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PRES. M'CREATH AT HIGHLANDS BROTHERHOOD

"Two Forward Movements, Religion and Labor," Subject of Address by T. & L. Head

President Robert McCreath of the Trades and Labor Council was the speaker at the Highlands Men's Brotherhood on Sunday afternoon, taking as his subject, "Two Forward Movements, Religion and Labor." Mr. McCreath said in part:

"The great Church forward movement of today is eclipsing any previous attempt by the Church. It is well that it should aim to eclipse the past work of the Church for, while the Church has had its martyrs and great men in Luther, Knox and many others, and has accomplished wonderful work among the people through all the ages, and is still supremely engaged in the salvation and uplifting of the human family, it can still be said that a very great mass of the people have not yet come to acknowledge this very sacred and essential attachment that should exist between the Church and themselves.

This is accountable in a very great degree to the Church not realizing the fundamental needs of the masses who see so much evidence of the practical teachings and application of Christianity as relating to the everyday lives of the people not being applied. Much of the present unrest would automatically cease as a result of the practice and application of the true Christian spirit in the everyday lives of men, therefore carrying out the true principles of justice as essential but very much lacking today, injustice being at the root of most of the present unrest.

Many, if not all, the large employers of labor and captains of industry are affiliated with the Church and its work, yet when it comes to practicing and carrying out of the principles laid down in their faith they are found wanting, all the while the working conditions surrounding their industrial staffs are far from being what their faith teaches these employers, the conditions should be.

The awakening of the Church to the necessity of her great forward movement is very timely, and let us trust

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SCHOOL TRUSTEES PRESENT REQUESTS TO LEGISLATURE

Ask That Dominion Government Release to Province Money Derived from School Lands

An impetus to education in the city and province will be provided and more elasticity to the schooling systems afforded if the requests of the Edmonton school board to the provincial legislature are granted, according to the presentations of the public school board. The public school trustees visited the parliament buildings Wednesday morning, presenting resolutions requesting:

That the Dominion government release to the province monies derived from the sale of school lands in the province. At present the national government merely allows the province interest on such funds. The province is hard put to provide capital funds to supply school plant and equipment. With the money on hand this problem would be solved largely.

That the provincial government stand half the expense of the erection of a modern technical school in Edmonton, was the text of another request. Edmonton must supply technical education for the central Alberta district. Many pupils from outside points are now enrolled on the technical school. It will be sometime before outside points will be in a position to supply such demand.

That the Dominion government provide for the education of children of soldiers killed overseas is another request forwarded by the Edmonton public school board, the provincial government being requested to urge strongly upon the national government to make such provision.

That the school board be empowered to appoint three members of the library board to bring public libraries and schools in closer relations; that the board be empowered to borrow from the bank to meet current expenditures pending receipt of moneys due from the city, are other requests made to the legislature.

Any application that may be made by the city council for charter amendment providing that the mayor of the city or member or members of the council be ex-officio members of the Edmonton public school board will be opposed by the school trustees.

It is understood that the resolutions and presentations of the school trustees

WINDSOR COMMITTEE BUSY PREPARING FOR DOM. TRADES CONGRESS

The Windsor Trades and Labor Council convention committee are busy preparing for the Trades and Labor Congress, which convenes in that city next September. The personnel of the convention committee is as follows: Chairman, Bro. Clancy, Plumbers' Union, and President of the Trades and Labor Council; School Trustee, Bro. Penwell, Secretary Plumbers' Union; Business Agent, Bro. Alden, Carpenters' Union; Organizer, Bro. Carroll, A.F. of L.; Bro. McKay, Secretary Central Labor Union. Messrs. Stevenson and Hevey, Toronto Labor Leader proprietors, have been awarded the contract respecting the Congress souvenir.

ALEX. ROSS, M.L.A. ADDRESSES TRADES COUNCIL MEETING

Council Adopts Report Advising Renewal of Contract For Publication of Free Press

Alex. Ross, M.L.A., was present at the Trades and Labor Council meeting on Monday evening and gave the assembled delegates some interesting information regarding the non-enforcement of the Factories Act and the minimum wage legislation of this and other western provinces. Mr. Ross pointed out that in Alberta the only minimum wage law was in connection with the Factories Act and the provision is that in factories and shops coming under the act the minimum wage is six dollars per week for the first four months of employment, \$7.50 for the second four months, and \$9.00 from that time on. This is considered very low and conditions are made worse by the fact that a great many employers observe the \$9.00 minimum as a maximum wage. The speaker stated that the average wage paid in stores in the province is \$11.50 per week.

Mr. Ross gave an outline of the minimum wage acts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan where the minimum wage is about one dollar a week higher than the average wage paid in Alberta stores. The acts are administered by an independent commission composed of five members, two of whom are to be women. The commission after investigation fixes the minimum wage.

The meeting which was well attended adopted a report of the executive committee, advising the renewal of the contract with Henry J. Roche for the publication of the Free Press under conditions that have existed for the past six months. Full control of the news and editorial columns of the paper will remain in the hands of the Council, which body will also have the right to censor advertising which might be thought inimical to the trade union movement.

West Edmonton Machinists Union No. 559 made application for affiliation with the council and stated that the union had rid itself of O.B.U. supporters. The application was referred to the credentials committee to report.

The Organization Committee reported progress in the Retail Clerks' organization. The committee also reported that the formation of a Building Trades Council was under way.

A letter was read from Hon. A. G. McKay in connection with treatment of tubercular patients. Mr. McKay wrote in part:

"According to the best evidence that we have been able to gather through a

(Continued on page 4.)

SHIPBUILDING EMPLOYEES BREAK RIVETING RECORD NOW ARE ON STRIKE

Shipbuilders employed by the Moore Shipbuilding company at San Francisco are on strike for higher wages and the company has secured a federal injunction against them.

ST. LOUIS CARPENTERS NOTIFY EMPLOYERS OF NEW RATES DESIRED

The organized carpenters of St. Louis, Mo., district have notified employers that the following rates will be effective after July 1:

Journeymen, \$1.25 an hour; foremen, \$1.37 1/2; work on towers, 50 feet high and over, \$1.25. First year for apprentices, 35 per cent of journeymen's rate; second year, 45 per cent; third year, 60 per cent; fourth year, 80 per cent.

were received affably by the minister of education and every consideration is to be given the petition.

UNION WORKER STATES POLICY IN INITIAL NUMBER

New Labor Paper Has No Room In Its Columns For O.B.U. Or Any of the Isms.

The Union Worker, published at St. John, N.B., states its policy in the editorial columns of its initial number as follows:

"In these columns, there will be no room for One Big Union, Red Anarchy, Socialism, Bolshevism or any other of the fool ideas now rampant in the country. The truth will be placed before its readers regardless of who it may hurt; and the politicians who seek to exploit labor for their own or party purposes will get short shrift from the Worker.

"The average labor man may not be able to juggle figures so as to make a deficit look like a huge surplus or vice versa, but he will know how to put an end to the plundering of the public treasury and the squandering of the people's money on public works that are not of a permanent character. Both old parties are rotten to the core and the country is looking to labor and the farmers to carry on the business of the country in an honest and sane manner.

"Let it be borne in mind that too long have the workmen of this country been jostled about first by one party and then another, and when their ends have been served thrown into the scrap heap until the eve of another election.

B. C. SAILORS' UNION TURN DOWN CANADIAN ONE BIG UNION

The British Columbia branches of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific have refused by a three to one vote to form an independent Canadian organization. They will continue to function in the "one big union" of the coast, which, although affiliated with the A.F. of L., has worked out its own form of organization. Under this arrangement "local" unions do not exist, but are considered branches of the general union.

OVERALL WORKERS SHARE MANAGEMENT OF SWEET, ORR & CO.

Sweet, Orr & Co., manufacturers of overalls, have put their plant at Yorkers, N.Y., on a co-operative management basis, according to the New York World. The idea is to ascertain if workers can manage themselves by the standards they themselves set, and should the experiment prove successful it will be introduced into the eighteen plants of the concern.

REASON FOR HIGH COST OF SHOES MAY BE FOUND IN THIS REPORT

One reason for the high cost of shoes might be found in the annual report of the Central Leather company, New York, which shows a clear profit of nearly \$2,000,000 over the previous year. This is exclusive of all charges and payment on preferred dividends. The total profits were \$8,384,470.

TELEPHONE GIRLS IN NEW YORK CITY ARE ORGANIZING

Telephone girls in New York city are demanding living wages, and several exchanges have been tied up because of walkouts.

ST. JOHN T. & L. COUNCIL WANT LABOR MINISTER IN GOVT

The St. John Trades and Labor Council have recommended the appointment of a minister of labor in the New Brunswick government.

LETTERS UNCALLED FOR

The following letters remain at the Free Press office, uncalled for:

T. J. Howard (2).
Secretary L.O.R.B., Edmonton Lodge No. 132.
Secretary Boilers' Union, Edmonton, Alta.

All letters received will be held for three weeks, at the end of which time, if unclaimed, will be returned to the postoffice.

In the Legislature

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

The annual display of oratorical protechnics terminated rather abruptly on Wednesday evening. The speeches delivered during the debate were not without merit but the outstanding feature of them all was their brevity. The long distance orator is now a thing of the past and it is hoped he will never return. The speech that counts today is the short, bright, snappy speech where the orator keeps within a measurable distance of his subject. The abrupt finish of the discussion of the speech from the throne left the House without a great deal on the agenda. Thursday afternoon was consequently a very short session and Friday afternoon would likely have been the same but Mr. Ewing came to the rescue of the Government and introduced a subject which he claimed to be of grave importance to the Province, that of the condition of the Edmonton and Dunvegan Railway. Mr. Ewing reviewed the history of the company's financial transactions in a very interesting way. He claimed that there had been an enormous loss in the sale of the bonds his calculations of the actual loss was based on the assumption that the bonds were sold at par. All bonds generally sell below par so that Mr. Ewing's case would have been stronger if his calculations had been based on the then prevailing prices. Ewing criticized the method of selling bonds, claiming that agents and others juggled with them but that is the custom of financial institutions who act as agents they dictate the terms and not the Provincial Government. His best statement was that he thought the Government's interest in the railway by virtue of the Mortgage came second to that of the bond holders. The last statement is a question for the courts to decide but if, as Mr. Ewing suggests, the Province has only a secondary claim, something is wrong. Ewing wound up his attack on the Edmonton and Dunvegan Railway by claiming that the company had been unable to meet the interest due on the bonds and that the Government should have then taken possession if they could, rather than pay the \$140,000 interest. The Premier replied, his speech was brief and to the point. He defended the building of the railway because it opened up a large fertile country to the north. He admitted that the condition of the railway was bad, but no worse than many other pioneer railways of the same age. The legal status of the Government's position in the event of default was duly considered before he further stated that everything had been done with a view to making this railway serve its purpose and at the same time protect the finances of the Province. He thought that \$20,000,000 per mile was a reasonable price for building the railway as the Government had built a small branch line which would cost more, a comparison of rather doubtful value as the Government may be worse railway builders than McArthur. The discussion of this railway was evidently good for a few more. Cynics declare that this famous railway was never designed for a utilitarian purpose but to cater to tourist traffic particularly that class of tourists with an unlimited time at their disposal. As a scenic railway it is unique the frequent switchbacks, bog holes and other hazards on the right of way lend a color and charm to it possessed by no other railway. Passengers travelling from Edmonton the whole 419 miles are assured an interesting and eventful journey, something doing all the time until you get there whenever that may be.

TEACHERS QUALIFIED TO SUGGEST CHANGES IN SCHOOL COURSE

Through organization teachers can assist in the development of the public schools system, said Fred M. Hunter, of Oakland, Cal., in a speech in New York City. In the last analysis, he said, the teachers are the ones best qualified to suggest changes in school course. He advocated wider participation of teachers in the administration of schools.

FINGER PRINTS ON NAVY PAY CHECKS FOR IDENTIFICATION

To minimize the forgery of navy pay checks, the navy department at Washington has ordered that the indorsement of every such check must place the impression of the four fingers of his right hand on the back thereof before it will be cashed.

LOCAL COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHERS WILL DANCE MARCH 12TH

The Commercial Telegraphers are holding a dance at Sullivan's hall, on Friday, March 12th.

MILITARY COMMITTEE OF U. S. CONGRESS FAVOR TRAINING

By a vote of 11 to 9 the house military committee at Washington declared for compulsory military training. Opponents of this principle are preparing to wage a vigorous fight when the army bill reaches the house and senate.

STEEL COMPANY AT PORTLAND, ORE. WANT OPEN SHOP

The Electric Steel Foundry at Portland, Ore., has looked out its union iron molders.

The company assures these workers that it is not opposed to unionism but will conduct its plant on the non-union, or so-called "open shop" plan.

LABOR PARTY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Dominion Labor Party takes place on Tuesday evening, March 9, in Labor headquarters. Important business will be dealt with and a large attendance is requested.

(Continued on page 4.)

OPEN FORUM IS ESTABLISHED AT HALIFAX BY I.L.P.

Where All Shades of Opinion On Different Subjects Are Granted Full Expression

Halifax has established an "Open Forum" where all shades of opinion on different subjects under discussion are welcome and granted full expression. The Red Triangle Hotel is being used for the meetings, the first of which took place February 5th. The interest that is being taken in that city in the new institution is evidenced by the large and appreciative audiences in attendance.

There can be no doubt that the Open Forum will function as a powerful factor in the fuller education of all citizens and a vital force towards the restoration of democracy. Some of the subjects to be discussed at future meetings are Rates of Exchange; Is the Church Doing Its Duty? Guiding Principles of Trades Unionism; and Is There Anything Wrong With Our Form of Government? The Co-operative Movement was the subject of the first meeting, the principal speaker being Donald Stewart of the Machinists Union who handled the subject in a very able manner.

These meetings are held every Thursday evening and the subjects are not confined to a few topics, but have a wide range and speakers from every class of society discuss vital problems. The unique part of the meetings are the open debate, when any speaker from the floor can have five minutes to ask questions or discuss any part of the question.

MONTREAL STAR'S BAN ON NEWSWRITERS' UNION HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN

The ban which was placed by C. F. Crandall, managing editor of the Montreal Star, upon reporters joining the newswriters union has been withdrawn. This was the sequel to a conference held between an official of the labor department of Ottawa and the men concerned. The labor department made it clear that unions were legal in Canada and that any attempt to prevent employees joining them was therefore illegal.

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MONTREAL PLANS DAILY LABOR PAPER AND LABOR TEMPLE

The publication of a daily Labor paper and the establishment of a co-operative store will be attempted by the Montreal Trades and Labor Council in the near future. The council will run them in connection with a new Labor Temple, which will be erected in that city, and which will contain, besides offices to house every department of the organization on Montreal, also a large auditorium for conventions. A number of prominent labor men have already promised to subscribe \$100 each to the scheme, and subscriptions from every other union man in the province will be invited. The Council plans to raise \$2,000,000.

EXPLANATION OF WHAT FOREIGN EXCHANGE MEANS

Halifax I.L.P. Economic Class Discusses Foreign Exchange and What It Is.

The Halifax Independent Labor Party have an Economic Class at which subjects of vital interest to the workers of this day and age are taken up and discussed. Everybody is invited to attend these study classes, which are held every Saturday evening.

At a recent meeting the question of foreign exchange was taken up and explained. The explanation of what foreign exchange means is as follows: It is an institution whose purpose is to pay for goods received from another country without the transference of gold. The objection to paying by gold is, first, that it is inconvenient; second, that an over-supply of gold in an exporting country would have an undesirable effect on prices.

"So the transference of gold is avoided by the transference of acknowledgments of debts, to be cancelled by a debtor to the importing country who lives in the exporting country.

"All goes well so long as the imports and exports of a country are about equal. If Great Britain did not export half of what she imported during the war, consequently there were far more bills of exchange, or acknowledgments of debts by buyers in Great Britain than there were buyers in the countries selling to Great Britain to cancel hers.

"The law of supply and demand made English credits go down below normal value. The economic result of the war is, by and large, that America is the world's creditor, and Europe the world's debtor.

"The second phase of the subject was its operation under abnormal rates. The countries of Europe prefer to buy where their money has the greatest purchasing power. Hence, as much as possible, they avoid America, where their money is of little use, and seek fields where their money is at or above par. This tends to a rectification of the abnormal rates.

"It is this inevitable trade preference of the debtor countries that has been chiefly instrumental in opening up trade relations with Soviet Russia. The position of the creditor nation is, in a way, equally trying to the capitalists. Unless outside countries can buy the things that American workers have produced, but do not own, then the American capitalists cannot sell them; and if they stay in the country long enough, their price will come down, which would be very trying.

"But they have their panacea. They will extend credits to Europe for satisfactory securities, i.e., for concessions in the resources of Europe and European colonies, so that American capital can exploit European workers.

"So the very force that opens up trade relations with Soviet Russia brings about the internationalization of capital; and we have the marked thesis that what necessitates the final evolutionary development of capitalism breaks the shell that has shut in and restricted the revolutionary development of man.

ST. JOHN'S NEW SCALE FOR CIVIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES

The St. John Civic Service Employees have submitted the following scale of wages for approval by the Common Council:

Public Works Department: Cleaners, section men and temporary repair men, \$3.20 to \$3.50 per day; carpenters and painters, \$4.80; helpers, \$3.80; crusher foremen, \$5; district foremen, \$4.50 to \$5.00; general foreman, \$5 to \$6; asphalt packers, sidewalk and construction foremen, \$4 to \$4.75; drillmen, \$3.75 to \$4.25; watchmen, \$3.20 to \$3.50; machinist foremen, \$5.25 to \$5.50.

Water and Sewerage: \$3.75 for laborers; for other classes, including pipe-men, machinists and carpenters, \$5.75 to \$5.50.

Market Department—Sweeper and watchmen, \$3.50 to \$3.50.

COMMISSION TO STUDY CONDITIONS CENTRAL EUROPE

Canada May Have Representation On Commission Which Is Being Organized

According to a cablegram received by the minister of labor from Deputy Minister F. A. Acland, who is at present in London, Canada may have representation on a commission which is being organized for the purpose of visiting Austria, Poland, Southern Russia, etc., to find out exactly the conditions in Central Europe.

Mr. Acland and Tom Moore are the Canadian representatives who went to Paris to attend the International Labor Conference in that city, and are now in London awaiting the next meeting of the governing body which takes place in that city March 22nd. Mr. Acland is the representative of the Dominion Government and Mr. Moore is the employees' representative.

It is proposed that the suggested commission consist of ten members, and Canada, it is said, should submit the name of the representative without any delay so that if the commission is established at the time of the March meeting, and Canada is accorded a place upon it, there will be no time lost in getting to work.

This commission would probably be representative of a large number of countries and would have excellent facilities for investigating conditions in Central Europe. One of the items on the agenda for the March meeting is the question of establishing an international commission on emigration. Mr. Acland expressed the view that it is desirable for Canada to have representation on this commission if possible.

R.R. BROTHERHOODS PROPOSE TO HAVE A LABOR BANK

With a Bank They Can Do Many Things They Are Now Hampered In Doing

A labor bank that will change the whole face of the labor struggle in the United States when it is established is the development which the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers expects to show the movement in 1920.

Its headquarters will be in Cleveland, but it will open branches in all parts of the country so that the funds of the organized railroad workers may be deposited in their own institution, and in order that their joining resources may be mobilized to fight their battles more effectively than at present.

This seems to be the dominant note in national labor affairs at the beginning of this year—the determination to go in for more co-operation in making, buying and distributing the necessities of life.

While it is likely that the Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, the Railway Conductors and the Railway Trainmen will join with the Engineers' Brotherhood in this banking enterprise, since their need for it is just as pressing and their benefit from it will be equally immediate and far reaching, yet the Engineers' officials are confident that its establishment will not need to wait action by more than one of these organizations.

Once they have a bank, the four brotherhoods can do many things that now they want to do, but are hampered in doing. There is the matter of food supply, of clothing supply, of fuel supply, which must be put on some co-operative basis if prices are to come down. And there is their campaign to win the decision of Congress for the public ownership and democratic operation of the railroads.

LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

- Sunday, March 7th
Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, No. 99.
Commercial Telegraphers No. 108.
Monday, March 8th
Boilermakers, No. 279.
Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stabblers and Helpers.
Bridge and Structural Iron Workers No. 129.
- Tuesday, March 9th
Dominion Labor Party.
Old Fort Machinists No. 1266.
Bookbinders No. 188.
- Wednesday, March 10th
Garment Workers, No. 120.
Dominion Express Employees, Local No. 14.
Electrical Workers No. 544.
- Thursday, March 11th
Civic Employees, No. 30.
Stationary Engineers and Firemen.
- Friday, March 12th
Machinists, No. 817.
Civic Service Union No. 52.