Labor News From Coast to Coast

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Quebec Parliament Decides On No Changes

ACHINIST VICE-PRESIDENT ON POLITICAL ACTION

Western Canadian Vice-President the machinists, Jos. Comerville, ntributes to the official journal his ews on political action in the follow- g terms:

When reporting the recent con- ntion of the Trades and Labor Con- ess of Canada, I mentioned the litical activities of labor in Canada, ting in conjunction with a pro- ressive farmers' political movement, d the encouraging prospect for eting labor and farmer representa- ves to Parliament in the then ap- oaching Federal Election.

The election is over, and while the rmers have every reason to congra- late themselves upon the result, it s to be admitted that wage workers d Trade Union members in parti- lar, again failed to justify expec- tions in the measure of support ven labor candidates in urban nters.

In accounting for this fact, several asons—for instance, promises of ntinued employment versus closing factories—have to be taken into nsideration, but I propose to speak one only at this time which affects all, the remedy for which rests iefly upon brother Trade Unionists the United States.

The long established policy of the merican Federation of Labor in re- ation to politics, and the general titude of the American Labor move- ent is reflected in not a few of the nstitutions of international trade ions. Discussions on political estions is taboo in lodge rooms and filiation in any manner, or the con- ributing of membership funds to a olitical labor party is prevented by w.

Voicing the overwhelming opinion f labor in Canada, that conditions hich made necessary the adoption of uch policy no longer exist in Canada, venture to suggest the same is true f the United States.

With the growth and the perfecting f organizations of employees and orkers, government intervention is evitable and such intervention will ork to our disadvantage in propor- ion to the control wielded over gov- rnments by exploiting interests.

We, in Canada, had our first real xperience in Government interven- ion following a coal strike and lock- ieap I speak of removed more nions will affiliate and education can e carried on to greater advantage.

In the province of Ontario we have out, which caused a serious fuel famine. An Industrial Disputes investigation Act (commonly known as the Lemieux Act) was put through Parliament, making it illegal to strike or cause a lockout in mines, or on public utilities prior to hearings and investigation by a Board appointed by the Government.

Although strongly objected to by organizations of labor affected by it, the law in itself has much to commend it. Labor's disadvantage comes from not being in a position to administer the act and enforce its penalties on the employer.

The action of the United States Government authorities, enjoining the United States workers from using their own strike benefit funds and the enactment and administration of the Transportation Act of 1920 shows conclusively what chance labor in the United States will have in future if political control is to remain with interests opposed to it.

We are making some real progress over here. The Canadian Labor Party is an affiliation of all working class organizations that subscribe to a common platform agreed upon in convention and pay a small per capita on its members. Campaign funds have to be raised by subscriptions and other voluntary ways. With the hand a Farmer-Labor government with several labor party representatives in the cabinet.

In Alberta a progressive Farmer's Government supported by labor is in power and one straight labor party representative holds the portfolio of Public Works and Labor.

Three Labor Party candidates were elected to the Federal Parliament and with the help of Labor in some mixed rural and urban constituencies the Progressive Farmer's Party elected sixty-four.

In stressing the need for independent political action and for the election of labor representatives to legislative and administrative bodies, I do not wish to be understood as minimizing the usefulness of, or the necessity for extending and strengthening the trade unions.

Rather do I believe that for some time to come the value of political success will be the measure of assistance it may render the industrial movement in its struggles. With that idea clearly fixed in mind, it ought to be possible to escape the fog and form in one grand army beyoilt.

BIG MIGRATION PROMISED TO AUSTRALIA

British emigration to Australia is going to boom during the coming summer. Percy Hunter, director of the Australian Immigration Department, has been placed in charge of a huge scheme for transporting 100,000 men, women and children from Britain during the current year. He considers this figure, which compares with 75,000 emigrants per annum in pre-war years, can easily be reached and even exceeded. Australia's Government-owned liners will play considerable part in the scheme, each vessel being equipped to accommodate 700 emigrants. Australia House, in Aldwych, London, has a steady stream of one thousand callers daily, and a similar number of enquiries is received by post from all over the country. Rural workers of any kind are accepted eagerly, and boy settlers are the type most favored by immigration authorities. Premier Bardwell, of South Australia arrives in England shortly to inaugurate a scheme of farm apprenticeships of youths who will ultimately settle in his State. There is a strong demand for female domestic servants, and Australia still has room for some skilled artisans such as carpenters, plumbers and blacksmiths.

UNION SPY HEAD JAILED IN N. Y.

New York.—"Captain" Robert J. Foster, head of a union spy bureau and so-called "detective" agency, has been sentenced to serve 30 days in the city prison and pay a fine of $500 for his refusal to furnish information to the Lockwood committee regarding his spy methods.

Foster's offices adjoin those of Walter Drew, general counsel of the anti-union national erectors' association. In December, last year, Foster told the Lockwood committee that he was retained by big steel interests, through Drew. He admitted that his "operatives" spied on unions, but he refused to give other information.

Attorneys for Foster appealed the decision which will be used by Foster to secure additional spy business.

RENEW AGREEMENT.

New York.—Four locals of the International Fur Workers Union in this city have renewed their agreement with the organized fur manufacturers for two years. No change has been made in rates or working conditions.

Fur Workers unions in Brooklyn, Newark, and other nearby localities, are equally successful in negotiating agreements.

CONGRESS PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE ASK CHANGES CONPENSATION ACT

PROVINCIAL PREMIER HOLDS OUT NO HOPE TO INTERVIEWERS

There will be no change made in the Workmen's Compensation Act this year by the Quebec Legislature—this was the decision announced by Premier Taschereau to a delegation of the Quebec Executive of the Trades Congress, and confirms the statement published two weeks ago that the demands were in excess of what the employers were prepared to offer and the representatives of labor considered desirable that nothing would be done this year.

The chief bone of contention is whether the Act shall be administered by a Government commission or not—the internationals want one, the employers do not, and the anti-unionists while wanting one realize that the time is not opportune for insisting on such a commission and line up behind the employers.

This was only one of the proposals made—there were others which the Prime Minister felt were so radical and far-reaching that they would evoke opposition from the employers. He, however, promised that study would be given to all the proposals made, and with this cold comfort the delegation had to be content.

The delegation was headed by Tom Moore, President of he Dominion Trades Council; J. T. Foster, President of the Trades and Labor Council; Gustave Franeq, and J. T. Coughlin, representing the Railway Trainmen's Brotherhood and a numbmer of men. It was on the plea that the latter organization was not represented that the conference regarding compensation was adjourned when the big labor delegation was before the Cabinet two weeks ago on its annual mission. To that conference Premier Taschereau had invited representatives of the employers to be present, and they were. They had, however, submitted their proposals to the Government previously, offering an increase in the amount of the salary limit. They extended the application of the Act to lumbermen and proposed better methods for medical attention.

The International representatives asked the Government to have the Workmen's Compensation Act administered by a permanent commission, similar to that in Ontario, but they were told that this could not be done, at any rate this year, and the subject was one that would have to be carefully studied. A request was made by the delegates to include many other classes under the Act, and the Prime Minister on being told that in Ontario a movement was on foot to include farmers under the Act, remarked that soon it would only be the politicians that were excluded. The Hon. Mr. Taschereau also expressed the view that a salary limit of $2,500 was to high, and that a man earning such a salary should be expected to make his own insurance. The object of the Workmen's Compensation Act was to give protection to those who could not afford to insure themselves.

"DETECTIVES" ARE SUEING FOR STRIKE BUSTING

Detroit, Mich. — The associated building employers and the R. J. Coach detective agency of Cleyland are at loggerheads over the cost of breaking strikes and slugging trade unionists. The Coach company has filed suit for the money, but the case will hardly come to trial, as neither side dare acknowledge their part in the unsavory mess.

Coach submits copies of an agreement with the employers, wherein the latter promise to pay one superintendent $50 a day and operatives $20 a day, with necessary expenses added.

I nhis plea to the court, Coach says: "Plaintiff agreed and contracted to and with the said defendants to alleviate, break up and put down certain labor agitation, disorders and strikes then existing and being waged against said defendants and its members in said city of Detroit and county of Wayne, and in which said labor disputes, disorders and strikes defendants and its members were greatly concerned and interested."

These strikes were marked by brutal assaults on trade union officials and recall the following description by Coach of his methods:

"In their silent, secret, effective way, the industrial operatives uproot relentlessly the weeds of dishonesty, disloyalty and discontent. Through their efforts, unity of purpose is established between employer and employe. Our operatives soon end the reign of labor agitators in shop or factory. We do not care to say more on this subject."

The threatened suit reveals the extent which employers will shovel out money to these sluggers in an effort to break u ptrade unionism.

AMERICAN RAILROADS BOYCOTT U. S. VESSELS

Washington.—The Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Great Northern railroads will inform the shipping board on March 1, it is stated, whether they will abrogate their preferential contracts with Japanese vessels.

The railroads and their especial defenders have been placed in an embarrassing position since it has been discovered that the largest trunk lines in the country have secret agreements with foreign shipping companies which amount to an out-and-out boycott of American vessels.

The agreements are made public just at a time when every 100 per cent American was preparing to shout:

"Subsidize American ships that we may have an American merchant marine."

"Down with the La Follette seamen's law—it is a barrier to an American merchant marine."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S IMMIGRATION POLICY

According to a report in the Ottawa Citizen the Federal government's policy is still in the making and is responsible for stating that while the problem of immigration seems unlikely to form the subject of legislation at the initial session of the new parliament, the government and the departments particularly responsible are giving it intensive study, and by the time the departmental estimates are presented to the house some outline of intended policy will probably be ready.

Authorities are agreed that a development of immigration is essential to national expansion and in it may be a large part of the solution of the National Railway problem. It is pointed out, however, that conditions are different now from the rosy days about fifteen years ago, when the tide was at the flood. At that time, land in plenty adjacent to the railways was available at nominal rates. Save in the clay belt of northern Ontario and Quebec, this is not now the case. Moreover, conditions are not so conductive to profitable farming now by reason of the high cost of implements and labor and the prevailing freight rates.

People, however, must be secured and the problem is largely as to where they will come from. It is not easy of solution. Great volumes of British people are ready to come but recent statistics disclosed that only eight per cent of the people of England are now engaged in agriculture. The classes who would come, while desirable people, are mainly those who would head for the cities, where already the problem of unemployment is very great. What is wanted is people who will go on the land.

As regards Scandinavian, French, Belgian and Holland Dutch immigration, such classes would be more than welcome, but all of these countries has propaganda calculated to encourage emigration from their shores.

When the next potential source of supply is turned to—the countries of central Europe—the people are available and can be secured with little trouble, but the difficulty is the war-begotten prejudice at home. The Galicians and Ukranians and others are splendid pioneers and industrious farmers or farm helpers and the aptitude of these aces to farm life under primitive conditions has been demonstrated by the colonies in the west. They are among the most peaceable citizens and the best producers. Owing to the difficulties mentioned in regard to British and also continental immigration and the farther fact that the public treasurer is not in a position to extensively assist the newcomers, the situation in regard to central Europe will be looked into. The door will not be opened without due inquiry and a survey of all the prospects, but there is considerable subscription to the view that immigration of the future should include selected classes from central Europe, likely to be as industrious and as productive as those already in the country.

Pioneers are needed along the now unprofitable lines of the canadian National Railways and apart from physical and moral standards it is felt that too severe restrictions are not advisable. Any ultimate policy, however, will include British, continental and American immigration. Many who give the problem study see in it the solution of the railway problem, the financial problem of the public debt and the material problem of commercial prosperity. Associated with immigration is the question of economic relief by means of fiscal policy for the agricultural communities in general and it is believed the two aspects will be grappled with simultaneously.

QUEBEC PREMIER SAYS WOMEN DIVIDED ON VOTE

The Quebec government is divided on the question of woman suffrage. This was made plain today when Premier Taschereau informed a delegation of women who waited on the government urging that the right of franchise be extended to the women of the province of Quebec, that personally he was opposed to the principle, while Hon. Jacob Nicol, provincial treasurer, affirmed that he was in favor of giving votes to women.

Although Premier Taschereau admitted that the government was divided on the issue, the general impression here is that woman suffrage in the province of Quebec is one of the reforms of the future, but it will not come in the near future.

The women numbered about one hundred and fifty and waited on the premier and members of his government in the parliament cafe, which was well filled with members of both houses.

They were presented by Mr. Henry Miles, who spoke briefly. He pointed to 21 nations that had given women the vote and said that France and Quebec were withholding it.

The first speaker of the delegation was Mrs. Gerin-Lajoie, who told of the role played by women in the various spheres of activity, and it was the wish of women to have the same rights as men.

Lady Drummond said that since there was so much room for the beautiful, the good and the true in public life, she could not see why women were still excluded. n her opinion politics could not be separated from the home and she felt that women could co-operate with the men in safeguarding the home. The province would have as good mothers, daughters and sisters if votes were granted to women as were to be found today.

Addresses were also delivered by Miss Idola St. Jean, Mrs. T. de G. Stewart, Mrs. P. Casgrain, Miss Carrie Derrick and Mrs. James Geggie, who presented the petitions for woman's franchise. These petitions and resolutions numbered eighty-four.

Premier Taschereau received two counter petitions; one was from the girls' section of the Catholic Union of Hull, and the other was from the French-Canadian Women of Hull.

In replying to the women, Premier Taschereau said that woman suffrage was a question upon which the members of the government were divided. The question was an open one and all members of the house were free on the issue. Some were won by smiles and others were won by reason. He would not say how he preferred to be won, but he thought that his colleagues would prefer to be won by smiles. The premier went on to say that woman suffrage was causing internal dissensions in the government and was menacing to divide the happy family. The speakers had referred to the effect of the feminine vote on December 6. It was perhaps on that account that there was some fear, for a government had been turned out. The government would not express itself on the issue but would leave the members free to do as they pleased on the question, should it come before the house. He wished to be sincere in giving his personal opinion. He questioned the wisdom of women seeking political franchise, and said that his reason was to be found in the remarks of Mrs. Gerin-Lajoie, who spoke of the charity and beauty in the hearts of women. Men had not these qualities, and he questioned the propriety of women following men into the furnace of politics. The Latin spirit did not facor votes for women, and he cited as examples, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. Nothing should be done, he believed, that would remove women from the position in which they had been placed. He was giving his idea frankly, and all he could do was to wish them success.

He then called upon Hon. Jacob Nicol to address the ladies in English.

Mr. Nicol at the very outset said that he was in favor of giving suffrage to women. He was prepared, he said, to supply to canvassers the names of members who were opposed to votes for women so that they might be approached. He told the ladies not to be discouraged at what the premier had said. He assured the women that they would be given the right to vote and also the right to participate in the Liberal professions. If the women kept up their fight he was sure they would eventually win.

PRACTICAL HELP FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

As a temporary expedient the Federal Government's order-in-council for the relief of unemployment, and the distress resulting therefrom, should go a long way towards solving the problem in all parts of Canada during the remainder of the winter months. Briefly, the Federal Government will undertake payment of one-half of the excess over normal cost of public works started at once by the municipalities, conditional upon the Provincial Government assuming one-third of such expenditure; where work cannot be provided, the government assumes responsibility for one-third of the disbursements on account of unemployment relief, also conditional upon the Provincial Government participating to an equal extent; and in the case of unemployed, physically fit ex-service men for whom work cannot be secured, the government undertakes to pay one-half of unemployment relief, provided that the Provincial Government and the municipality share equally in the remaining amount. In unorganized districts the federal authorities will reimburse Provincial Governments to the extent of one-half of the money expended in unemployment relief.

The Prime Minister has requested that the Order-in-Council be interpreted "broadly and generously . . so that no resident of Canada willing and able to work and unable to secure employment, shall lack food, clothing and shelter for himself or herself and dependents."

Provincial and municipal governing bodies should lose no time in taking full advantage of the Federal Government's offer. Unemployment and the relief of resultant distress can be dealt with adequately only by municipal councils. Up to the present time these responsible bodies have been tardly in endeavoring to cope with the problem, especially in the larger centres where the suffering has been most acute. There has been a tendency to throw responsibility upon the various organizations within the communities, and rather than permit inaction while fellow-beings went cold and hungry, these organizations have put every resource at their disposal into the unequal fight. In every centre from Halifax to Vancouver the G. W. V. A. has been an integral force in this work, dealing particularly with the relief of unemployed ex-service men, but in many instances helping all deserving cases, regardless of service overseas or not.

The Federal Government's offer does not mean a slackening of effort on the part of these independent bodies, but affords the opportunity for them to co-operate with the municipalities in the systematization of relief work, backed by a guarantee of adequate funds. If the municipal of provincial governing bodies should show a disinclination to take advantage of the federal offer, it is the duty of every citizen to demand immediate and unstinted action.—The Veteran.

HALIFAX UNEMPLOYED HEAR FROM MINISTER

Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, has wired the Unemployed Workmen's Association of Halifax that "it would answer no good purpose to indulge in an unemployment parade." The Unemployed Workmen's Association had telegraphed the Governor General: "Please take notice that the Halifax police have prohibited the unemployed peaceful parade. Advise."

The message to the Governor-General was referred to the minister of labor, who sent the following reply: "Your telegram ninth to His Excellency Lord Byng, referred to undersigned. Surely it would answer no good purpose to indulge in an unemployment parade as the municipal authorities your city and the provincial authorities must be fully aware of your necessities and have no doubt done or are doing everything possible to secure employment or to extend relief where employment cannot be secured. The federal government will co-operate with municipal and provincial authorities meeting the necessities of your situation as provided for in Federal Government Order 191 of January 25."

The message is signed: James Murdock, minister of labor.

Representatives of the Unemployed Workmen's Association stated that the Halifax police had given permission for them to hold a "peaceul" parade. The association held a parade earlier in the week without police permission and one of their number was summoned to the police station afterwards, but after some conversation he was allowed to go. There was no demonstration and the parade attracted little attention.

MAY BREAK CONTRACTS.

St. Paul, Minn.—Organized photo engravers are sadder, but wiser, on the use of the injunction, since their experience with Judge Lewis of the Ramsey county district court.

The employers broke their contract with the photo engravers. The violation was so clear-cut that the workers were confident the contract could be reinstated by the injunction process.

So they told their story to Judge Lewis, and asked him to issue an order that the employers again make the contract effective.

Judge Lewis told the workers that the contract was not a valid contract, that there was a lack of "mutuality" because the contract did not call for a valuable consideration.

SAYS MINERS ARE STARVING.

Grafton, W. Va.—Organibed mine workers have appealed to President Harding for federal aid for 1,000 starving miners and their families of this district.

"While committees are parading around making investigations, little children are suffering from cold and starvation," the president is informed.

"Never in the history of the state of West Virginia has suffering been so prevalent as it is now. Therefore, we earnestly appeal to you to use your influence to secure for starving men, women and children of West Virginia the same consideration that was given to starving men, women and children of Russia."

Items of Interest from Overseas

STRENUOUS CAMPAIGN

Both Labor and Conservative organizations are working at high pressure in preparation for the North Camberwell bye-election to be held on February 20 to fill the vacancy in the House of Commons caused by the death of Capt. Newton Knights.

The Conservative candidate, R. J. Meller, told a Canadian Press representative that his tours of the constituteney showed the electors to be keenest on the necessity for economy in the administration of the country.

Meller is making capital out of the Geddes economy report and declares that if elected he will resist any attempt by the departments of the government to obtain special treatment in the matter of appropriations.

Both sides are striving to secure the women's vote numbering 12,000, out of an electorate of 29,000.

The address of the Labor candidate, Charles Ammon, who is a member of the London County Council and an official of the Postal Workers' Union, strikes a new note in election literature, being illustrated with drawings of various phases of labor.

The attack in the Geddes report on teachers' salaries and superannuation allowances and the threat to increase the size of the school classes has aroused local schoolmasters and mistresses to indignation and Ammon's appeals are being interpreted with the teachers' offers of help.

ARBITRATION BILL.

The New Zealand House of Representatives yesterday passed an arbitration bill, the most important clause of which empowers the arbitration court to amend awards in accordance with the cost of living, says a Reuter despatch from Wellington.

Labor members attacked the measure as an attempt to bring about a general reduction of wages, but the Government spokesman argued that as the court was empowered to grant increases when the cost of living rose, it must be competent to make reductions when the cost of living fell, otherwise economic chaos would result.

ABOLISH DEPOSIT

A delegation representing the constitutional labor movement in the United Kingdom approached the home office yesterday urging the abolition or modification of the deposit of £150 by candidates in parliamentary elections. The delegation suggested that another way of eliminating dud candidates would be to require a certain number of signatures of voters in a division testifying to the merits of the parliament aspirants. The home office authorities, however, would make no promises regarding any change in the present law.

ACCEPA AGREEMENT

The striking railwaymen, at a prolonged and stormy meeting, voted to end the strike in accordance with the terms of the agreement reached at the recent Dublin conference.

When the ballots were counted, however, it was found that the majority was a narrow one, and a recount was demanded by those favoring a continuance of the struggle. The recount will be made. Meantime the men have been ordered to await instructions concerning resuming work.

All the railway stations seized last week have been evacuated by the strikers.

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED

Cable reports received from Melbourne, Australia, state that a tendency toward a general lowering of wages throughout the Dominion is now noticeable. The wage decreases recently effected on the Melbourne tramways is said to have caused a great deal o fdissatisfaction among labor unions as the tramways are publicly owned, and operated. Nevertheless the tendency is toward a wage cut in nearly all industries. It is reported that the Commonwealth Court of Arbitration and Conciliation may reduce the basic wage to approximately 14 shillings a day. Unemployment has somewhat increased in recent weeks, notably in Sydney, where it is estimated there are 40,000 men out of work. The total unemployment of the Commonwealth, the despatch states is about 75,000.

NOT FAVORED.

Reuter's correspondent at Melbourne, Australia, cables:

"Doubtless owing to the men's unfavorable reception of the proposal of Premier Hughes, it is hinted that the suggested meeting between employers and organized labor to discuss the industrial crisis and the outlook for getting the cost of production down and settle other matters at issue may be dropped."

PASS RESOLUTION

The following resolution has been passed by the Great Northern Federation of the National Union of Railwaymen:—

"Having heard the report of our deputation to Mr. Dent on December 7, 1921, this meeting hereby decides to point out that having considered the whole matter, which undoubtedly implies an interference with our general conditions of service, and consequent reductions of pay and a possible increase of hours of duty, we will not tolerate any interference with our conditions, and if economies are to be effected we will not tamely be reduced for that purpose, but declare that the economies sought for must be found in other directions."

AMENDMENT LOST.

The Labor party's amendment in reply to the King's speech was defeated in the house of commons by a vote of 279 to 78. The debate on the amendment provided plenty of rugged eloquence about unemployment though perhaps not very fruitful in helpful ideas. The government was roundly blamed for lack of policy, and while repudiating the notion that Labor has more affection for public charity than any other section of the community, the speakers urged that larger national assistance should be given to local relief bodies.

Thomas Naylor, secretary of the London Society of Compositors, who was recently elected in Southwark, declared that only the funds of the trades union had saved the country from a revolution. Working people he said, were now taxing themselves voluntarily fro msix to seven shillings a week in order to help the unemployed.

Continuing, Mr. Naylor stated that the difference between a Coalition and a Labor government was that the former was not prepared to use capital for productive work, but the Labor party would have no such scruple, a declaration which aroused some laughter in the house.

Minister Quotes Figures.

Right Hon. F. J. McNamara, minister of labor, replying on behalf of the government, regretfully admitted that the unemployment question continued grave, although there had been some small improvement. The minister, however, produced figures showing that the percentage of trades unionists who were out of work in Great Britain was much less than in most other countries. Figures which he also quoted went to show that public assistance had been given out of all proportion to anything of the kind in the past. Concerning a proposal of Mr. Naylor's for the erection of factories under state direction, Mr. MacNamara said it merely meant the expending of an enormous amount of money to put some men into work while simultaneously throwing others out.

HAVE PROTEXTION.

Precautions taken by the West Ham board of poor law guardians excluded an ambush by a crowd of unemployed. Policemen were concealed in a summer house nearby, and others were hidden in the grounds in which the building where a meeting of the guardians was being held is located. In addition, mounted constabulary were held in reserve. The demonstrators, however, made such a din with five hands playing revolutionary airs, that they interrupted the meeting and insisted upon sending an deputation to interview the guardians. The latter informed the deputation that they were distributing half a million pounds sterling weekly, but the balance in the bank had been overdrawn by £336,000. No free coal could be granted, but the guardians were hopeful that the government would acquiesce in a request that land be purchased so that the unemployed could be given work on it.

LABOR INVITED.

A number of labor leaders and representatives of trades unions are being invited to attend the wedding of Princess Mary, in accordance with the wish of the King, who, says the Daily Mail, desires the guests to be as representative as possible of all classes. In view of the need for national economy and the widespread unemployment, the authorities are urging that there be no costly public illuminations and decorations on the occasion of the wedding.

WOMEN CANDIDATES.

Twenty-six women have been nominated for the London county council, elections for which take place on March 2. This is a record. They comprise eleven municipal reformers, ten Labor, two Progressives and three Independents.

STRIKE WEAPON.

In a speech to workers at Stamford J. E. Davison, Labor M.P. for Smethwick, said that Labor had tried the strike weapon for years in order to get justice—and they had lost.

What the working classes had to do was to capture the political machinery at Westminster—and the only way of doing that was by sending Labor men there in large numbers.

It had been proved conclusively that it was no use attempting to secure better conditions through the stomachs of women and children. It was always the women and children who suffered in strikes. During the past 21 years there had been about 1,400 disputes in industry. These had meant the loss of 264,000,000 working days, and the working classes had lost in wages £67,000,000. Then trade union funds had been depleted to the extent of over £15,000,000.

OLDEST MEMBER.

Robert Applegarth, who celebrated his 88th birthday, is the oldest living trade union leader, and probably the sole survivor of the First International, which assembled in London in September, 1864, and of which in 1870 he became chairman.

Applegarth can remember witnessing slave-sales in America in 1858, and as war correspondent to the Sheffield newspapers he went through the Franco-Prussian war.

One of the foremost members of the famous "Junta," which, between 1867 and 1871, did so much to build up British trade unionism, he was also one of the original members of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, and for nine years its secretary.

(Continued on Page Four).

LUMBER PRICES UP.

Seattle.—"The price of lumber is going up," says Harry W. Call, secretary-treasurer of the International Union of Timber Workers. "Prices have been going up for many weeks and lumber owners frankly admit that prices will not go back to previous levels. In other words, things are coming their way.

"Wages in this industry have been reduced from 43 to 50 per cent, and in some cases much more. In spite of the great increase in the price of lumber, there has been no increase in wages. In fact, in some localities wage cuts are the order of the day.

"Large foreign orders and a greatly delayed building program in this country will consume more lumber than will be manufactured this year. For the next five years at least, the lumber buying public will be at the mercy of the lumber owners.

"Wages are down and will stay down until the workers see fit to organize and put them up. The present price of lumber cannot be charged to high wages, but it can be charged to a virtual monopoly of standing timber."

COST OF LIVING.

Washington.—The bureau of labor statistics report that from 1914 to December, 1921, the cost of living increased 74.3 per cent on an average, in 32 leading cities of the country. Increases in several of the larger cities are reported as follows:

Baltimore, 73.2 per cent; Boston, 70.2 per cent; Buffalo, 76.8 per cent; Chicago, 72.3 per cent; Cleveland, 76.4 per cent; Detroit, 82.4 per cent; Houston, 73.6 per cent; Jacksonville, 75.1 per cent; Los Angeles, 76.4 per cent; Mobile, 63.6 per cent; New York, 78.1 per cent; Norfolk, 79.2 per cent; Philadelphia, 74.3 per cent; Portland, Me., 69.2 per cent; Portland, Ore., 58.3 per cent; San Francisco and Oakland, 63.6 per cent; Savannah, 66.2 per cent; Seattle, 71.5 per cent; Washington, D.C., 71.5 per cent.

The average increase of 74.3 per cent in 32 cities of the United States since 1913 is divided as follows: Food, 550 per cent increases; clothing, 84.4 per cent; housing, 61 per cent; fuel and light, 81.1 per cent; furniture and furnishings 118 per cent; miscellaneous, 106.8 per cent; average, increase since 1913, 74.3 per cent.