

Trade Unions Lead to Winning

POWER OF INTERNATIONAL TYPO UNION MAY BE GAUGED BY REPORT

An analysis of the financial and numerical position of the International Typographical Union is placed before the members in the report recently issued by Sec. Treas. Hayes and no crumb of comfort may be gleaned there. Therein is set forth in concise form the financial transactions for the year, and also a number of suggestions are made which, the secretary-treasurer believes, would be of great value to the International Union.

It is shown that the receipts from all sources for the year were \$2,948,959.97, the expenditures were \$1,856,409.45, and the excess \$1,092,550.52. The balance in the general fund on May 31 was \$393,819.17; the balance in the mortuary fund was \$430,423.02, and the balance in the old age pension fund \$466,387.45. In addition there was owing \$250,000 to the mortuary fund, and a like amount to the general fund for the purpose of paying strike benefits in the forty-four hour struggle.

There was paid out during the year in strike benefits and special assistance to local unions the sum of \$383,485.02, and to district and national typographical organizations \$5,200. Representatives, regular and special, to the number of sixty-two, drew a total of \$114,491.56 for services and expenses incurred in performing work for the organization during the year.

The general expenditures are compiled in a separate table and amount to a total of \$1,856,409.45. This includes expenses of maintaining headquarters, convention expenses, officers' salaries, and to district and national trade unions and the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, printing, etc.

The members of the International Union drew \$27,979,124 more wages than in the preceding year, which shows that substantial wage increases were secured at a time when there was a general tendency toward a reduction in pay in most industries. The average earnings per member for the year were \$1,909.93 an increase of \$103.02 over the previous year.

During the year \$1,410,857.71 was paid out to members as benefits and in maintaining the union. Hayes is leaving \$449,554.68 as the amount of all other expenditures of the organization. The Home Fund's portion of the per capita tax amounts to \$396,198.14.

The amount of clerical in the secretary-treasurer's office will be reduced from 11 to 10, and that during the year there were written 11,771 typewritten letters, 14,476 postal cards mailed, 217 packages of supplies shipped, and 513 other express packages. Receipts and circulars numbering 21,996 were mailed during the year.

There were 736 deaths during the year on which mortuary benefits were paid, fifty-three less than the

A BIG PAPER CALLS ATTENTION TO OUTSTANDING PROBLEM

Says the "Montreal Star":
The first job which confronts Premier Meighen is the consideration of the present serious and the imminent tragic problem of UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment is now a pathetic and disturbing fact in our larger centres. When snow flies, it will have grown to a shocking and even alarming incubus on our winter cities which will entirely submerge the already heavily-drained resources of private charity, and will not be denied, whose winter has been a period of municipal relief—if something prompt and Napoleonic is not done.

The local people who give—give for everything cannot possibly meet even the preliminary demands of this problem. They cannot handle it today when our harvests are humming with life, when the West is swallowing up harvests, and the soft summer weather is temperate to the hazy days. Plainly they will be utterly helpless in the face of deal suffering and an insistent WANT which will not be denied, whose winter has been a period of municipal relief—if something prompt and Napoleonic is not done.

Every section of the Dominion can suggest obvious lacks. Here in Montreal, for instance, we have pleaded for years that the Grand Trunk tracks be raised above the street level. This is a public work which could be pushed ahead throughout the winter, thus furnishing employment for thousands at the very crisis of our unemployment trouble. They this new nation needs good roads. Money spent on them is good road. The Federal, Provincial, and even municipal authorities could get together on a genuinely nation-wide scheme for the construction of roads, chiefly radiating out from the cities. This would open the farmers' way to the country, cutting and going

37TH SESSION OF THE TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS

The thirty-seventh annual session of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will convene in the Convention Hall, Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba, beginning on Monday morning next, and continuing in session, from day to day, until the business of the convention has been completed. Congress pays its return visit to the Prairie city after a long absence, the last occasion being September 16th, 1907.

The executive call stated that the seriousness of the unemployment problem and the request in some cases for a special convention to deal with this subject has caused the executive of the congress to feel warranted in bringing forward the date of the convention a few weeks earlier than has been the custom, and the consideration of this problem, of itself, was considered to be a sufficient incentive for every affiliated body to make the most strenuous effort to be fully represented.

Board Granted For C.N.R. Stationary Men

The appointment of a board of conciliation to deal with the question of wage reductions affecting certain classes of stationary employees on the Canadian National Railways, was announced by Hon. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor. The employees, as represented by the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees, have nominated ex-Mayor Harold Fisher, of Ottawa, as their member, while the management of the Canadian National Railways have chosen Mr. George D. Kelley, also of Ottawa, to represent the company. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Kelley will confer at once in the matter of the appointment of a chairman. It is hoped that the first sittings of the board will be held early next week.

The appointment of the board came as a result of the application of the Employees, who claimed that the reductions in wages recently made effective by the Canadian railways, were to a great extent unwarranted, and would cause particular hardship to the lower paid workers. As proof of this the Brotherhood placed before the minister of labor a statement showing that certain classes of unskilled and semi-skilled railway labor were being forced to accept reductions as high as 20 per cent, while higher-paid men were to lose only four and five per cent. It was also stated that analysis of cost of living statistics does not warrant the assumption that there has been a permanent decline in the prices of the necessities of life.

While a request for a board of conciliation has been made by the "Big Four" group of the railroad brotherhoods, the decision of the board dealing with the dispute between the Canadian National Railways and Employees will influence further action on their part.

The board has been granted under the Conciliation and Disputes Act, a joint application having been made to the board under that measure of the Industrial Disputes Act (the Lemieux Act), by the C.B.R.E. President D. B. Hanna, of the Canadian National System, in a statement forwarded to the Labor Department some days ago, objected to a board of conciliation under the act on the grounds that that act did not affect railways under Government ownership and operation. The board was therefore granted under the other act.

In the case of the application of the "Big Four" brotherhoods it is understood that the reply of the railway companies to the application is expected to be in the hands of the Labor Department today or tomorrow.

KEEP FORESTS GREEN

If Canada's forests are kept green the result will benefit our lumbermen, farmers, manufacturers, merchants, railway, ship owners, and, above all, our working men. If the forests are destroyed this destruction will leave a mark on the land a barren desert. It will dry up our streams and injure every person in Canada, no matter what his business.

The obvious objection is that we have no money just now for such public works. Regarded purely as public works, this is undoubtedly true. The present is a time for rigid economy in return—and there is not a shadow of a doubt that the vast majority of these unemployed would immensely prefer to earn their "bread" in the form of wages rather than be asked to accept it in the form of alms.

Here then is a job for Premier Meighen. His is the first responsibility in all nation-wide problems. He should give the provinces and the municipalities a definite and adequate "lead." This duty is far more pressing and important than any chore of "fixing his political bones." Hungry politicians can wait better than hungry men.

PREDICTING THE HAPPENINGS AT UNITED MINE WORKERS CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Ind.—When the biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America meets in Indianapolis on Tuesday, September 29th, the outstanding business of the delegates will be the formulation of demands for the next wage contract between miners and operators. For the first time in years agreements in the bituminous fields and in the anthracite fields will expire on the same day, March 31st, 1922. Herebefore, the bituminous wage agreement expired on one date and the anthracite agreement on another date, and the miners in one branch of the industry were not in position therefore, to give the same degree of support to the other in the negotiation of their agreements as they will be next spring.

John L. Lewis, international president, has made the statement on several occasions that the United Mine Workers of America will not permit any reduction in the wages of mine workers, and this fact lends greater significance to the coming convention at which the details of the wage policy of the mines union will be worked out and settled.

It has been the custom of the anthracite miners in the past to frame their wage demands and have them adopted by a tri-district convention, comprising the three anthracite districts, after which they were reported to the national convention of this union for approval. This year, however, this procedure has been varied. Anthracite delegates to the national convention will prepare their demands for approval by the national convention and the tri-district convention for ratification will be held afterwards. Thus, any general policy with reference to wages that may be adopted by the national convention will govern the miners in their negotiations in the anthracite region as well as in the bituminous fields of the country. Ellis Searles, editor of the United Mine Workers Journal, said today that all other questions to come before the national convention will be subordinate to the one great proposition of preparing for the negotiation of wage scale agreements in the bituminous and anthracite branches of the industry.

The number of delegates to attend the convention this year will be smaller than that of two years ago, when the convention was held in Cleveland. At that time there were 2,844 delegates. This year the number will be approximately 1500. At the Cleveland convention action was taken favoring nationalization of the mines, and the adoption of the eight-hour day and the five-day week. These same subjects will undoubtedly come before the September convention for further action.

A. F. OF L. PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON CANADIAN TOUR

The heart of Labor beats true and never in the history of organized labor has its spirit been so strong, according to Samuel Gompers, veteran leader of the American Federation of Labor, who paid a week-end visit to Ottawa on Saturday and Sunday.

He asserted in an interview that the wealth producers of this country were not going to stand idly by and see destroyed that which they had built up by patient years of endeavor and declared that any one who believes that the workers are going to be driven back to the type of the man with the hoe is pursuing a will-o'-the-wisp. The people, he said, would not tolerate it.

Mr. Gompers was in Ottawa on his way from Montreal to Toronto. He was accompanied by M. S. Gompers, and during his twenty-four hours stay met Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, and conferred with local labor men. Mr. Gompers is seventy-one. He is much younger than that in spirit, and appears as strong in body and vigorous in spirit as a man half his years.

Mr. Gompers came to Ottawa to attend the International Typographical Union convention in the latter city. He left Ottawa for Toronto Sunday morning, where he will address the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen and the International Photo Engravers and also meet the representatives of the members of the Allied Trades and Labor Council of Ottawa and Mr. Gompers on Sunday night. Those attending were Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress; Charles Lewis, Rod Plant, William Lodge and Capt. J. A. P. Haydon. During Saturday afternoon he was in the parliament buildings and made an auto tour of the city.

Asked regarding the 44-hour week Mr. Gompers said that the 44-hour week "is bound to become universal." It is already established, he said, "in nearly two-thirds of the plants in the United States and in many in Canada. The demand for the 44-hour week is, in just cause, a humane cause and a soundly economic cause. It is here to stay. It is being adopted by the employers and employees in the printing trades of North America and in many in Canada. It is having a wide effect on the Continental parts.

We feel constrained, however, to draw the attention of the so-called "British Section" of the so-called "red" Trade Union International to what the Communist press had to say concerning the attitude of the Moscow International during the Miners' strike. Commenting on the cowardly inaction of the Communist International during the English coal strike, the "Kommunistische Arbeiterzeitung" said: "While even the Trade Union International of Amsterdam has decided to give proof of its solidarity with the English miners by rendering them active assistance during the strike, and while the Amsterdam International is endeavoring to prevent coal from the Ruhr district and from the Saar basin being transported to England, and has actually appealed to the Belgian and French dock and water-side workers to refuse to handle shipments of this coal intended for England the Third International has remained entirely inactive in regard to the struggle in which the English comrades are involved."

We venture to suggest that the leaders of the so-called "British Section" of the so-called "red" International will be well advised if in future they address their remarks to the Amsterdam International whenever they desire to give vent to their feelings of indignation concerning cowardice and betrayal. If, however, we would suggest that they find for their indignation a little nearer home, we would suggest, in other words, that they direct their remarks to the English Sailors' and Firemen's Union (an organization over which the Amsterdam International has no control whatsoever) whose members have every conceivable manner frustrated action undertaken by the Continental Transportworkers on behalf of the English miners; and have not only transported coal from the Continent to England but have even actually loaded the coal themselves in those cases where the French and Belgian transportworkers by coming out on strike have made such heroic sacrifices on behalf of their English comrades.

Communist Inactivity and Cowardice

(I.F. of U.) is the body which pleases to call itself the "British Section" of the "red" Trade Union International has just published a violent attack against the International Federation of Trades Unions, reproaching it in particular with having betrayed the English miners during their great strike. This document contains the usual appeal to the workers to leave the "yellow" Amsterdam and join the "red" International at Moscow.

This "British Section" of the so-called "red" Trade Union International consists evidently of either fools or knaves. The gentlemen comprised in this "Section" should know by this time—and most probably do know—that it was the Transportworkers of France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, all of whom are affiliated to the Amsterdam International, who did their utmost to prevent the shipment of coal from the Continent to England. Their efforts may not have been completely successful, yet, it is an undeniable fact that immeasurably larger quantities of Continental coal would have been shipped and transported to England were it not that these "yellow" Trade unions rendered such splendid service in refusing to handle this coal—and that too notwithstanding the widespread unemployment prevailing in Continental parts.

Mr. Gompers was asked if the American Federation of Labor was as strong and well organized as it was once was. He said: "The American Federation of Labor, he said, is fully holding its own in spite of unemployment in many parts of the United States. There are about half a million affected by unemployment in these two countries but the unions are taking care of them, and the American Federation of Labor and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada co-ordinate bodies, are holding their own."

"The spirit of labor is stronger than at any time in the history of the movement," went on the veteran leader, "and the wealth producers of this country are not going to stand idly by and see destroyed that which they have struggled and worked for in bygone years."

Open Shop Movement.
He was asked to say something of the movement on the part of a section of the employers to establish open or contract shops.
"We don't run," he said with the shadow of a smile, "except ahead. Employers or such of them who are in a position to do so since 1921 they can weaken or destroy the organized labor movement, are reckoning without their hosts. The organizations of labor are the only factor which understand to protect the wage-earners from inflation and from oppression, and the only one which stands by them in their struggle for a better life."

There are two main causes for unemployment," said Mr. Gompers in speaking of this subject. "Employers are shutting down production and they are maintaining prices and profiting. During the war the people of the United States and of Canada foresaw for a long time the idea of buying things they could do without for the common goal of winning the war to bring down military and autocracy. And they haven't got out of the habit of doing without. A friend of mine coined an apt phrase in this connection. He said the people were boycotting the profits."

The cost of living hasn't gone down. Rent, in Canada and the United States, is at the highest peak. I find in this country not the slightest diminution in prices of the commodities the people need. The movement to cut wages as a means of saving money is mistaken and thoughtless. If you curtail the purchasing power of the workers, they must necessarily consume less and thus throw others out of employment. It is like a gust of wind passing over a field of wheat. It strikes the standing wheat and passes from end to end of the field, leaving down all before it.

"What is wrong with the present economic system? The human capacity among employers. Take the proceeds of this country with its large number of intelligent and industrious workers unemployed, but who are only too willing to work!"

Toronto Busy with Ouija Board

"It is all news to me," said Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, this morning regarding the Toronto dispatch to the effect that Mr. George D. Kelley, Ottawa lawyer, had been engaged by the Congress to draft a new constitution to regularize the expelling of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employers from the Congress.

"The executive or I have issued instructions to Mr. Kelley or any lawyer or barrister to draw a new constitution," he added.

"The executive may discuss an amended constitution or the members on the floor of the Congress, but the dispatch referred to is also largely unauthorized and is founded on pure fiction."

Provincial Conferences On Unemployment

The request of the minister of labor, D. Robertson, that provincial authorities should be notified of all interested to deal with the unemployment situation, is being well received throughout the Dominion, judging by replies reaching the department. Ontario and Alberta already have called conferences, and word was received from the attorney-general of Manitoba to the effect that he Manitoba government was taking up the matter of calling a provincial conference, and that the province had already been arranged for in Winnipeg. It is expected that after the holding of provincial gatherings there will be some sort of co-ordination of efforts and ideas, together with a national conference, at which the minister of labor will probably preside, and at which plans for handling the situation on a national basis can be drawn up.