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THE GROCETERIA

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LABOR PROPOSALS FOR TRAINING OF RETURNED MEN

Satisfactory Training Should Be Carried Out Apart From Employers

CONSIDER FUTURE WELFARE

Soldiers' Pay and Allowances Should Continue Until Competent to Earn Minimum Wage

The National Executive of the United Federation of Labor of New Zealand has had under consideration repatriation problems, more especially those relating to the training of partially-disabled men for trades other than those in which they were engaged prior to their going into the forces, and has reported as follows:

"We think the aim of this training should be to fit men permanently for work in basic industries where their future is assured, turn out thoroughly trained men, for men's jobs at men's pay, despite any physical handicap that may have rendered the men useless in their former callings. In recommending men for training in any industry, it should at all times be the future welfare of the men that should receive first consideration. They should not be advised, or even allowed, to take a course of training in any industry which does not afford prospects of their being able to maintain themselves in that industry when training is finished.

We have considered the Government's subsidy scheme, under which soldiers are taken into private employment at reduced wages to learn trades, the Government making up the wage to £3 per week. Our experience of this scheme leads us to say that it is not beneficial to the soldier. The men do not in most cases receive that training which will fit them to maintain themselves in the industry when the Government subsidy is withdrawn. We affirm that for training to be satisfactory from the point of view of the soldier and the nation, it should be carried out apart from private employers.

Under private employers there is a tendency for the soldier to learn just one process in a given industry, to work just one machine, and thus become a mere "cog" in the wheels of industry, and at the same time for the soldier and the subsidy to be exploited by the employer during the period of so-called training, and at the end of that period, for the soldier to be still an incompetent workman, unable to maintain himself in the industry and entirely at the mercy of the particular employer whose machine he has learned to tend, and in fact whose machine he has become.

The committee therefore recommends:

- (1) That all industrial and vocational training of returned or partially-disabled soldiers should be done in technical schools, and that where such schools do not exist or where the accommodation in schools is not sufficient to meet the demands of returned soldiers in addition to other scholars;

- (2) That such schools and accommodation should be provided by the State without further delay. We recommend also that where practical work is needed in instruction, the same should be given on public works or in workshops attached to public works.

- (3) That experts should be engaged to give instruction, and supervise the work of students, and that the general control of these schools should be vested in a board of management consisting of delegates from the Trade Unions in the industries concerned, delegates from the Returned Soldiers' Association, and delegates from the Repatriation Board.

A committee thus constituted should periodically examine each man's work and advise him as to his progress in training, and if necessary, tell him he

GOVERNOR VETOES BILL FOR THREE PLATOON SYSTEM

Governor Smith of New York has vetoed the Bixley bill, passed by the last Legislature, which would compel cities of the first class to establish the three platoon eight-hour system in their fire departments when sanctioned by a popular referendum.

The governor said the bill "provides machinery for overruling the decision of the duly elected public officers on a purely administrative matter by popular vote," and that "the power to give relief lies with the elected officials."

The trade union movement supported the organized fire fighters in securing the enactment of this legislation.

ORGANIZED LABOR'S ONE GREAT PURPOSE WORLD'S FREEDOM

(Continued from Page 1)

considered for months, and in several instances for years. Through questions relative to the intent of the law which are referred to other courts for decisions, some demands for advances in wages and other terms of employment have been carried on for years before a final decision could be reached, and during all of this time the workers, because they had trusted more to the legislative than the trade union method for determining the terms of employment, were forced to continue to labor for their employers under pain of fine and imprisonment if they went on strike.

There is no more marked feature of the courts of this or any other country than their desire to extend and increase their power and authority.

In the countries of Europe and in North America we find thousands of instances where the courts have interpreted laws affecting labor in such a manner as to hamper labor, handicap it, and interfere with its efforts to have a regulating voice in determining the terms of employment. Laws relative to conditions of labor have been twisted from their original intent, have been thrown like a shuttlecock from one court to another, and have frequently, in this country, been declared unconstitutional by the highest courts.

The trade union movement cannot afford to allow any of the workmen's freedom in the industrial field to be transferred from them to some court of law, which assumes power to act because labor has transferred the determination of some of the terms of employment to the legislative field.

is unfit for the particular industry he has selected and recommend him to another.

- (4) That all returned soldiers disabled or fit should have the right to apply for courses of training. Their applications should be considered by a Repatriation Board, which should be fully conversant with the conditions and prospects of each industry, and if the application were approved, the applicant should receive the training necessary, for any period up to three years, and should receive all necessary books and requisites free. His soldiers' pay, and whatever allowances are now being made his dependents, should be continued until the Board of Management said he was competent to earn at least the minimum wage in the industry in which he was receiving training. The same branches of the trade should be taught to students as awards in the industry provide to be taught to apprentices.

- (5) That where there are a number of returned soldiers already competent in any industry, the State should encourage these men to start in co-operative enterprises, by advancing the capital necessary up to £200 per man in industries approved by the repatriation boards, such co-operative enterprises to be under a board of management, 50 per cent. elected by the soldiers in the enterprise, 25 per cent. by the trade unions in the industry concerned, and 25 per cent. by the repatriation board for the district.

We affirm that it is the duty of the State to offer to returned soldiers every facility to fit themselves to earn their own livings in the same or an improved station in life as they were in prior to enlistment. This should be done without subjecting the soldier or the State funds to any possibility of exploitation by private employers, and we believe this can only be assured under a system of complete State provision of instruction such as we have outlined above. Due regard should be paid to expense. There should be no waste of public funds, and we believe there is waste under the present methods, but at the same time there should be no stint in providing money necessary for proper training. The war might have continued for another year or several years, and the nation would have found the money necessary for it. We believe it can and should just as easily, and far more gladly, furnish the money necessary to educate and train the men who have suffered as a consequence of the war, and every man who was taken from his ordinary vocation has suffered, even though he may be as sound physically as when he joined the forces.

The executive decided that the Government be asked immediately to provide facilities and accommodation for training disabled and returned soldiers in technical schools, where sufficient accommodation and facilities do not already exist for these men in addition to ordinary students.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS OF I.T.U. TO VISIT CITY

Local Typos Hold Busy Meeting With Good Attendance of Members

RESOLUTION CARRIED

Financial Assistance to Extent of \$100 Donated to Local Strike Committee

The June meeting of Edmonton Typographical Union was held in the Labor Hall on Saturday, the 7th inst., with President McCreath in the chair and a good attendance of members present.

Cards were reported as deposited during the month by Leslie C. Parkes and F. C. Howitt, both from Toronto; and Mrs. H. M. Currie, from Calgary. Applications for membership from C. J. Dunn (formerly of Chicago Union) and Hugh Speight (returned soldier apprentice, who has completed his time) were balloted on and successfully passed the ordeal.

The quarterly report of the Financial Secretary's books and accounts showed all in good order.

Bros. McCreath and Knott gave a report of their stewardship at the convention of the Western Canada Convention of Typographical Unions, held during the month in the City of Winnipeg. The report was laid on the table and they were thanked for their efforts and granted \$125 expenses each.

It was reported that International Vice-President Barrett and International Secretary Treasurer Barrett were starting at the extreme eastern coast and visiting every Canadian Typographical union to the extreme western shore and would be in Edmonton some time during the month of August, when they desired to meet all the members of the local and deal with various matters concerning the Canadian membership.

Brother Lawrence was elected to the executive committee in place of Brother Francis, who has left the city for California.

Bro. McCreath reported as to the doings of the Trades and Labor Council during the past month.

Financial assistance to the local strike committee was donated to the extent of a cheque for \$100.00.

The following resolution was unanimously carried: "That a Committee be appointed to write the owners of the newspapers against the misrepresentation of the strike situation in the news and editorial columns of the local press; specifying the attack on the Rev. Mr. Mercer, and the 'Baby Killers' editorial; and the extract in 'six point' (small) type from the Manchester Guardian, showing that British labor has secured what Canadian labor is fighting for today; and featuring scare articles on deporting 'agitators'."

This was all the business of public importance and adjournment took place at a late hour.

SPRING IS TIME TO SAVE FOR WINTER

We fared well through the winter. In most parts of the country it was exceptionally mild, and the average citizen spent less money on necessities than if it had been severe. Coal, food, clothing—all were consumed in quantities below the average for domestic use. Warm months, the wholesome duties and pleasures of outdoor life, a lessened drain on the purse, and consequently more money not absorbed by necessities, are the prospects ahead for most of the Canadian people.

The situation provides a twofold opportunity. For the War Savings Society it means that opportunities for systematic saving and reinvestment through Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps may be offered in the confidence that money is available for the undertaking and continuance of their purchase, until this becomes a habit of incalculable value to the individual and of district service to his country.

For the individual it is the time at which he can most easily begin those systematic savings which lead through investment and reinvestment to comfort, independence, and power. His decision, if made now, is more easily maintained while it takes root, and a beginning at this time means an accumulation of savings which will protect him later in the year when demands upon his purse become more urgent. The man who has been through this experience will not need your attention next year.



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