Labor News From Coast to Coast

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

Weekly News Letter

An Official National Labor Paper.

VOL. 2 — $1.00 Per Year. — National and Rational. — OTTAWA, SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1920. — Live News and Views. — Single Copy 5 Cents.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ACT MAY SOON BE OBSOLETE DUE TO CO-OPERATIEV SPIRIT

Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, Tells Of Results Of Co-Operative Understanding Existing In Canada Between Capital and Labor.

Labor, through its official mouthpiece, the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, asked the Canadian government during the course of the last intervie to repeal the Canadian Industrial Disputes Act. The Act, as has been pointed out on many occasions by the Canadian Labor Press, is one of controversy and while Congress has on one or two occassions voiced its opinion against the Act, still it has at the same time asked that its scope be enlarged to include all workers engaged in public utilities. However, in the course of an address before the Dominion Customs' Association last week the Minister of Labor, Hon. Gideon Robertson, expressed the thought that the day would come when the Industrial Disputes Act would be regarded as obsolete and that all differences would be referred to tribunals agreed upon by mutual consent.

The Minister of Labor responded to the toast to the Parliament of Canada. Senator Robertson stated that in observing the trend of events in the world during the last few years, he was pleased to note that all the great and lasting changes came by evolution rather than by revolution. A broader spirit of goodwill was stalking through the land, and the attitude of employers toward the workers had been greatly improved. If it were not for the co-operation shown during the past few moderate and well meaning employers and employes, Labor would have drifted [illegible] open enmity would have [illegible] with disastrous results.

[illegible] Robertson pointed to the fa[illegible] there had been no strike du[illegible] the war or fifteen months after the cessation of hostilities, among the 175,000 employes of the Canadian railways as evidence of the happy results to be expected when employers and employes agree to settle thir differences amicably through the medium of a tribunal whose decision was final.

Speaking of the Industrial Disputes Act, Senator Robertson said that it had been strenuously opposed by Labor at its inception, but it has since been recognized as good legislation and accepted as a distinct benefit to Labor. Referring to the greatly improved relations between employers and employes, Senator Robertson said that he thought the day would come when the Industrial Disputes Act would be regarded as obsolete, and that all differences would be referred to tribunals agreed upon by mutual consent.

"I think," said Hon. Mr. Robertson, "that you members of the Customs' Officers Association probably appreciate more fully than any other group of employes in the Civil Service the importance of rendering good service and you quite naturally expect in return something more than the perhaps too meagre compensation which you receive."

HON. E. C. DRURY, Premier of Ontario and Leader of the U. F. O. in Legislature.

SPECIAL SESSION BRITISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS

"Direct Action" Will Not Be Used to Force Nationalization of Mines.

The British Trade Union Congress is in special session at London this week. According to press despatches it will not concentrate upon "direct action" on the question of the nationalization of mines, but upon an immediate further increase of wages in default of a drastic reduction in the prices of food and other essentials.

Robert Smille, the miners' leader states he will resign his position in the union should the nationalization programme be dropped. However, in the absence of British Labor papers, we are unable to verify this report.

The mines have been under discussion in the British House of Commons on many occasions and a Royal Commission last year brought in a majority report in favor of the nationalization of the mining industry. Labor asked the government to put the recommendations of the commission into effect. This they refused to do, and then Labor commenced a programme of national propaganda in favor of such a move.

The special session of the Trades Union Congress has been called to deal with the question of the mines. "Direct action" is hinted at by some of the labor leaders while many others warned the workers against such a move. However, the whole question is being dealt with at the special session of the Congress and a concrete programme arranged.

In the meantime it is officially announced that the Government is about to present a bill to Parliament for control of the coal industry. They have already limited the coal owners' profits to the pre-war standard plus ten per cent. while the miners' wages are about trebled. The new Government proposal is an alternative to the miners' suggestion of nationalization of coal mines, and establishes district management boards on which the miners will be represented; it further proposes to buy out all mining royalties and way-leaves, paying in 5 per cent. treasury bonds. Thus the reconstruction of the coal industry, following the example designed for the railways, seeks to establish a permanent improvement in wages and hours to the considerable share by labor in the control of working conditions.

President Tom Moore of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, who is in London awaiting the adjourned meeting of the governing body of the International Labor Office, will no doubt be in attendance at the special session of the British Trade Union Congress and will have some interesting information for Canadian workers when he returns to the land of the maple.

RUSSIANS TODAY ENJOY NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS ASSOCIATION OR MEETING

Bolshevism Has Destroyed All Of the Principles Of Democracy and the Leaders Are Tyrants—Plain Statement From a Man In the Street.

We have today in Canada a small group of individuals who point with considerable pride to the administration of Soviet Russia and openly state that its adoption here will cure all our ailments and stamp out unrest. It is interesting that many members of the advanced school of thought have failed "to see light." In Great Britain, where there is easier access to detailed and accurate information, Bolshevism is not popular. "Justice," the organ of the Social-Democrat, says: "Bolshevism inevitably breeds reaction. When other countries are adopting an eight-hour day, Russia is extending to a 12-hour one." This is not all. It gives prominence to an address on "The Russian People's View on Bolshevism," in the course of which the speaker tells of the inevitable reaction.

The report follows:

Under the auspices of the N. S. P. a public meeting was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday, 13th inst., to hear an address by Mr. Paul Dukes on the subject of "The Russian People's View of Bolshevism." Mr. Dukes has lived in Russia since 1909, and witnessed in Petrograd the opening incidents of the Revolution of March, 1917. After the Bolshevik revolution, he was connected with relief and educational work, and conducted an inquiry, as delegate of the Russian Relief Committee, into the distress prevailing in Russia. During the war he was a member of the Anglo-Russian Commission at Petrograd, and more recently he served in the Red army.

Fred H. Gorle, in the absence through illness of Dan Irving, M.P., occupied the chair, and introduced the speaker.

After a few introductory remarks, Mr. Dukes asked:—

What has happened in Russia since 1917? What were the principles of the Revolution of March, 1917? What did they fight for? They fought for freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of association and meeting, freedom of labor organization, freedom to strike, abolition of social, religious and political restrictions, universal suffrage and the secret vote, and for the convocation of a National Assembly elected by a democratic electorate. Have these principles been realized? He could claim to speak not as a casual tourist, but from the point of view of the man in the street in Russia. They had now a Government in Russia purporting to be a Government of the workers and peasants. Surely that Government should have secured the principles of the Revolution. Let us see what three years had brought. Freedom of speech in Russia today was unknown. In elections only one party had freedom of expression—the Communist party. All non-Bolshevist parties were forced to adopt the unexceptionable title of "non-party." In the elections to the Petrograd Soviet last year, Communist canvassers were busy, and groups distributed leaflets. No other party was allowed to do so. Not only was criticism of Bolshevism not allowed, but the expression of political opinion even was suppressed. In effect, only those nominated by the so-called Communists could be elected. It might be asked how, in spite of this ruthless restriction and violent restriction and violent suppression of democratic method, any non-party candidate could possibly be elected. The answer was that the Bolsheviks forgot the women's vote. From end to end of Russia not a paper, book, pamphlet, or even advertisement can be published except by consent of the Bolshevik authorities. When the Socialists protested against Allied intervention they were allowed to open their press. But when they criticized Bolshevism they were suppressed.

What about the holding of a meeting? This was only possible under a Communist chairman. And what about the vote? No one who engages in any form of private enterprise has a vote. And the right to strike? No crime was considered so serious in the eyes of the Government as a strike. In short, every form of political and industrial freedom had vanished, and from the most generous standpoint Russia today was under a grinding tyranny, which prevented any personal or natural development.

The speaker detailed the story of the dispersal of the Constituent Assembly at the point of the bayonet, and accounted for what had happened by reminding his audience of the fact that when England had Parliamentary government, Russian political institutions were in an embryonic state. No nation could grow and ripen to political maturity in three months. The result was that the Russian people had fallen a prey to the first form of despotism that raised its head. Visitors to the Soviet Government had drawn attention to the fact that railways, trams, lighting, and public works were still going on in Russia. Even the successful crops were attributed to Trotsky, although similar good results had been achieved in Denikine's territory. It was only natural, of course, that the present Government should claim all the credit.

The Bolshevik leaders were tyrants, but not necessarily bloodthirsty tyrants. Some of them were high-minded idealists; as, for example, the Commissary of Education.

The Russian Co-operative Societies, which had grown to colossal dimensions before the Bolshevik "coup," had been reduced to the level of a State organization as soon as the Bolsheviks saw in them a menace to their own authority. Nevertheless, there was no organization in Russia so capable as the Co-operative Societies, and in that and in Russia's children lay the hope for the future. The majority of the Russian people were opposed to Bolshevism. How, then, did the Red Armies win? The main reason lay in this. Kolchak and Denikine were defeated, and the White Armies, in which there were many who stood by the principles of the 1917 Revolution, met disaster on account of their own reactionary entourage.

The Red Armies were composed of regiments made up exclusively of Communists, regiments made up partly of Communists, regiments with groups of Communists for political purposes, and foreign regiments. The bulk of the Red Armies had no more fighting spirit than the speaker would have if he were called upon to fight against the Fiji Islanders. The Russian people are calling for peace. The vast majority of the Red Armies are longing for peace. The Russian bourgeoisie were working and fighting for the Bolsheviks. They were doing so partly because their wives and families were held as hostages, and partly because they think they see in the present iron rule a repetition of the Tsarist regime.

M. Strumillov, a member of the delegation of Russian Trade Unionists, briefly addressed the meeting; and H. M. Hyndman, who moved a vote of thanks to the speaker for his impartial and instructive address, spoke briefly.

HON. WALTER ROLLO, Minister of Labor and Leader of the Labor Group in Ont. Legislature.

DOMINION GOVT'S FORMAL REPLY TO CONGRESS

Organized Labor's Legislative Programme Received More Than "the Once Over."

Some few weeks ago the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, through its executive, laid Organized Labor's legislative programme before the members of the Dominion Cabinet. The conference was an informal one insofar as the presentation of the various matters were concerned. The press were excluded on the request of the Acting Premier, Sir George Foster, to allow frank discussion which he claimed might be curtailed were the press admitted. Organized Labor laid its programme before the cabinet in the same manner as heretofore basing its arguments on facts and frank discussion did take place. The programme was a lengthy one and covered many questions—some 26 in all—a complete survey of which appeared in these columns at the time.

This week a formal reply was received from the Acting Prime Minister on behalf of the Dominion Government by Secretary P. M. Draper, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. This is a change from the old policy of "due consideration." In the reply the Government states exactly just what it intends to do with the various matters.

"It cannot be conceded that public service employes shall be subject to control of any organization or federation of industrial workers and be therefore involved in industrial disputes," states the Acting Prime Minister. However, in refusing this request the Government's reply points out that employes in its service are in a different category, inasmuch as there is no incentive from the standpoint of money profit to improve unfair or onerous working conditions or rates of pay. Parliament representing all the people, labor included, has as well made provision for the fair determination of any grievances.

The congress asks that the Government recognize the principle of collective bargaining by instituting its own departments wherever practicable and undertake the initiative in establishing councils in industries recognizing trade unions as basis of representation. In reply the Government states:

"In the administration of the Department of Labor the Minister of that department has on more than one occasion recognized the wisdom, on the part of both employers and employes, whether in individual cases or as groups within a given industry, of meeting together and negotiating with a view to the settlement of differences existing between them."

To the request for the adoption of the forty eight hour week or eight hours a day the Government explains:

"The peace treaty, the terms of which the Parliament of Canada has already approved, together with the action of the Labor Congress at Washington, recommends the adoption internationally of a forty-eight hour week or an eight-hour day. It is our firm purpose to give legal adhesion to the terms so agreed upon. The necessity in this connection of having regard to the progress made to this end by other countries must be apparent to all. The further question as to whether the necessary legislation is within the jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament of Canada or of the Provincial Legislatures is now being investigated with a view of reaching an understanding with the provinces on this subject:

Restrictive immigration regulations, it is explained, are already in effect.

The Government asks for suggestions from the congress on co operative legislation, protection of union labels, violation of the fair wage clause and changes in the Industrial Disputes Act. It is pointed out that the Federal Government has already given substantial assistance in solving the housing problem, also that restrictive orders-in-council were for the disloyal, not the loyal, citizens of the country.

The Government refuses to place rural mail carriers under the civil service or to interfere in the internal management of the national railways, pointing out that through their railway unions labor can negotiate with the National Railway Board.

Proportional representation advocated by the Labor Congress, it is stated, will be considered at a speakers' conference.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC UTILITIES--A LABOR POLICY BASED ON SOUND PRINCIPLE

Canadian National Railways Will Soon Be Factor In Paying Canada's War Debt, Declares President Hanna In a Splendid Address Before Canadian Club At Ottawa.

Public ownership of all public utilities has been a plank in the platform of Canadian Organized Labor since its inception. That this policy is sane and based on sound principles has on many occasions been exemplified. The Canadian National Railways despite the protests of many opponents of public ownership are fast paving the way to success, according to the latest declaration of the president of the system, who must know whereof he speaks.

The state of affairs on American railways, under government control, has been pointed to as an example of the fallacy of public ownership. The Canadian Labor Press has contended and is still of the opinion that the failure of public control of the United States railways was due to inefficient management, political patronage and interference and further that public ownership was never given a fair trial. However, in President Hanna's address before the Canadian Club at Ottawa last Saturday he puts the case in its true light.

He predicted that before long all government railways in Canada would be on a paying basis and that the strong probabilities were the returns would in a few years in a great measure help to pay Canada's war debt. He stated there could be no comparison between the earning capacity of the Canadian National Railways and the United States government monopoly of railways that existed during the past two years. The great thing Canada had to guard against was political interference, of which, up to the present, there had been no sign.

Incidentally, he insisted that if Mr. McAdoo had any ability as a railway man, he had not shown it in his administration of the U. S. lines. The position of the two countries was not in any way parallel, and he added, he could easily answer the melancholy forebodings and the cries in Canada that there was disaster ahead.

"The calamitous experience of our neighbors to the south," he said, "in their two years of experience of government operation, is advanced as an object lesson of what is in store for us. It is very easy to dispose of the U. S. 'bug a-boo,' for there is no parallel between the conditions existing at that time in the United States and government control in Canada."

The United States, he added, took possession of its railways as a war measure. In Canada the railways were taken over for economic reasons. The object of the United States in taking them over was to get a unified service during the war regardless of cost. In Canada they were taken over for adequate and efficient service. The measure in the United States was temporary and in Canada permanent. There were political reasons in the States. Mr. McAdoo was appointed over night by Wilson's government to take charge of 265,000 miles of railway. In Canada the affair was non-political and the board of managers were business men. On the one side there was no competition, and in Canada there would always be competition, which would be welcomed.

He referred to the cheap freight rates existent in Canada, which were about 8-10 cents per ton per mile, and added that if the Canadian railways were given the same rate that existed in South Australia —2.14 cents—on the investment of one and a half billion dollars they would pay not only 5 1-2 per cent., but they would pay 5 1-2 per cent on the whole national debt of Canada, and on top of that they would have left $100,000,000 to buy new equipment.

Referring to the Government plan for a marine fleet Mr. Hanna stated at the present time the National Railways had 24 vessels on various routes. With the opening of navigation this spring there would be a regular service from Montreal to St. John's, Nfld. On the Pacific Coast it was expected a service would be started to South Africa, returning by Singapore and Hong Kong and also a Canada to Manchester service and a further service to the west coast of South America. He also spoke of the agencies being established all over the world to develop trade. The government, he said, was giving a great deal of thought to passenger service and before very long the minister of marine and fisheries would have something to say in this regard. The total program is to complete 65 ships with a gross tonnage of 385,000. A very impressive fleet of Canadian Government freight cruisers.

ASCERTAIN FACTS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Tom Moore Unable to Represent Dominion of Canada.

The organization of a commission backed by the League of Nations, and upon which Canada may have representation, for the purpose of visiting Austria, Poland, Southern Russia, etc., to find out exactly the conditions in Central Europe, is to be called in a cable received by the Minister of Labor from Deputy Minister Acland, who is at present in London. It is suggested that Canada should have her representative immediately.

In reply to a cable from Senator Robertson, asking if Mr. Acland or Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress, who waiting in London for the next meeting of the governing body of the International Labor Conference, could go, Mr. Acland says that it would be almost impossible for them to make arrangements. Conditions of travel, etc., are extremely difficult, and difficulties of language would make it comparatively useless to travel in the various countries without an interpreter. It would, however, be possible to obtain the latter.

The Deputy Minister, however, goes on to say that Director Albert Thomas, of the governing body of the International Labor Conference, has informed him of the suggested commission, which may consist of ten members. Canada, it is stated, should submit the names of their representatives without 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.

Mr. Acland states that one of the items on the agenda for the meeting on March 22, is the question of establishing an international commission on emigration. He expressed the view that it is desirable for Canada to have representation on this commission if possible.

NEED OF GOOD HOUSING.

"No other single agency—not even the baby clinic or the public school—exerts such an influence for good or evil as the home that forms the baby's almost exclusive environment. —Edith E. Wood.

THE SANCTITY OF THE HOME.

Judge Lanctot, according to reports in Montreal dailies, in deliberating a judgment which took him 45 minutes to pronounce from the bench at Montreal last week said:

"But no matter how humble, a man's home is sacred, and I want to put a stop to this indiscriminate raiding of people's homes in order to secure evidence—all without warrants."

GERARD UPHOLDS CANADA'S ATTITUDE.

Canada's stand in regard to the League of Nations voting was supported by James W. Gerard, former ambassador to Germany, in an address at Mitchell last week.

"When orators denounce the league and declare that England is to have six votes and the United States but one, read the covenant of the league and discover the truth for yourselves," said Mr. Gerard.

"Cuba, far more under the control of the United States than Canada is under the control of England, also has one vote. So do San Salvador, Honduras, Hayti, and many others, whose votes are certain to uphold the interest of the United States."

STRAIGHT TALK FROM EDMONTON'S LABOR MAYOR.

In a recent address touching on labor questions, Mayor Clarke pointed out the danger to Western Canada if the concrete headed newly rich at Winnipeg were allowed to continue their judicial farce of putting returned soldiers in jail for making speeches where yesterday's news from France proclaimed that the first act of the new French president was to pardon all criminals, war or peace, order-in-council or penal code, except those actually guilty of treason.

With this is the chief news of the day from the seat of war, it was time some one stepped on the fanatical persecutors of Manitoba, was Mayor Clarke's concluding shot, and, whisper softly, concluded amidst an ovation.

A. F. OF L. FURTHER EXTENDS ITS INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION POLICY

Industrial organization. Where did we hear that phrase before. One Big Unionists, its advocates and adherents have shouted for industrial organization for a long, long time. They were told it was coming and were shown how it would be brought about through the International trade union movement. This was too sane for them as it entailed evolution and not revolution. When the policy of the American Federation of Labor was put forward they said it's too slow. Yet it is today an accomplished fact. However, the radicals, or some of them at least, bolted and attempted to establish industrial organization by the other way. We had it in some parts of Western Canada where the One Big Union thrived for a little while. But it's progress was not so rapid as its advocates had predicted. Instead of industrial organization we have the workers, who were foolish enough to leave the International Trade Union movement, knocking at the door seeking re-admittance.

The American Federation of Labor's policy of industrial organization is through the establishment of Printing Trades Councils, Building Trades Councils, Metal Trades Councils, etc.

Now the policy of the American Federation of Labor has been further extended for its Metal Trades Department has agreed to a proposal made by many of the organizations in the iron trades in Canada whereby the marine trades and metal trades unions in Canada, can become affiliated into a Canadian Metal Trades organization under the jurisdiction and authority of the American Federation of Labor.

The unions in Canada have lost no time in taking advantage of the decision, and have started the organization. Recently in Montreal preliminary steps were taken to form the combination and at the present time International organizers are busy in various parts of Canada, bringing the two federations into line. The temporary president of the new organization is a Toronto man, Harry Kirwin, who is an organizer of the International Association of Machinists.

The new move means that in Toronto, for example, all the organizations belonging to the metal trades, such as machinists, pattern-makers, molders, brass finishers, boilermakers, metal polishers, sheet metal workers and others will be able to join together into a central council in Toronto, with this addition, that the marine trades organizations will also be joined to the metal trades, and include all the unions whose members are employed in the shipyards, including boilermakers, shipbuilders, carpenters, molders, and other shipyard trades. Previously the shipyards' employes and the metal trades men were in two distinct federations. Now they will all be in one. Each city will have a local central council composed of these unions, and they in turn will be combined together in a Canadian District Council. The organizations are all International unions, and will come directly under the Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L. Organizers say the new movement will take a little time to amalgamate and consolidate, but when completed will be one of the strongest Labor combinations in Canada.

DUTY OF EVERY WORKER TO BECOME MEMBER OF UNION.

It is the duty of every man who toils, every man who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow, to become a member of the union of his particular craft or calling. Not only a member in name, but a loyal, consistent member, who is always ready and willing to stand by the principles of the organization at all times, in adversity as well as in prosperity, and not be merely a member with a due book because they have to be and ready to desert the organization at the first time of trouble.

If you are going to be a union man, be a good one! Be a union man first, last and always, for anyone who accepts the benefits gained by organized Labor should be equally willing to help pay for the same. So think it over, my friend, and you will find just two classes in which the workers may be divided —those belonging to the union and those who do not; and no matter how fine you draw the lines of reasoning, the fact remains that those who are not members are against us. While it is true that some of them do not raise their hand or voice against us, it is equally true that neither do they raise their hand or voice for us by paying their just share of expense or labor to gain those conditions so much desired by all of us.

G. T. R. WANTS BOARD.

The Grand Trunk Railway has officially notified the Department of Labor that it desires a board of conciliation to adjust the wage schedule of its employes. The employes, whose interests are being furthered by their union, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employes, will be represented on the board by Fred Bancroft, of Toronto.

100,000 FROM MANCHESTER ARE MIGRATING TO CANADA.

Tremendous expansion for Western Canada is predicted by J. T. Hutson, of New York, representative of the Manchester Guardian in America. One reason is that a great amount of British capital was being diverted to this country and combined with this is the projected exodus of 100,000 heads of families from the Manchester district alone to Canada. These men represent many departments of life, with a large percentage agriculturists. Money that hitherto has been invested in the United States will be invested in Canada.

GORKY IS DISILLUSIONED.

STOCKHOLM, March 4.—Bitter disappointment with Bolshevism is expressed in an article published recently by Maxim Gorky, the Russian Radical, according to despatches received here. "The men in power now are just as brutal as those in authority under the Imperial regime," Gorky declares.

NO GOVERNMENT HAS RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH MAN'S LIBERTY.

Demonstrating its intention of supporting the efforts of the Moderation League, a mass meeting Friday at Vancouver unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Government to enact a law better to protect the liberty of the subjects and maintain their rights as free men and women, this being done after Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had declared that no Government or other body of men had any right to take away the personal liberty of a British subject or to dictate what he should eat or drink.

He declared the men in Canada behind the Prohibition Act had not the courage of their convictions as they had in the United States. There, neither rich nor poor, could keep liquor in his house, but here the Government held in the hollow of its hand only the poor man who had no money and no cellar.

Funny though the Union Government is repeatedly taking away one's personal liberty.—Ed.

NOT WANTED.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

Nearly 50 locals affiliated with the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union reported wage gains during the past month. The increases were of the substantial kind and will permit these workers to give H. C. of L. a more effective battle.

HUGE SUMS PAID BY MINERS' UNION.

An official statement by the Notts Miners' Association of Great Britain has been issued showing that during the past year close upon £65,000 was disbursed in strike pay to men and boys, and dependent children of miners. Unemployment pay for the same period totalled £21,644, the railway strike costing about £17,000 of that sum.

A SPOTTER WHO WAS NOT A "SPOTTER."

Donald Wright, while in Hamilton last Friday, says our Hamilton correspondent, related the following amusing story in Business Agent "Dick" Riley's office. Recently International Organizer Jack Thomas, Textile Workers' Union, landed in a small Ontario town on organizing business. He registered at a hotel where, day in and day out, "John Barleycorn" flowed freely. But with Mr. Thomas' arrival the "cheer gusher became bone dry. Regular imbibers became angry upon their supplications falling on deaf ears. This state of things held sway until a deputation of customers asked the boss why the O.T.A. had been invoked.

"You Mutts, do you think I'm hughouse? Don't you know there's a 'spotter' in the hotel?" spoke out the boss.

"Why, you're crazy. That fellow's an organizer. And perhaps he's dry, same as the rest of us," they said.

ONTARIO MOLDERS' CONFERENCE POSTPONED.

William A. Mowry, Peterboro, Ont., secretary-treasurer Ontario Molders' Conference Board, being ill with 'flu, the annual convention scheduled to convene in Toronto last Friday and Saturday had to be postponed indefinitely. Mr. and Mrs. Mowry were prostrated in bed two days before being discovered by neighbors. Dr. King, of Peterboro, notified Business Agent W. J. Lucas of Mr. Mowry's plight. A telephonic conversation between International Fourth Vice-President J. H. Barnett, who happened to be in Toronto, and Mr. Lucas, determined postponement of the convention.

LABOR PARTY GROWS IN NEW ZEALAND

In Recent Election it Polled Surprising Vote.

The growth of the political power of the Labor party is revealed by the returns of votes cast at the New Zealand general election in December last. The Reform Government, headed by W. F. Massey, gained an emphatic victory, winning 48 seats in a House of 80 members, but its successes in many electorates were due to the splitting of the Opposition vote between Liberal and Labor candidates. The figures are not quite complete at the time of writing, but the distribution of votes is indicated with sufficient accuracy by the following figures: Government, 186,461; Liberal Opposition, 162,056; Labor party, 128,417; Independent, 43,012.

In the four cities the votes were distributed among the candidates as follows: Labor, 76,850; Liberal, 52,865; Government, 48,684; Independent, 24,773. The Labor party won seven of the 25 city seats, but on its voting strength it should have got 10 seats. The Government scored in the country districts, but even there the Labor party revealed unexpected strength. In Hawkes Bay, for example, the home of wool kings and rich squatters, a Labor candidate scored 2,176 votes, while a Liberal had 2,292 votes and the successful Government candidate 3,234 votes.

These figures are more significant than they appear at first glance. The Liberal party, in the years when it made New Zealand famous for social and legislative advancement, was a combination of progressive elements that included the workers. The rise of the Labor party was in a sense a split in the Liberal party. The question now is whether or not the Liberal party, which has suffered disaster in the triangular fighting, is going to split again, its moderate elements going to the Reform party and its radical elements to Labor. Already many of the prominent members of the older parties are asking for a combination of forces against the Labor party.

The union label saves time and talk in making sales. It sells itself, and it never deceives the purchaser.

MURDER WILL OUT—WHY U. S. HAS NOT RATIFIED THE PEACE TREATY

Did you ever stop to consider why the United States of America or a section of its citizens at least, were anxious that, the great republic be deprived of its seat in the League of Nations?

Labor, which always advocates peace and is determined that wars shall cease has asked that the Peace Treaty with the Central Powers be ratified and that the League of Nations covenant and the Labor Chapter contained therein be carried into full force and effect by the U. S. Government. However, the American Congress has not, nor is it likely for some time to come, ratified the Peace Treaty.

This week Secretary Daniels puts the "spot-light" on the situation when he said that "If the Senate fails to ratify the Peace Treaty and thus refuse to join the League of Nations, the United States must immediately start to build the greatest navy in the world." This then is the secret why a section of politicians sent to Washington by interests other than Labor have not ratified the Peace Treaty.

In the meantime the Naval Secretary says that the United States must continue its pre-war naval building programme until it is determined whether that country is to be a member of the League of Nations.

If the treaty is ratified the huge naval expenditures can be checked as only sufficient additional construction to round out the present programme will then be necessary, the Secretary said, adding that gradual disarmament would follow.

"The present conditions of unrest make it inadvisable to assume a policy of inactivity while the Senate is deciding our future international relations," said Daniels.