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RESUME OF ACTIVITIES OF ALBERTA FED. OF LABOR

(Continued from Page One)

objective of nationalization of all health effort.

Coal Mines Act. Section 17 was amended to provide for the appointment of an examining board for the province on which there shall be two working miners, whose duties shall be to hold examinations and determine qualifications for mine manager, overseer, and fire boss. Section 34 was amended to read "All wages earned by any person or persons employed in or about a mine from the first day to the fifteenth day of each month, both days inclusive, shall be paid on the first Saturday after the 28th day of the same month, and all wages earned from the sixteenth day to the last day of each month, both days inclusive, shall be paid on the first Saturday after the 12th day of the following month." The power given an employer to retain moneys due for doctors' fees was repealed. Safety lamps must be examined by a person holding a first, second or third class certificate. The two persons appointed by workers to inspect a mine shall be or have been practical miners. The provisions for payment of wages are still far from being satisfactory, some months having only one pay day and some three, this convention should press for a fortnightly payment of wages for these workers. We should also press for the enactment of legislation that would prevent men working at the coal face until they have obtained a certificate of competency from a board of examiners.

One Day's Rest in Seven. No measure of relief was adopted for those workers who are engaged in continuous occupations. The Lord's Day Act only provides protection for those workers who ordinarily work more than eight hours per day. In line with the labor proposals adopted in connection with the peace conference we would recommend that the incoming executive be instructed to press for the adoption of a universal maximum 44 hour week for all workers in the province with provisions that will grant at least one day's rest in seven.

Allowances to Mothers. This measure provides for the appointment of an inspector by every city or town whose duty it shall be to receive applications for assistance from widows (or the wives of persons committed to the hospital for insane under the insanity act and actually inmates thereof) who have in their custody children under the age of 15 years in the case of boys and 16 years in the case of girls. The superintendent of neglected children upon receipt of the report may recommend to the Attorney General that such weekly installments as may be deemed necessary to grant relief be paid, one half of said amounts to be borne by the authorities of the city or town as the case may be. This Act is far too narrow and this convention might well give consideration to the measure approved at Medicine Hat.

Factories Act. Another year has passed and we are still in the position, in connection with this measure, of having to report lack of administration, it seems as if no effort will be made by the authorities to give to those workers coming within the scope of this Act that measure of relief it provides. Our request that the minimum wage be materially increased was not granted but an amendment was adopted that provided for the appointment of a commission in each of the four cities composed of a representative of the government, a representative of the employers and a representative of the workers whose duty it shall be, upon a request being made by the employees in any industry, to make an enquiry into the conditions as to the maximum hours to be worked and the minimum wages that shall be paid. Up to the time of filing this report no request for an enquiry has been made, this is due no doubt to the fact that workers coming within the scope of this act are not organized, consequently they are without the necessary machinery for making the request. Every effort should be made to organize this section of the workers as their position will undoubtedly reflect itself on the rest of the organized workers. Not only have the regulations relative to hours and wages been neglected but sanitation, ventilation and safety appliances also, the regulations that notices of accidents be filed with the inspector have been ignored, the percentage of notices actually sent being very small. As the Compensation Board has the power to make regulations for safety and will be appointing inspectors to enforce same, in line with our previous request for centralization of administration, we would recommend that the government be urged to place the administration of this measure in their hands.

Regulations Governing Theatres. The Provincial Secretary under whose department this measure comes assured us that our request for examinations had in a measure been met and a member of the Motion Picture Projection Engineers was now on his staff. No action was taken by him regarding fire escapes from fly galleries or safety appliances for counter weights. This matter was taken up with the Compensation Board and your secretary accompanied one of the members of that board through most of the theatres in Calgary and we are assured that regulations have been made which all the theatres in the province will be required to put into operation.

Political Prisoners. Whereas, there are at present hundreds of men languishing in the jails for no other crime than that they had the courage of their convictions, be it therefore resolved that this convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor demand the release of all political prisoners, and be it further resolved that this convention approve the calling of a general strike should other means fail to secure the end sought.

Organization. Realizing that if the Organized Labor movement is to afford that protection to the workers it should, it is necessary that a determined effort be made to bring the large numbers of workers, now outside, within our folds, and having in mind that the expense of conducting a successful campaign is more than the local organizations and Trades Councils can meet and further that the funds of the American Federation of Labor be urged to grant financial assistance for the organizing of those workers who can be organized into International organizations, and further that the Trades and Labor Congress be urged to grant the sum of \$500 to assist the work of organizing those workers for whom there is no International union and who will be required to be brought under a Federal Labor Charter.

Postal Employees. Whereas, the Federation of Western Postal Employees have been refused a charter from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and

Whereas, the Alberta Federation of Labor and the local Trades and Labor Councils have accepted the affiliation of this organization, therefore be it resolved that the Alberta Federation of Labor request the Dominion Trades Congress to grant a charter to the Western Postal Employees.

These matters were dealt with as per the following report:

On my return to the office I have looked carefully into the resolutions forwarded with your letter. I will be glad to receive at your convenience the full report of your Federation convention.

Relative to the War Times Election Act: I have been given to understand that action will be taken on the repeal of this I will do all that lies in my power to aid in that direction. I agree with you relative to the proportional representation but without further instructions from other agents of the country am doubtful whether we would be justified in initiating a request for this.

Your second resolutions re freedom of expression of ideas: It is my opinion that these orders-in-council will be

War Times Election Act. We ask for the repeal of the War Times Election Act and substituting therefor an entirely new act providing for election of representatives by the proportional representation system, of voting with grouped constituencies, and further that provision be made for adult suffrage throughout Canada.

Freedom of Expression of Ideas. We request the Trades and Labor Congress to at once demand of the Dominion Government the repeal of all restraining orders in connection with freedom of speech and press, failing compliance with request at the expiration of 60 days that the Dominion Trades Congress take the necessary steps to bring about a general strike throughout the Dominion for the enforcement of our demand in this regard.

Public Health. We ask for the nationalization of the medical and nursing professions, also all institutions pertaining to the health of the people.

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MECHANICS' LIEN ACT

In connection with this measure your executive was placed in the ridiculous position of having the amendments suggested by the committee at Medicine Hat adopted clause by clause, then a minority report that repudiated this and coupled questions applicable to other pieces of legislation with this measure referred to us consequently we were not in a position to definitely state the requirements of the organized workers in this regard with the result that nothing was done by the legislature. The need for the protection of wages of workers must be apparent to all, and this convention should give to the incoming executive definite instructions as to its requirements in this regard.

Building Trades Protection Act. We were not able to get the government to assume responsibility for the enforcement of this measure which meant another piece of legislation on the statutes that was not being enforced. While your secretary was in Edmonton during October a fatal accident occurred due to faulty scaffolding, and I took the opportunity to take the matter up with the Compensation Board, informing them that we required not only compensation for accidents but that with State Insurance we believed safety provisions could be more readily made and enforced. We would recommend that this convention press for the administration of this measure being placed in the hands of the Compensation Board believing that by this means we will secure for the workers on buildings the necessary protection.

Electrical Protection Act. This measure was adopted in 1917, but no machinery for its administration was created and as a number of the classes were objected to by both employers and workmen a joint meeting of those affected was held April, 1919, when regulations acceptable to all were agreed upon, said regulations came into force November 1st. The administration of this measure was placed in the hands of the Compensation Board and after an examination a member of the Calgary local of Electricians was appointed inspector and is now on the job.

The Medicine Hat resolutions of a Federal Character were laid before the executive of the Trades Congress, they are as follows:

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NO TEACHERS UNDER CONTRACT

New School Board Inherits Pressing Job of Negotiating Wage Schedule.

One of the first matters of business that will demand the attention of the newly elected public school board will be the negotiation of a wage schedule for public and high school teachers. At the present time the city is in the unique position of having few, if any, teachers under contract. All contracts, expired December 31st. Usually teachers sign new contracts for another year before the holidays. This year the Alliance intimates to the board that the old contract would not be signed and the Alliance executives notified the individual members to refrain from signing contracts.

A rather unique procedure is the old school board recommending to the new board, that the schedule approved by a conference of school trustees in Calgary recently, be adopted by Edmonton. Delegates from expiring boards of several Alberta cities met in Calgary a week ago and decided on a \$1,900 minimum to \$1,500 maximum for grade teachers and other things in proportion. The Alliance all over Alberta demands a \$1,200 minimum and other positions in proportion.

It is understood in teacher circles that an attempt to force that schedule upon the Alliance would precipitate trouble at once both in Edmonton and Calgary and raise no end of trouble and discord in other places as well. It is declared that the teachers have been made the goat long enough and fed upon fine speeches and eulogies. They want to see some adequate wage money in the pay envelope, and are determined to see it. The schedule submitted by the Alliance with \$1,200 minimum and \$1,800 maximum with a spread of six years is declared by school men to be the figure the teachers demand and expect to get. Their decision to refrain from signing any contracts until the schedule matter is adjusted shows clearly that the teachers are apt scholars in the art of unionized effort.

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