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LOCAL TYPOS HAVE BUSY TIME AT FEB. MEETING

International Elections and Questionnaire from Western Canada Conference Dealt With.

The February meeting of this union was held in the Trades Hall on Saturday evening, with a fair attendance of members and President Acheson in the chair. A large consignment of international election literature was "taken as read" owing to pressure of other business. Ballots were distributed for registration of I.T.U.-candidates and the result of the voting seems to have broken about equal between the administration candidates and the progressive ticket. I.T.U. President Scott received our nomination owing to the opposition votes being split between his two opponents, but he only received it by a couple of votes. Secretary-Treasurer Hays had only a single opponent and so was deprived of the nomination of this union. First Vice-President Barrett received a very emphatic endorsement. A surprise of the voting was that Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, did not get sufficient tallies.

Messrs. Bowling and Hawkins gave a very interesting report of the convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor, and Bro. McCreath gave a report for the executive of the Western Canada Conference and also a report for the local Trades Council delegates. A questionnaire from the Western Canada Conference was referred to the executive committee for it to express the sentiments of the union, on the question of the rebate of soldiers' dues paid for our members before the States entered the war. Perhaps I should say since the start of the war, because there was officially no war until the States got into the fighting. Canadian bodies are getting sick of this sort of foolishness and the sooner it is out of the better.

The following committees were appointed for the year by the chair:
By-laws—Bowling, Hawkins, Wright, Knott, Healey, Campbell, Vogel, Probert, and Kerr.
Apprentice—Campbell, Yale, Deaton, Jones, Turnbull, and Cairns.
Sick—H. O. Palmer, G. Taylor, and Clarke.
Sanitation—T. R. Cole, I. Vogel, and Walters.

Bro. Knott reported re the conference at Calgary with the employers of the province on the newspaper agreement, but the matter was left over until sufficient copies were printed and in the hands of the members and then the executive is to call a meeting to deal with the matter. The following were appointed a newspaper scale committee with a view to the forthcoming negotiations: G. Campbell, W. Kerr, T. R. Cole, G. Bowling, A. J. Healey, W. G. Bryant, W. Poulde, and W. Marshall.

LABOR'S DAILY PAPER IN LONDON IS GREAT FACTOR

London Daily Herald Shows What Labor Can Do When It Makes Up Its Mind.

What labor can do when it makes up its mind to have its own press has been brilliantly illustrated by the career of The London Daily Herald. Started on March 31, 1919, under George Lansbury, it now has a circulation of about 225,000. Not only is it solving its own financial problems and maintaining a high standard of all-around newspaper work, but it has actually saved the unions thousands of dollars by bringing public opinion to their support during great strikes.

Just before the railroad strike the Herald was losing \$10,000 a week, but since then has increased its advertising and circulation enough to reduce this deficit to \$7,000. No interest above half of one per cent can be paid to the shareholders of the company, and any profits must be spent on behalf of the labor movement.

The Herald is successfully carrying on a campaign for a fund of \$2,000,000, in which the great labor leaders are assisting. At the last special trades union congress a motion to back the drive for the paper was passed with an enthusiasm which showed what a factor it has already been in the battles of labor.

ANNUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL CONCERT OF H. A. GRAY SCHOOL

On Friday, February 20th, the annual public school concert of the H. A. Gray school will be given. This concert is under the auspices of the Parent-Teachers' Association. A splendid program will be presented, under the directorship of Mr. A. F. Neale. The concert will begin at 8 o'clock.

BRANDON PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS RECEIVE BONUSES

Brandon public school teachers this week were granted bonuses of \$200 to \$250. The bonuses will cost the ratepayers \$15,000. To teachers in receipt of salaries of \$750, \$250 is to be paid; those receiving over that amount are to receive \$200. The teachers presented requests which totalled for a total outlay of \$18,000. Not only were the bonuses granted, but the board agrees to prepare a new schedule of salaries for 1921 as soon as the finding of the commission on teachers' salaries is completed.

PLUMBERS' AND STEAMFITTERS' NEW AGREEMENT

One Dollar an Hour, Forty-four Hour Week and Closed Shop, Features of New Contract.

Plumbers' and Steamfitters' Local 488 has just concluded most successful schedule negotiations with the employers in this city. The men will receive one dollar per hour for a forty-four hour week, and the agreement which goes into effect on May first provides for a closed shop. No. 488 is a one-hundred per cent organization, all plumbers and steamfitters working at the business in the city being members of the union.

The utmost harmony exists between the members of 488 and their employers, and a feature of the negotiations was the conciliatory attitude of both parties. Great credit is due to the committee who represented the men, for the able manner in which they looked after the interests of the union members. President G. Latham, Vice-President A. G. S. McMillan, Secretary J. S. Bramham, F. Shaw, J. Halkerson, and J. Fairhead composed the committee. The efforts of the 1919 schedule committee are also greatly appreciated by the members, who realize that the work done last year prepared the way for the successful execution of the present agreement.

LORD HALDANE IS NEW RECRUIT TO BRITISH LABOR

Says Labor Party Alone Has Vision Which Will Enable It To Possess and Serve Future.

The British parliament which re-assembled on Tuesday, has several of the weightiest problems of reconstruction still hanging over its head. The financial situation, the question of nationalization of mines and railroads and the Irish problem are three of the most important items of this session.

Nationalization of industry and opposition to armaments are two of the strongest planks in the Labor program. Lloyd George contemplates a bill giving the miners a large share in the management of the mines, but last week refused a suggestion made by representatives of the miners, that he embody in the bill the recommendations of the Sankey commission for a large measure of nationalization. Talk of direct action which means a general strike to bring about nationalization, has been revived.

Heavy clouds appear to be gathering behind the coalition government, owing to the steadily increasing power of the Labor party. Some of the best politicians are predicting the formation of a new ministry by the Laborites, saying it is only a question of time and the hour may strike within the next few months.

George Nicholl Barnes and George H. Roberts, the last two Labor ministers in Premier Lloyd George's cabinet have resigned, leaving the coalition government without any representation of the party which recent by-elections have indicated is now numerically the largest political organization in Great Britain.

Meanwhile men of widely different types, such as Viscount Haldane and Admiral Sir John Fisher, have come out for Labor. Viscount Haldane, who was one of the most conservative members of the old Liberal government which brought Great Britain into the war, and a close political friend of Herbert H. Asquith, and Viscount Grey, threw a bomb into that group, when he gave an interview declaring "that the Labor party alone has a vision which will enable it to possess and serve the future."

Speculation as to the personnel of the next cabinet advances Arthur Henderson, the Laborite leader, as a possible premier; Viscount Haldane as lord chancellor and Prof. John Maynard Keynes, British delegate on the reparations sub-committee of the peace conference, as chancellor of the exchequer.

The union label enlists and arms in labor's cause those elements which determine the issue of every cause in civilized society—namely, the women and children.

BOOKBINDERS AND ASSISTANTS GO ON STRIKE WEDNESDAY

Agreement Submitted in October Put Off By Employers From Time to Time.

Thirty-two Bookbinders and assistants walked out of the local printing offices Wednesday noon when, after four months of negotiations the union and employers were unable to come to an agreement.

The union submitted its agreement in October last and the employers have continued to put the matter off from time to time. The question came to a definite head last week when the employers submitted a proposition that was highly unsatisfactory to the union. A letter was sent to the Master Printers from the organization, declining to accept the offer and informed them that unless the agreement was signed by Wednesday at noon, the binders, paper rulers and assistants would walk out.

At the time of going to press there is no settlement in sight. All the binders and paper rulers in the city are out, and binderies are completely tied up. The union is confident of winning and intend to stand pat until their rightful demands are met.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYEES DECLARE STRIKE

Ask 40 Per Cent Increase and Uniform Rate From Coast to Coast.

Officials of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees in session at Detroit, on Monday issued orders directing nearly 400,000 members to suspend work at 7 a.m. Tuesday, February 17. The Brotherhood are demanding a 40 per cent increase and a uniform rate from coast to coast.

A committee of ten are in Washington to represent the union for the strike to have effect. The committee has full authority to enter into negotiations with the government for the settlement of the demands before the strike takes effect. Negotiations began immediately upon the arrival of the committee in Washington but at the time of writing no terms of settlement has been agreed to between the Brotherhood and Director General Hines.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Hines decided to submit the whole case to President Wilson for decision. This appeal to the president was taken at the request of the Union officials after they found they could reach no settlement with the Director General of Railroads.

The president is thus called on to determine whether the government will grant the increased wages or transfer the demand to the corporations who will soon regain control of the railroads.

It is believed that many thousands of railroad men in other departments will join hands with the maintenance of way men in their demands. Allan Barker, president of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Rail Way Shop Laborers, stated that the resources of the union would be used in fighting any possible court action to prevent the strike. His comment on word from Kansas that officials there planned to invoke the New Industrial Court Act was as follows: "They will need a lot of jails. I believe the law is unconstitutional. We shall disregard any power that tells us we are not free to strike."

Employees to the number of 28,000 on the Canadian roads are not affected by the strike order, as they work under different wage agreements and are not directly interested in the demand for increased wages made by the American section of the union.

Executives of the Brotherhood are going ahead with plans, and should no settlement have been reached by next Tuesday morning the union will put their plans into effect.

NEWS OF THE LOCAL UNIONS

CIVIC SERVICE UNION No. 52

Workers exchange bulletin: 1 pound sugar and 1 pound of butter discounts one dollar. Closing figures offer no hope of any relief in the situation.

We cannot understand how the council can support the dismissal of an employee when the excuse for "letting him out" had no foundation.

The Union agreements will be taken in the following order: Electrical Workers, Fire Fighters, Street Railway, No. 32, and No. 30. When this arrangement was made it was felt that it would expedite the amicable settlement that it is so generally desired.

Procrastination, that we have experienced in all our negotiations, is so much in evidence that a very marked spirit of uneasiness has been created. This is the natural development of uncertainty and can only be eliminated by the early establishment of an equitable adjustment as enumerated in the agreement submitted.

Very important matters in which you are essentially concerned are to be discussed at the regular meeting tonight Friday.

The chairman of the joint committees, having returned to the city, is calling a meeting to complete the proposals to be submitted to you to the co-operative association store. We would suggest that you become familiar with the rules of the association so that you can share in the benefits that are yours in co-operation.

PLUMBERS' AND STEAMFITTERS' LOCAL UNION No. 488

The secretary has received circular No. 24 from Div. No. 4 stating that the division officers were meeting the war board on February 17th and taking up grievances in connection with Rules 6, 7, 10, 14, and 60 especially, as there has been numerous cases of misreading on the part of various officials on the railroads covered by this agreement.

All members are requested to be present at the special meeting Friday night as the delegate to the Alberta Federation of Labor will make his report, and there will be other business come up which will be beneficial to this local in the future.

C.N.R. MACHINISTS.

Regular meeting of Lodge 817, I.A. of M., Friday, February 13th at 8 p.m. Visiting members welcome.

Bro. Sam McLaughlin says he feels quite convalescent after his seige at the hospital and intends to start in again on Monday if possible.

At a sleighing party, and evening at Mrs. J. W. Jones, spent in games and music recently, a number of C.N.R. employees enjoyed themselves immensely; but on reading a report of the affair in one of the local papers one is apt to wonder who in particular required chaperoning—true, the apprentices are rather shy and bashful. Among those who made up the party were Mrs. W. H. Simpson, Misses Doris Jones, Margaret Black, Madge Rutley, Laura Stewart, Gertrude Gardiner, Nellie Perry, Grace Bowie, Ruby Jones, Miss Daniels, Miss Ansell and Miss E. McArthur; Messrs S. Jones, H. Kessit, R. Gardiner, H. Hollings, T. Hedden, A. Bergot, J. Cook E. Cook and G. Lyons.

Don't bellyache around the shop. The lodge room is the place to air your opinions; that's what the meetings are held for. If the constitution doesn't suit your peculiar fancy, frame some other that is better and there is little doubt of its adoption by the rank and file.

A matter that is worthy of the attention of upholders of the I.A. of M. platform is the placing before the management, the advisability of having all work on extensions and improvement or repairs of the various plants on the system, done by the road. For instance, how much is it costing the road putting in the heating system, vacuum pump and pipe line to the reservoir, at the local round house? This work, if done by the company men might show quite a saving, and, as it is to our own and the country's interest that economy and efficiency is practiced by the officers as well as by the employees, so that government ownership and operation may not be discredited by advocates of private ownership, something along the lines of a "Mutual Advice Club" should be started for the officers and employees of the C.N.R.

Have you read the bulletin re Div. No. 4?

PLUMBERS' AND STEAMFITTERS' LOCAL UNION No. 488

The regular meeting of Plumbers' and Steamfitters' Local No. 488, held on February 4th, was fairly well attended, but few members were absent through illness and other causes. Some very important items of business were dealt with and in several cases of appeals from sister locals the secretary was instructed to send financial assistance.

The report of the committee on agreement was received and they were given full power to act on this important question. Communications from the Winnipeg Defense Committee were left in the hands of delegates to Trades and Labor Council.

The question of the formation of Building Trades Council was discussed at some length and will be brought forward at a later date. The convention notice was read a second time and it was decided to vote on the question as to whether a convention shall be held this year or not, at our regular meeting on Wednesday, February 18th. All members are hereby notified to be present at this meeting and in cases of non-attendance fines will be levied hereafter according to U. A. constitution.

Members should attend all meetings as only by full attendance can the local officers carry on business satisfactorily.

New Agreement.

It is gratifying to record the success which has finally rewarded the efforts of the agreement committee of this local. On the occasion of our last meeting with the executive of the Edmonton Master Plumbers' Association we were successful in signing up an amended agreement which comes into effect on May 1, 1920 and continues till April 30th, 1921. This agreement calls for an increase of 15 cents per hour for all journeymen, making the scale \$1.00 per hour. It also provides as last year for the closed shop. Full payment of expenses for out-of-town work and satisfactory means of settling any trade grievance which may arise. Taken as a specimen this agreement is just as good as any one could desire, and goes to show what can be accomplished between employer and workmen when they get together with the intention of settling business on a friendly basis. It is hoped that all parties concerned will appreciate the work of these committees and will see to it that this agreement is lived up to in every detail, and so prove the value of collective bargaining by employer and labor.

The subject of Plumbing By-laws received some attention and was again left in the hands of committee on by-laws. The following is copied from our official journal and is intended to show that even five hundred and fifty years ago this question was a live one.

An Old Plumbing Regulation.

In 1565 King Edward the Third of England signed a plumbing ordinance, conferring privileges and legislating for the protection of the mutual interests of both the public and the craft. It was as follows: That no one of the trade of plumbers shall meddle with works touching the trade except by assent of the best and most skilled men in the said trade. Testifying that he knows how well and lawful to do his work so that the said trade shall not be scandalized or the community damaged and deceived by folks who do not know their trade. Submitted by John Wright, Toronto, chairman of Toronto Society of Domestic Sanitary and Heating Engineers.

Bro. Owen and Latham reported on the Edmonton First Club and it is quite likely that this will gain many new members from organized labor men.

FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL No. 209

There are two kinds of sport. In one sport, man sits on a bench watching others play; in the other he goes into the field and plays. It is only the boys from No. 2 Hall who enjoy the first named.

Some of our most inveterate smokers have discontinued the use of tobacco not because they were told it means vulgarity.

Several members of the department are badly under the weather. Bro. Hardy of No. 2 and Bro. Young of No. 1 are both on the sick list. We hope for their speedy recovery.

Bro. McFadden is also under the doctor's care. Bro. McFadden was injured at the fire Sunday morning. We hope to see him round in a short time.

Bro. Jack Smith and Robertson, who attended the Scotch dance in the Hadron Hall report that an air of festivity and joyousness prevailed.

"He knew not what to say and so he swore."

MACHINISTS AT WASHINGTON, D.C. ENDORSE LABOR PRESS

Columbia Lodge No. 174 of Washington, D.C., of the International Association of Machinists, is sending a resolution to the American Federation of Labor pleading support of its membership in a "rally to the defense of the entire threatened Labor press of America." The Seattle Union Record, one of the papers so threatened, was notified of this action.

HON. C. R. MITCHELL ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

Tells Calgary Audience Objects and Aims of Biggest Conference of its Kind.

Hon. C. R. Mitchell, provincial treasurer, in an address at the Forum, Calgary last Sunday, stated that each province will deal with all but one of the recommendations of the international industrial conference held in Washington recently, and all of them are to be dealt with within 12 months from the time the province is officially notified.

The five questions considered by the conference were the eight-hour day and 48-hour week, provision against unemployment, women's and children's employment, and recommendations of the Berne convention regarding certain articles, the manufacturing of which is unhealthy. The question that eight hours be a day's work is still a matter for the courts to decide as to whether it is a provincial or federal matter.

Mr. Mitchell said that the object of the conference was not to take away any existing rights in any country, but to bring backward countries forward. If a country has more advanced legislation than that contained in the resolutions, no change need be made. No country is bound by the decisions of the conference, but each is to take some action on them within twelve months. "If the government rejects them, however, the people have the right to say whether it is to remain in office," said the speaker.

"The conference has been organized to meet every year, and it is expected that as the years go by its influence will be great," said Mr. Mitchell. The international labor office has been organized as a continuing body, so that everything that is done at the conference will not be forgotten. Great Britain's delegates were the most thoroughly informed of all and went into all the questions more thoroughly than any of the other delegates, their reports being of material assistance to the conference.

"All through the conference, both in committee and on the floor of the house, ran a spirit of compromise. Both employers' and workers' delegates gave way to each other at times. The arguments, language and mentality of the delegates were of a high order. The workers had some efficient delegates including those from France and Italy. It was not a hit-or-miss affair as the best delegates obtainable were sent by those whom they represented."

After Mr. Mitchell had concluded his address 20 minutes were allowed for questions. One man asked whether the real underlying reason for the conference was not to head off Bolshevism; but Mr. Mitchell stated that to the best of his knowledge it was for the sole purpose of bringing about better labor conditions. Asked who selected the workers' delegates from Canada Mr. Mitchell stated that they had been selected by the Dominion Trades Congress. They did not have to be in favor of the government to be appointed, he said.

One man wanted to know more about Russia, stating that they learned the good things of other countries, but were not given information concerning Russia. Later a man in the audience stated that men who had talked of Russia found themselves in Judge Metcalfe's courtroom.

RETIRING PRESIDENT OF PRESSMEN'S UNION RECIPIENT OF GIFT

At the regular monthly meeting of the Printing Pressmen's Union on Friday last, Retiring President Leon Mercer was the recipient of a presentation from the members of the organization. Mr. Mercer has served his union well for six years, having been secretary for four and president for the last two years. Vice-President Tompkins made the presentation, expressing on behalf of the membership, appreciation of Mr. Mercer's services.

A. S. Neale presented a comprehensive report of the Alberta Federation of Labor Convention and the delegate was given a hearty vote of thanks for his work.

A report from the Allied Printing Trades Council showed that Messrs. Williams and Mercer had been elected as vice-president and secretary of that body.

CALGARY TRADES COUNCIL ADOPTS D.L.P. PLANKS

Right to Organize; Collective Bargaining, Free Speech and Abolition of Anti-Strike Laws.

Calgary Trades and Labor Council at their meeting Monday night adopted some of the planks in the platform of the Dominion Labor Party. Those adopted were: The right to organize; collective bargaining; abolition of all laws that prohibit the agitation for or going on strike; freedom of speech; freedom of press, and the right to free assembly; adoption of the British Labor Party's reconstruction program, the pillars of which are: Universal enforcement of industry; the revolution in national finance; surplus wealth for the common good.

A manifesto presented to those who attended the meeting contained the following:

"The Calgary branch of the Dominion Labor Party call on all workers to consider recent developments, with a view to action for the protection of labor.

"A court of justice has ruled against striking.

"This being our usual method of protest, organizations in the industrial field are deprived of the only method to combat the forces arrayed against them. Freedom of speech is prohibited, principally on account of using out-of-date seditious laws.

"Our government in its relief scheme for veterans are encouraging employers to give a low wage by subsidizing employees, thereby reducing the standard for the lower paid worker.

"As a result of war financing, capital has been internationalized in the disadvantage of the producers in all countries.

"From press reports we read of the progressive development in some countries and believe we should be in a position to take advantage of any financial readjustment made possible or necessary to changes in lands, where the workers have or will obtain control.

"Those who oppose labor are united, active and oppressive from every quarter.

"While recognizing the divergent views on the industrial field we believe the situation is such that an effort should be made to obtain unity along political lines."

The clause, "a court of justice has ruled against striking," was criticized. It was stated that many trades have the right to organize now, but in order that it may be shown that they are in favor of all having the right the plank was included in the platform.

The platform for the Dominion Labor Party would include: opposition to the taxation of food, but placing taxes and customs duties solely on luxuries, the teaching of economic science in schools, direct taxation on all incomes above the amount required to live comfortably and steeply graded taxation above that amount, and state control of private estates above an amount which would enable the beneficiaries to live comfortably.

ORGANIZED LABOR IN UNITED STATES TAKES UP POLITICS

Vigorously denouncing congress, which it was said "has failed to do its duty," the American Federation of Labor, on Monday announced the appointment of a national non-partisan political campaign committee which will mobilize trade unionists and "all lovers of freedom" in an effort to defeat candidates indifferent or hostile to labor and to elect true and tried friends of the trade union movement. This applies to all candidates from president down. With organized labor over 4,000,000 strong, this will mean somewhat of a setback to the old line parties.

LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 15th.—District Council of Telegraphers.
Monday, Feb. 16th.—Edmonton Trades and Labor Council. Can. Bro. of Railway Employees No. 99. War Widows' Association whist drive and dance.
Tuesday, Feb. 17th.—Painters and Decorators No. 1016. Sheet Metal Workers No. 371. Moulders No. 373.
Wednesday, Feb. 18th.—Amalgamated Carpenters No. 2907. Plumbers and Steamfitters—No. 488. Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, No. 514.
Thursday, Feb. 19th.—Machinists No. 550. Railway Clerks and Freight Handlers No. 648. Canadian National Railway Employees Federation.
Friday, Feb. 19th.—Dunvegan/Carmen, No. 530.

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