the shoe workers donated the labor on this shoe, it would still be 63 cents higher than the other shoe at $5, and there would be no assurance that the shoe could be sold, even if the help were willing to work for nothing.

"But the $6.83 center is asking for a reduction of 20 per cent. If they secure the whole 20 per cent, which seems highly improbable, it would amount to 24 cents per pair, which taken from $1.83, would leave the $6.83 shoe still $1.59 above the $5 shoe, made in the center where wages have not been reduced."

SHOE WORKERS GAIN

Chicago.—The Boot and Shoe Workers' union has signed an agreement with the Florsheim Shoe company. Arbitration is agreed to and wages are advanced.

As a result of the elections labor and progressive forces are now solidly placed in the second place, and ahead of the defeated government party. The Progressives practically swept the Plains, but failed in the east. They elected but one representative east of the Ottawa River—Mr. Caldwell, in Carleton-Victoria, N.B.—and failed to maintain anything like the strength that Mr. Drury manifested in Ontario in 1919, getting 23 seats, but two more than were captured by Mr. King—one of the surprises of the day. The Agrarian leader, however, carried his own riding of Marquette, Man., and, as already said, will have the second largest group in the House.

Official Liberalism is decisively triumphant. Mr. King carried Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island solidly; broke even with Mr. Meighen in New Brunswick; carried 23 ridings in Ontario—an absolutely unlooked for development—and more than held his own with the Government between the Rockies and Great Lakes. He carried his own riding of North York by more than a thousand; took three seats out of British Columbia; and most of the Liberal stalwarts of pre-war days—Macdonald, Graham, Kyte and Fielding—have re-appeared upon the stage. With 121 seats out of 235 conceded to him he will have an absolute majority over all groups in the next Parliament.

Ottawa added to Mr. King's following by the election of H. B. McGiverin and E. R. Chevrier, Liberals, by large majorities.

Standing with most of returns in, the standing of the parties is as follows:—

	Labor	Progressives	Liberals	Cons.
P. E. I.	0	0	4	0
Nova Scotia	0	0	16	0
New Brunswick	0	1	5	5
Quebec	0	0	65	0
Ontario	0	23	22	38
Manitoba	1	12	2	0
Saskatchewan	0	15	1	0
Alberta	1	9	1	1
British Columbia	0	3	3	7
Totals	2	64	118	50

Mr. Meighen suffered a debacle in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia turned completely against him, defeating his two Ministers—Mr. McCurdy and Mr. Spinney—and returning Mr. King's candidates by overwhelming majorities. Seats placed in the Government column on Monday went Liberal by tremendous majorities. Sir Robert Borden's old riding of King's, for example, gave the King candidate a majority of a thousand; while old-time Liberal stalwarts like Mr. E. M. Macdonald and Mr. Hance Logan achieved victory with astonishing ease. Even in Cape Breton South, where, with a multiplicity of candidates, the Government was conceded a chance, Kyte and Carroll, pre-war Liberals, returned with colors flying. Prince Edward Island, too, went over to the big battalions. It gave all of its four seats to Mr. King—all by substantial majorities.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW IN TEXAS IS LATEST

Houston, Texas.—To duplicate the Kansas "can't-strike" law in Texas is the purpose of the industrial equity league, which has opened offices in this city.

The league informs Texas citizens that the Kansas act "is a success," but modestly states that it has an improvement on Governor Allen's handcuff legislation. The final pailing of the worker, however, is no different from Kansas. In both cases he lands behind the bars if he refuses to work under conditions not satisfactory to him.

The league's idea is to establish an industrial court, with a judge who shall be elected. A jury of 12 who shall hear evidence and make an award that shall be enforced by the peace officers of the state. The jury shall be drawn from the citizenship of the entire state and not from the vicinity where the dispute is located.

When an industrial dispute can not be settled by the parties involved, the court shall act on complaint of either party or the county or district attorney.

The league's proposal is an extension of the vicious "can't-strike" law which passed the Texas legislature last year and became effective January 2, 1921. This law has been given the chloroforming title "open port" bill, and was urged by Governor Hobby, following the strike of Galveston longshoremen. The bill makes it unlawful to interfere with the "handling or moving or transporting" of commerce within the state.

This law not only makes a striker liable to a penitentiary sentence of from one to five years, but another vicious proposal permits the attorney general of the state or a county prosecuting attorney to take the trial of a striker to another county in the event that this official believes he cannot secure a conviction. The law, however, denies the same right to a striker, if he (the striker) believes h can not secure a fair trial in the county in which he is indicted.

SEAMEN CLEAN HOUSE

San Francisco.—Following the expulsion of John V. Thompson, the sailors' union of the Pacific has ousted 18 I. W. W's and put two members of the Seamen's union on probation because of their leanings toward the wild men.

When ousted Thompson was editor of the Seamen's Journal.

UNITED MINE WORKERS IN SERIOUS STRAITS

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 8.—"Starvation is the instrument that is being used by coal operators in the New River field of West Virginia to torture the union miners into submission to a wholesale reduction in their wages and destruction of the union," Lawrence Dwyer, of Beckley, W. Va., told the international executive board of the United Mine Workers of America, meeting in Indianapolis. Dwyer, is the member of the board from that field. The board was hearing reports of conditions in the various coal mining districts of the country when Dwyer made his statement. From practically every section of the country there came heart-rending tales of the deplorable condition of coal miners and their families, due to the long-continued wave of unemployment and the determined effort of coal operators to reduce wages and wipe out the United Mine Workers of America. But the story told by Dwyer was, perhaps, the most harrowing of all.

"People who live in other parts of the country do not know the actual conditions under which coal miners and their families live in some parts of West Virginia," Dwyer said. "We have the finest soft coal in the world. It sells for a higher price than any other coal, and, usually, it has a steady market. But for a year past there has been little or no work in the mines of the New River field. Some mines have not operated a single day in 1921. Others have been idle for four, six or eight months. We have a loyal lot of union miners in that district, men who have fought hard for years to sustain the union against the interests that would kill it. The union has helped them to improve their working and living conditions and to obtain better wages. But it is apparent that the operators have decided that they are going to destroy the union in that district and reduce the miner's wages to the old-time low level, which will not afford a living for the miner and his family.

"These operators are taking advantage of the terrible depression to carry out this plan. Our men have been out of work so long that they have used every cent that they had earned and they are in debt as deeply as they can go. Hundreds, I may say thousands, of families of coal miners are without a cent and without food. How they exist God only knows. Company stores have refused to supply them with more food. There is no other place for them to find employment. This situation gives the operator his opportunity. Coal companies, some of the largest, richest and most powerful in the country, are telling their employees that if they will accept a reduction of 30 to 50 per cent in their wages and withdraw from the union they will give them some work, but they do not promise steady work. With their families actually starving, many a man is tempted to accept the offer.

"Only a few days ago, two small children in school in Fayette County fainted, and physicians said it was due to their weakness because of lack of food. They were children of a coal miner. And that is not an isolated case.

"At 3 o'clock one morning recently a woman, living in the coal camp at Wickman, called at my home in Beckley. She carried a coal oil can. This poor woman asked me if I would let her have a little oil. She said the family had spent the night in a dark room, and that her baby had died at midnight. The family had no money with which to buy coal oil to light the hovel home in which her baby lay dead.

"The manager of one coal company that is attempting to starve its employees into acceptance of a wage reduction told the men recently that he was acting solely in their behalf in offering them work if they would take lower wages and withdraw from the union. He said he knew their families were suffering for food and that he wanted to do everything he could for them. The next day a miner whose family was without food went to the store of that company and asked the store manager to give him credit for a small sack of flour, promising that he would pay for it out of the first money he earned when he got back to work. But the store manager refused to let him have the flour unless he gave some kind of security for the debt. All that the man had was the few pieces of furniture in his home, and the store manager told him to bring a dresser to the store and leave it as security. The miner went home, and he and his son carried the dresser to the store and left it as security for the price of a 12-pound sack of flour. This incident shows the extremity to which the miners are reduced in the New River districts, and it is this condition that the coal companies are utilizing to starve and beat the men into submission.

"I say to you that it is the height of cruelty for these coal companies to enforce starvation of men, women and children as a means of forcing wages down to a point where the men cannot make a living for their families."

Items of Interest from Overseas

GIVEN DAMAGES.

J. H. Thomas, M.P., a prominent leader of the railwaymen's union forces, secured a verdict of £2,000 damages against the publishers and editor of "Communist," which published cartoons and other matter alleging that Thomas during the coal miners' strike was a traitor to the Labor party.

Mr. Thomas was made a privy counsellor in 1917 and the oath he then took became a prominent detail in the present hearing, the defendants making a point that Mr. Thomas was bound by this oath to reveal to the government any secrets of the alleged revolutionary movement. Mr. Thomas denied that the movement which was proceeding with the strike was revolutionary, although he admitted the industrial upheaval might have led to a position which would challenge the constitution. He said that copies of the privy councillors' oath had been circulated to branches of his union, along with the suggestion that if he was called upon to give His Majesty advice he could not remain true to the union.

Mr. Thomas was proceeding to say that he had discussed industrial matters with His Majesty on several occasions and that nothing impartial had been exacted from him, when he was interrupted by Mr. Justice Carlin, who suggested that Thomas was tending to reveal what passed between His Majesty and a privy councillor and that he should stop there.

Mr. Thomas later said he had no hesitation in giving the court his opinion that the Communist movement here was being subsidized by Russian money.

NATIONAL INSURANCE.

Unemployed workers in receipt of the unemployment benefit of 15s weekly for men or 12s weekly for women, are entitled to special grants if they have dependents. The dependents in respect of whom grants are payable are wife, or housekeeper or woman who is or has been living with applicant in place of wife, or invalid husband and dependent children. For each dependent child the weekly grant amounts to 1s weekly, for any other type of dependent the grant amounts to 5s weekly. To obtain a grant for wife she must be either living with the claimant or be maintained wholly or mainly by him. To obtain a grant for a housekeeper the claimant must be a widower or an unmarried man, and the housekeeper must be residing with the claimant for the purpose of having the care of his dependent children, and she must also be maintained by the claimant. To obtain the grant for a female person who has been, and is living, with the claimant as his wife, the claimant must be a widower or an unmarried man, and the "female person" must have been, and still be living with the claimant as his wife. In addition, in all the above cases the dependent must not be in receipt of unemployment benefit, nor in regular wage-earning employment, nor engaged in any occupation ordinarily easried on for profit. To obtain a grant for an invalid husband he must be prevented by illness from supporting himself, and he must also be maintained by claimant. To obtain a grant in respect of dependent children, they must be claimant's sons and daughters, or step-children, or adopted children; they must also be maintained wholly or mainly at his cost; and they must be under 14 years of age; or, if 14 or over, they must be under 16 and receiving full-time instruction in a day school. To pay for these extra grants the weekly rate of contributions under Unemployment Insurance has been increased as from Nov. 7, to 1s 7d for men, 1s 3d for women, 9 1-2d for boys of 16 and under 18, 8 1-2d for girls of 16 and under 18, the worker's weekly share being 10d, 8d, 5d and 4 1-2d respectively.

BUILDING GUILDS.

Speaking at Birmingham at a meeting of the Building Trade Operatives, S. G. Hobson, secretary of the National Building Trade Guild, said democracy was not worthy unless it was applied to industry.

The great principles behind the Guild idea was that the workers must control their own industry, and that Labor, not Capital, must be the first charge on industry.

Already Building Guild contracts had been secured to the extent of over £2,000,000, and contracts amounting to another £1,000,000 were awaiting sanction.

The Guilds were building houses at from £150 to £200 cheaper than private builders, and the result of Guilds tendering in all parts of the country was to bring down prices considerably thus reducing working-class rents.

Guild houses were also better built and gave entire satisfaction to local authorities and the Ministry of Health.

After Hobson had dealt with a number of questions, it was resolved to form a local Building Guild Committee and affiliate with the National Guild.

COMPULSORY ADJUSTMENTS.

Mr. Jenkins and other members of the National Democratic Party have introduced an Industrial Armistice Bill, which seeks to make arbitration compulsory for the next five years in connection with trade disputes. The Bill was only introduced for propaganda purposes, but is is hard to believe that those responsible for it regard it as a workable measure. Everyone is agreed that trade disputes are bad at any time, and infinitely more so just now, but the only preventive is a sweet reasonableness on both sides, and it would not be good business to pass a measure which would be absolutely flouted should the circumstances arise. Much better than this Bill is the movement, which is steadily gaining ground, for a coming together of employers and employed in an Industrial Parliament to discuss general principles and endeavor to find the greatest common measure of agreement. The best elements on both sides are animated by a common desire, which will bear fruit before long.

UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS.

Measures taken to relieve the unemployment in England have already resulted in considerable success. More than 100,000 men are engaged in relief work while 331 new relief schemes have been sanctioned. These schemes represent an expenditure of nearly £5,000,000, of which London will spend £1,000,000. Credits exceeding £500,000 have been given in the past month under the extended exports credit plan.

Sir Robert Kindersley's committee which was appointed by the government to consider applications under the government's offer to guarantee loans up to a maximum of £25,000,000 for capital undertakings for the purpose of promoting employment, has received a large number of proposals from abroad as well as at home. These proposals include most extensive plans for railway electrification in England, which if undertaken would greatly exceed the limit set by the government of £25,000,000.

The serious nature of the unemployment problem in the United Kingdom is indicated by the latest returns, which show that there are now 1,832,400 persons out of employment.

STILL UNSATISFIED.

"Despite the that reductions, wage questions are by no means settled," writes John Hill, general secretary of th Boilermakers' Society, in his monthly circular to the members.

"It is significant," he proceeds, "that throughout our negotiations of the last eight months the employers have steadily refused to agree to any stabilization of wages, even for a period of three months. My impression is that they think they have got us down."

COLLARED FEDERATION.

The Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation has decided to affiliate with the National Federation of Professional, Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Workers. As the confederation comprises 90 Civil Service staff associations, with an aggregate membership of 70,000, this represents a considerable addition to the numerical strength of the National Federation.

BUSMEN'S BALLOT.

By a decisive majority the busmen of London have rejected a new working agreement which their leaders had advised them to accept. But there will be no strike at present, as further negotiations are expected to take place with the London General Omnibus Company. There are from 12,000 to 14,000 busmen employed by the L. G. O. C. The figures of the ballot were:—

Against acceptance	6,832
For	3,134
Majority against	3,698

The main feature of the new agreement proposed was a rearrangement of the "spread-over" time. There were certain compensating advantages which led to the belief that the ballot would be in favor of acceptance, particularly as the negotiating committee of the men's union had recommended this course. So that more men and 'buses may be put on the roads during "rush" hours, the company proposed that the eight-hours days should be spread over a longer period. This would cause men to "stand off" during slack hours, and complete their duties later. In about 25 per cent. of the cases the "spread-over" would be 12 hours; in the remainder it would be ten hours. In the former case the men would have four hours off in the middle of the day, and in the other case two hours. Strenuous objection has long been raised by the men to any extension of the "spread-over." They say it makes an eight hours day equal to 10 and 12 hours. The "stand off" time between the first four hours and the second four is of little use to them, and is partly lost in going to and from work. Proposals with regard to wages in the new agreement were:—

Present pay to be stabilized till April.

Drivers 10 1-2d an hour for first six months and 1s 2d after. Conductors 9 1-2d and 11d.

Time and a half on bank holidays.

Time and a quarter on Sundays and Good Fridays.

Eight days holiday (instead of six).

At present drivers' wages range from £4 16s to £4 19s a week, and conductors from £4 6s to £4 8s. It was proposed, in the new agreement, that each schedule duty with a spread-over in excess of ten hours should be paid an allowance of 1s 6d. Under the present agreement the daily spread-over of duty is an average of nine hours on each route, with a maximum spread-over of ten hours.

WELSH SITUATION.

The Executive of the South Wales Miners' Federation decided that a meeting of the Joint District Board be convened immediately to consider the general wage situation and that a coalfield conference be held to consider the same matter.

The meeting was specially convened to discuss complaints from various parts of the coalfield in regard to nonpayment of the minimum wage to pieceworkers, and also to consider the advisability of claiming from the employers for special allowances to augment the earnings of the lower-paid day wage men.

Feeling has become so acute in the matter that in some parts, particularly the Maesteg district, workmen have resolved to tender 14 days' notice unless immediate action is taken to secure some improvement in the existing state of affairs.

Distress in the Rhondda Valley is daily growing more acute. Messrs. Lockett's, Merthyr, served notices upon their 2,000 workmen at Mardy, contending that the cost of production exceeds the market value of the coal. Similarly D. Davis and Sons have served notices upon 1,300 men employed at Ferndale and Tylorstown on the ground of falling output.

BEST RETURNS ARE GAINED FROM UNION OFFICES

If you are buying printing, especially if it is aimed to sell merchandise, it is to your interest to see that it is produced by Union printers, working on the eight-hour day, half-day on Saturday basis. Printing produced under these conditions is not only reasonable in first cost, but through its greater effectiveness accomplishes more for each dollar expended.

A printed page is a mighty and a capricious thing. Nowhere is this more true than in advertising literature. One folder will draw inquiries and orders and another fails to attract more than a ripple of interest. The printer skill can make or break the success of any piece of printed matter. In the little decisions of typography, which mean everything in readability and attractiveness, he can increase its effectiveness a thousand-fold. But ability to do things like this takes skill, training, proper working conditions and time for studying and improving the printing art. Right now printers are asking for the enforcement of the forty-four-hour week agreement between themselves and their employers. Eight hours a day and a half-holiday on Saturday gives the Union Printers a chance to be in condition physically and mentally to give your printing the thought and care that its important work deserves. Under these conditions they can work faster and surer and turn out a better job. You want better printing and more of it for your money. The Union Printers are anxious to give it to you. Cooperate with them. Your printer should employ Union Printers on a forty-four-hour-week basis.

For seventy years the International Typographical Union has built for the benefit of the printing crafts. It maintains the great Union Printers' Home and Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Colorado Springs, provides pensions and death benefits and prepares apprentices through a complete course of instruction. If you would like to learn more about this great, progressive organization, address us for the booklet "Facts," which gives you unbiased information in greater detail.

ONTARIO PROVINCE TO START CAMPAIGN TO URGE EMPLOYEES

Word has been received from Toronto that on December 8th the provincial authorities will launch a great campaign in an endeavor to relieve the condition of hardship which is daily becoming more acute on account of the lack of work.

Commencing December 8th, a series of advertisements will be run twice weekly in every daily newspaper in Ontario outlining the new provincial project and calling upon the public to support it. Mr. H. C. Hudson, the provincial superintendent of the employment service, writes that after Dec. 8th Premier Drury and some of the cabinet ministers will probably be available to address meetings to arouse the public to the gravity of the situation.

The proposals made by the provincial authorities are as follows:

That manufacturers be asked to reduce the price of goods to replacement value, taking into account the cost of raw material and labor.

That wholesalers and retailers be asked to reduce their goods to replacement value.

That building be encouraged and that an effort be made to have builders' supplies reduced to the lowest possible price.

That banks and other financial institutions be asked to extend all reasonable credit.

That farmers maintain reasonable production and undertake needful improvements on their farms.

OPPOSE LIVE STOCK ACT

Chicago.—Traders and commission men at the stockyards are opposing the new federal live stock act. They say they are not engaged in interstate commerce, but do an intrastate business, and the law, therefore, does not apply to them.

WILL SHOE PRICES DROP?

Peabody, Mass.—An average wage cut of 12 per cent., affecting 40 tanneries employing 8,000 workers in this vicinity, is announced. These employees are mainly unorganized. They had no voice in the proceeding.