

HAMILTON TRADES COUNCIL ELECTS

Straight Trade Unionists All Offices of Central Body.

The Hamilton Trades Council has elected its officers for the year ending on September 30. The election was held on August 11 for the purpose of considering trade relationship, about laws and labour conditions has been postponed.

Notwithstanding the fact that Parliament will convene on September 11 for the purpose of considering trade relationship, about laws and labour conditions has been postponed.

The annual convention of the Independent Labor party of Cape Breton was held in Sydney on Saturday, August 16. The convention was held in the temporary Parliament Building.

INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE DATE CHANGED TO SEPT. 15.

The National Industrial Conference will be held on September 15 at Ottawa for the purpose of considering trade relationship, about laws and labour conditions has been postponed.

CAPE BRETON MINERS POSTPONED INAUGURAL OF 5 DAY WEEK.

The inauguration of the five working days a week period, which was to come into effect at the Cape Breton collieries August 2nd, was indefinitely postponed, was the decision handed out by the executive of the U. M. W. A. Mr. Baxter, president of the U. M. W. A., stated that this decision had been arrived at after several of the locals had protested strongly against putting this into effect. Mr. Baxter stated the executive then decided to act on this matter until a vote would be taken at a convention which will be held in Sydney on August 25th. It is understood another question that will be dealt with by this convention is the matter of a general increase in wages to all employees.

VANCOUVER HAS RE-ORGANIZED TRADES COUNCIL.

The new Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, which will comprise unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, took upon itself a more definite form at a meeting held in Vancouver last night. A number of the unions in Vancouver were represented at the meeting, delegates and representatives being present from the Amalgamated picture operators, theatrical stage employees, garment workers, milk drivers and shoe workers, teamsters and chauffeurs, and the typographical, barbers, sheet metal workers, plumbers, meat cutters, firemen and domestic employees. The meeting was held in Room 191 in the Labor Temple.

The constitution held by the old council will be revised to conform with the needs of the British Columbia labor, and the following were appointed to carry out this work: E. A. Jamieson, A. O. Hansen, J. H. McVeety, and W. Welch, who was elected as chairman for the meeting, and Miss Helen Gutteridge as secretary. Later it was announced that the new council will be organized on September 1st.

The delegates determined not to hold a Labor Day parade on Monday, September 1st. Some of the building trades unions and other locals favored a parade.

The Ladies' Union delegates announced that their membership had been greatly increased. Many new members were initiated. Guy Potter has been appointed business agent for the local union and will devote undivided services to the office.

At the first council meeting in September the full quota of delegates to the Dominion Trades Congress convention will be elected.

CALGARY MACHINISTS LOSE CHARTER.

It has not come altogether as a surprise in labor circles that the charter of the International Union of Machinists in Calgary has been surrendered on account of One Big Union activities. It is alleged that this particular union, which since the strike has been in the hands of the O. B. U., and when the vote was taken some time ago to sever connection with the International, it carried by 140 to 65.

It is quite possible that since the strike the viewpoint of many of the members has undergone a considerable change and that the feeling has reverted back to the International. In this connection J. Millar, the president of the Calgary International, stated that since the strike he has insisted that the O. B. U. should not be discussed at their lodge. However, Mr. James Somerville, International representative of the machinists, has seen fit to revoke the charter of the Calgary Local Machinists Union. A new local will be formed at once and the O. B. U. name waters will find a seat in the union.

MONTREAL WORKERS AGAINST O. B. U.

At a meeting of the Montreal workers, held on Monday night in the Heat and Power Company, held on Monday night the union officially declared its opposition to joining the O. B. U.

CAPE BRETON I. L. P. MEETS.

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TRIPLE ALLIANCE POSTPONE BALLOT

"Direct Action" Referendum to Be Reconsidered by Conference.

The Triple Alliance has decided to postpone its "direct action" referendum on political demands.

An official report of the resolution says that it was decided to postpone the balloting and to summon a full delegate conference to reconsider the referendum. The decision of the triple alliance executives to postpone the ballot was arrived at after a day of long conferences held by members of their executive committee. The decision was based on the fact that the change in the government policy toward Russia, an regarding conscription and also the government's decision no longer to intervene for the settlement of industrial disputes, and second, apparent wanting in the enthusiasm of the Triple Alliance.

The Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords explained the government's attitude, saying that during the war it was of paramount importance to keep men at work, but that this no longer was so imperative now that the war had ended. Therefore, the Lord Chancellor added, disputes would be left to be settled by negotiation between masters and men.

At the conference it transpired that the Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire miners were against direct action, while J. H. Thomas declined to consent to the railwaymen being committed to direct action at the best of the triple alliance unless the railwaymen were individually consulted. There was strong divergence of opinion displayed concerning the advisability of direct action.

MONTMERCY TEXTILE WORKERS RESUME WORK

The strike at the Dominion Textile company's mills at Montmency came to an end Thursday as the employees accepted the company's offer of a 10 per cent raise in wages.

ROSEDALE MINERS RETAIN INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION.

Rosedale Mine which is located in District 18 of the U. M. W. A. is one of the few mines that do not retain its international affiliation. There is no strike there nor is there likely to be one despite the propaganda of the O. B. U.

As an appreciation of their stand the following letter was received from Wm. Green, secretary-treasurer of the International body:

"John S. Schofield, Secretary Local Union 2317, Rosedale, Alta.

Dear Sir and brothers:—

It is unfortunate, indeed that the mine workers of British Columbia have had to go through the experience of the O. B. U. strike. However, I am glad to note that your local union has learned the lesson of the international affiliation. You have outlined, namely to remain affiliated with the United Mine Workers of America. Rest assured that we are ready and willing at all times to render you any aid or advice that lies within my power.

"Fraternalty yours, I am,

(Signed) WM. GREEN, Secretary-treasurer.

NIAGARA FALLS ELECTRICAL WORKERS DEFER ACTION.

The electrical employees of the Toronto Power Company at Niagara Falls decided Friday night to defer the strike action in order to allow the case with the Toronto power company to be heard at once and the O. B. U. name waters will find a seat in the union.

DRUMHELLER MINERS RESUME WORK.

The throbs of pumps and the many other activities common to a mining camp, were resumed at the various collieries in the Drumheller valley Tuesday morning. The strike, which had been in existence since May 24 has ended.

MONTREAL BUILDING TRADES NEGOTIATE.

The strike of the building trades in Montreal is still in the throes of negotiation. The men are well satisfied with the progress that is being made and claim that gradually city contractors are individually coming to terms.

SWAT THE PROFITEER

The open season is on for swatting the profiteer. The British Government has enacted a bill providing for prosecution and penalties for profiteers. Boards of Trade are empowered to investigate prices, and to take into consideration of unreasonable prices.

After investigation the board is authorized to declare what is a reasonable price and require that the article be sold at that price. In case of failure to sell articles at the price specified, the board is empowered to take proceedings against offenders before a court of summary jurisdiction, which may inflict penalties not exceeding a fine of £200 or six months imprisonment.

The board of trade may require local authorities to establish local boards of trade, and at the same time to provide right of appeal by any order or decision of the local board.

The board of trade may authorize local authorities under prescribed conditions to purchase and sell any article to which the act applies.

WELLAND CANAL WORKERS STILL NEGOTIATING

A meeting of the workers representing the Welland Canal, held on Friday night, was held on Friday night, and the men decided to go on strike on Monday unless some fresh overtures for a settlement came from the Department of Railways and Canals. However, since that time the Niagara District Trades and Labor Council took the matter in hand and are attempting a satisfactory settlement with the Government.

OTTAWA ELECTRIC IN NEW ROLE.

Co-operative insurance of co-operative buyers of the necessities of life, besides a 10-week sick benefit of \$10 a week, will be possible for the employees of the Ottawa Electric Railway Co. under plans being considered by representatives of the company and the men.

The O. E. R. is offering to put up dollars worth of the men and Major F. D. Burpee, O. E. R. superintendent, is in the company offices last week. This insurance is open to all employees, and men who may be employed.

Up to the present the final details in connection with the scheme have been decided upon, but the prospects are, it will be endorsed by the union.

WE DON'T WANT THIS.



FROM COAST TO COAST

Conforming with the finding of the Royal Commission which recently investigated grievances of the Toronto police, and reported against the Police Union being affiliated with the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the Toronto policemen decided this week to surrender their affiliation under protest. They anticipate legislation at the next session of the Ontario Legislature to provide for police unions being in affiliation with the Dominion Trades Congress.

TORONTO POLICEMEN WITHDRAW FROM CONGRESS UNDER PROTEST.

At a midnight mass meeting on Saturday night members of the Toronto Street Railway Employees' Union decided to accept the terms of employment recommended in the report of Justice Barron's Board of Conciliation, and authorized the committee which has the report in hand to sign the agreement drafted in it. Controller Robins, secretary of the union, who addressed the meeting, stated that little exception was taken to the recommendations of the Board of Conciliation, and there was not much discussion of its award. While some regret was expressed that the demands of the men had not met with full satisfaction, the sentiment of the majority was that the wage increase and eight-hour day schedule having been granted, minor changes might in the interests of public service be overlooked.

TORONTO STREET RAILWAY MEN ACCEPT BOARD'S AWARD.

At a meeting of the returned soldiers at a camp, held on Friday, the committee appointed at the previous gathering was authorized to recommend to the executive of the returned soldiers the calling of a meeting of all the militia and reserve forces who were at work on July 25, the day the strike was called, to decide by secret ballot whether or not they desire to return to work, and apply for a Board of Conciliation, and await its award.

TORONTO CIGARMAKERS ORGANIZING COMPANY.

Union cigarmakers at Toronto are organizing a co-operative cigarmakers' manufacturing company with a capital of \$40,000. The workers will receive the union rate of pay and after the shareholders, who are all labor men, receive a return on their money, a profit-sharing scheme will be set on foot.

COBALT MINERS ADVISED TO APPLY FOR BOARD.

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CALGARY PLUMBERS RESUME WORK.

The plumbers' dispute in Calgary has been settled. After being out for a month, negotiations were held up until the arrival of John N. Bruce, International general organizer of the Plumbers' and Steamfitters' Union. Shortly after his arrival an amicable settlement was reached, whereby the men return to work at their old scale of 89 cents an hour for 39 days in justice to contractors cleaning up work they had on hand, and at the same time they are to receive 60 cents an hour under a new contract, which new contract remains the old conditions, recognition of the union, and good working conditions.

MINTO MINE WORKERS APPLY FOR BOARD.

It is understood the miners at Minto, N.B., are asking for a board, the point in dispute being the size of the coal box. The Minto miners are paid not by the ton, but by the box and they contend that the size of the box has been increased without a corresponding increase in their pay.

STRIKE LEADERS ARE COMMITTED

To Stand Trial at October Assizes on Seditious Conspiracy.

The Crown completed its case in the preliminary hearing of the eight labour leaders charged with seditious conspiracy—William Ivens, W. A. Pritchard, R. B. Russell, R. J. Johns, R. E. Bray, George Armstrong, John Queen and A. A. Heaps—on Monday, and the accused were formally committed for trial at the October assizes. When Mr. A. J. Andrews, K.C., announced that the case for the Crown was in, the defendants were asked if they had anything to say, and all shook their heads.

The preliminary trial was one of the longest in the history of the Manitoba courts, lasting 49 hours and extending over three and a half weeks.

HAMILTON SOLDIER WORKER TO CONTEST SEAT.

A sensation was caused in Labour circles last Monday when Lieut. Samuel L. Landers, who recently returned from overseas, announced his intention to contest East Hamilton as a soldier candidate for the vacancy in the Ontario legislature, which will be filled at the election held for four parliamentary terms. There is not a shadow of a doubt, but that the Independent Labor party will oppose Mr. Landers' candidature. Lieut. Landers has for long been identified with the Trades Union movement and the I.L.P. For many years he has been a delegate to the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council. He was at one time general organizer for the Garment Workers' International Union. Mr. Landers joined the colors with the 26th "Tigers" Machine Gun Battalion as a private. After being in France three years he was awarded his commission.

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THIRTEEN HOURS TOO LONG—JURY'S VERDICT.

Recommendations that experienced men instead of boys be employed in positions endangering human life; and that for such strenuous work, was the verdict brought in by the jury in the case of the death of Brown's death from injuries received at the Atlantic Sugar Refinery on July 21, by being struck with a bag of sugar, falling from an improperly loaded sling.

Organized labor has always insisted on the abolition of child labor and an 8-hour day. The recommendations of the jury is another proof that organized labor is right.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES WANT TRIPARTITE CONTROL OF RAILROADS.

Declaring that American democracy is "controlled by an autocracy in industry" Warren S. Stone, chief of the brotherhood of locomotive engineers, urges passage of the Sims bill which embodies the Plumb plan for government ownership and "tripartite" control of the railroads.

Stone said: "We exist under government but by industry we live. Under such a system the majority of the democratic and supporters of government enjoy only such rights and privileges as an autocracy in industry permits them to receive. This country was people by a race who sought within its boundaries religious freedom. It was established by their descendants through revolutionary and political freedom. We now demand that it become the home of industrial freedom."

The Plumb plan provides for government ownership of the railroads, their operation by a board made up of representatives of the public, the operating and the employees of the railroads, and a profit-sharing scheme between the public and the employee. Six million adult producers of the country are the supporters of the plan—about one-sixth of the productive man-power of the United States and perhaps the same proportion of the population of the nation, Plumb told the committee. Speaking of the financial power of the plan, Plumb declared that those employed in the railroads are represented in this movement, receive as their annual compensation upwards of two and a half billion dollars.

The salient points of Plumb's testimony were:

1.—The constantly rising cost of living to the consumer has far outstripped the purchasing power of the consumer's wage.

2.—With wages increased in all industries the owners of capital alone have benefited.

3.—Labor realizes that further advances in wages at the expense of a cost of living exceeding that of the wage increase, are wholly futile.

4.—Increased productive power of human effort should be reflected equally in increased wages and decreased cost of living—not in increased cost of living.

5.—The cost of transportation is reflected in the cost of living—increased in the cost of transportation results in an increase in the price of all living necessities and likewise increased cost of living.

6.—There can be government purchase of railroads without depriving the owners of their legal rights, for the property rights which exist in railroads are public made to the holders of such privileges.

7.—1907 TO 1918—A COMPARISON OF WAGES AND PRICES.

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As compared with 1917, an hour's wages in 1918 brought but 72 per cent as much food and a week's wages but 69 per cent as much food.

The remedy for this state of affairs is obviously along different lines than 'more' wage raising.

Clearly, the point of attack must be changed. When retail prices continue to 'go up' at a much swifter pace than wages, there must be something wrong with the distributive machinery.

As long as the machinery of distribution remains under the control of a third party, the middleman, there can be little hope of reform in this quarter. One way out of this dilemma is the co-operative method of buying and selling, now officially advocated by the American Federation of Labor.

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RAILROAD BOARD MAKES AWARDS

The Canadian Railway Board, adjourned Tuesday in five cases between companies and employees. Full arrangements were arrived at between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and their sleeping car conductors was confirmed by the board. This provided for salary on the basis of a flat monthly rate, and the award was \$150 per month for the first year's service and \$150 per month thereafter.

These monthly rates are to include mileage and work and conditions as at present established. The conductors have objected to acceptance of the rate determined by the United States Railroad Administration, because it was based on conductors on sleeping cars, whereas their runs are regarded as regular, and the award territorial conditions.

The award controversy settled as that of the Canadian Pacific Railway (Western line), the Canadian National Railway (Western line), and the Great Northern Railway (Western line) and their maintenance of way employees in regard to the rate of board being increased from \$6 to \$150 per month. It was stated that the gangs could feed themselves, if they wished, but if the railway themselves, or their contractors, are to be paid, they could do so at a rate not higher than \$6.50.

Another issue disposed of was that of the C. P. R. (Western line), and the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Freight Handlers, and Station Employees in regard to dating of retroactive pay for clerical employees of the local freight and yard offices at Vancouver and Coquitlam.

The award in the case of the C. P. R. (Western line) was specifically named in the agreement or award under which they were working prior to May 1, 1918, they are entitled to the application of the increases provided for in the so-called MacDowd award, as from May 1, 1918. It may be noted that in such agreement or award they are entitled to such increase as from August 1, 1918.

The award in the case of the Canadian Express Company and its employees. There was a question as to the interpretation of the word 'position' as used in the award, which provided that "To the monthly rate of pay of position as of January 1, 1918, add \$25 per month."

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The Canadian Railway Board, adjourned Tuesday in five cases between companies and employees. Full arrangements were arrived at between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and their sleeping car conductors was confirmed by the board. This provided for salary on the basis of a flat monthly rate, and the award was \$150 per month for the first year's service and \$150 per month thereafter.

These monthly rates are to include mileage and work and conditions as at present established. The conductors have objected to acceptance of the rate determined by the United States Railroad Administration, because it was based on conductors on sleeping cars, whereas their runs are regarded as regular, and the award territorial conditions.

The award controversy settled as that of the Canadian Pacific Railway (Western line), the Canadian National Railway (Western line), and the Great Northern Railway (Western line) and their maintenance of way employees in regard to the rate of board being increased from \$6 to \$150 per month. It was stated that the gangs could feed themselves, if they wished, but if the railway themselves, or their contractors, are to be paid, they could do so at a rate not higher than \$6.50.

Another issue disposed of was that of the C. P. R. (Western line), and the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Freight Handlers, and Station Employees in regard to dating of retroactive pay for clerical employees of the local freight and yard offices at Vancouver and Coquitlam.

The award in the case of the C. P. R. (Western line) was specifically named in the agreement or award under which they were working prior to May 1, 1918, they are entitled to the application of the increases provided for in the so-called MacDowd award, as from May 1, 1918. It may be noted that in such agreement or award they are entitled to such increase as from August 1, 1918.

The award in the case of the Canadian Express Company and its employees. There was a question as to the interpretation of the word 'position' as used in the award, which provided that "To the monthly rate of pay of position as of January 1, 1918, add \$25 per month."

The salient points of Plumb's testimony were:

1.—The constantly rising cost of living to the consumer has far outstripped the purchasing power of the consumer's wage.

2.—With wages increased in all industries the owners of capital alone have benefited.

3.—Labor realizes that further advances in wages at the expense of a cost of living exceeding that of the wage increase, are wholly futile.

4.—Increased productive power of human effort should be reflected equally in increased wages and decreased cost of living—not in increased cost of living.

5.—The cost of transportation is reflected in the cost of living—increased in the cost of transportation results in an increase in the price of all living necessities and likewise increased cost of living.

6.—There can be government purchase of railroads without depriving the owners of their legal rights, for the property rights which exist in railroads are public made to the holders of such privileges.

7.—1907 TO 1918—A COMPARISON OF WAGES AND PRICES.

"That an increased wage does not necessarily mean 'more ease' is clearly shown by the statistics published by the Department of Labor.

A comparison of changes in trade union wages and retail prices of food from 1907 to 1918 shows that an hour's wages in 1918 purchased but 79 per cent as much food as an hour's wages in 1907, and a week's wages but 77 per cent as much food.

As compared with 1917, an hour's wages in 1918 brought but 72 per cent as much food and a week's wages but 69 per cent as much food.

The remedy for this state of affairs is obviously along different lines than 'more' wage raising.

Clearly, the point of attack must be changed. When retail prices continue to 'go up' at a much swifter pace than wages, there must be something wrong with the distributive machinery.

As long as the machinery of distribution remains under the control of a third party, the middleman, there can be little hope of reform in this quarter. One way out of this dilemma is the co-operative method of buying and selling, now officially advocated by the American Federation of Labor.

'The power of wealth and of privilege can be successfully met by the people only by utilizing to the full extent the power of numbers, and by industrial, emancipation can come only through the utilization by the people not only of their power of production but of their own purchasing power.

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