

A. F. OF L. ARM OR YEAR AGGRESSIVE

Fortieth Annual Convention at Montreal Closes on Saturday.

On Saturday the fortieth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which had been in session since June 7 at Montreal, concluded its sessions. Organized Labor of America now is armed for an aggressive year in the world of politics, economics and industry as a result of the militant programme framed by the convention representing the rank and file of the workers in all parts of the continent.

Ontario Carpenters' Conventions During Month.

Trade in the Province appears to be good by the various reports sent in this month, says the Monthly Trade Report of the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters for June. Bridgeport reports a 15c per hour increase, making their scale 85c. Cobourg shows an increase from 55c to 65c, also they have reduced their hours from 53 per week to 50. Lindsay shows an increase of 10c per hour, making their scale 60c. London reports an increase from 40c to 70c with their meeting on the 15th of the month to accept or reject the bosses' final offer; they also show an increase of 7c in members since last year.

NOVA SCOTIA MINERS WANT COMMISSION.

The Conciliation Board which has been investigating the long-standing strike at the Minto coal mines in Queen's County, N.S., has submitted a report, which the men have rejected, and in consequence, a Royal Commission will be appointed soon to investigate the whole situation at Minto and endeavor to establish permanent peace between the mine owners and the operatives. The secretary of the U. M. W. of America, District 25, has been giving his special attention to the situation since that his organization favors the appointment of Royal Commissions wherever possible, instead of Conciliation Boards. It is expected that the findings of the Royal Commission will be held either in Fredericton or Minto.

BRITISH LABOR TO HAVE GENERAL STAFF.

Plans for a General Staff for Labor were further discussed recently, says the Daily Herald, and a fund-raising scheme will be ready for consideration by the Trades Union Congress when it assembles at Portsmouth in September. We understand that in place of the present Parliamentary Committee of Congress it is proposed to set up a General Council with executive functions, which would have administrative departments properly staffed and equipped. Details are to be worked out at further meetings of the Co-ordination Sub-committee.

PRINTERS' CONFERENCE OFFICIALS.

At the annual convention of the Typographical Union at Hamilton last week officers were elected as follows: President, James Cunningham, Toronto; vice-president, A. J. Rowell, Toronto; secretary-treasurer, H. S. Bentley, Hamilton.

COSTS VERY HEAVY FOR SIMPSON.

James Simpson, J. Toronto, is contended with a total bill of damages of \$1,000 amounting to \$7,113 as the result of recent actions brought against him for slander and libel by Arthur E. O'Leary, former president of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, and W. H. Hayes, former secretary of the council. In the O'Leary case a verdict for the plaintiff for \$1,500 damages was given and in the Hayes case the verdict was for \$4,000 damages; the costs in the former case being \$262.60, and in the Hayes case \$758.55.

League of Nations No Longer a Dream

Declares Ames

"The League of Nations is no longer a dream," said Sir Herbert Ames, M. P., and Canada's representative of the secretariat of the league, during an address before the House of Commons on Tuesday. "It is a reality; it has been; it has form; it has organs, functions, and it has difficulties have been overcome; many dangers avoided. There are still difficulties and dangers in the way, but I am today convinced that ultimate success is reasonably sure, so convinced that I am ready to stake my future on this issue."

SAMUEL GOMPERS ON LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Warns A. F. of L. There is No Other Course Only Ratification.

In speaking on the ratification of the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations contained therein, at the 40th annual convention of the A. F. of L. President Gompers said: "One of the delegates criticized the proposition contained in the treaty of disarmament. Four years before the war broke out, the British House of Commons and the British House of Lords, upon the proposal of the draft, proposed that the nations of the world should stop naval construction. That was the beginning of the movement for the disarmament of the nations of the world, which, as Delegate McCulloch stated, failed through the attitude of the German Government, which was preparing for war."

TRUTH IS BEST REPLY TO FANTASTIC PLANS

A. F. of L. Says American Nation Has Reached Grave Crisis.

The A. F. of L. convention approved recommendations of the executive council that the truth about democracy, and not a denial of democracy, is the best reply to fantastic plans of extreme propagandists. "The written and spoken propaganda of unreason and extremism can be met and defeated by truth," the council said. "But legitimate unrest, growing out of conditions of the world, can be met and overcome only by intelligent dealing with conditions. Those who drink from a poisoned well will be poisoned until the well is cleaned."

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BRITISH FARM WORKERS' MINIMUM NOW 46c. WEEK.

The National Agricultural Workers Board of Great Britain recently decided to increase the minimum for farm workers to 46s. per week. The present minimum is 42s. but this figure has been exceeded in various areas by decisions of the National and District Boards. All these rates will be proportionately increased by the decision. The members of the Workers' Union and the members of the Agricultural Workers' Union have demanded a minimum of 46s. (in some cases 48s.), but the decision of the board is likely to bring peace.

THE BRITISH AMALGAMATED ENGINEERING UNION.

The British engineers amalgamated have become something more than the Amalgamated Engineers. The new amalgamation is composed of the following unions: United Machine Workers' Association; United Kingdom Society of Amalgamated Smiths and Strikers; Steam Engine Makers' Society; East of Scotland Braamfounder's Society; Associated Braamfounders, Turners, Fitters, Finishers and Coppersmiths Society; Amalgamated Instrument Makers' Society; North of England Brass Turners, Fitters and Finishers' Society; Public Braamfounders and Finishers' Society; London United Brass Finishers' Society; Amalgamated Toolmakers, Engineers and Machinists' Society; and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. It has a membership of over 469,000, with accumulated funds of \$1,500,000.

Discrediting the Movement

Seldom does the Toronto Trades and Labor Council meet in session that directly or indirectly the International Trade Union movement, of which it forms a part, is discredited. Resolutions condemning the officials of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and the American Federation of Labor have been passed on occasions, and it was only recently that a resolution of confidence in Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist candidate for the Presidency of the United States, was unanimously adopted. At the last meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council a bitter attack on the president of the American Federation of Labor was made, resulting in a resolution that more than ever and this was evidenced by the large number of telegrams received from local unions all over the country in favor of the Canadian policies that had been formulated.

LABOR DEMONSTRATES FITNESS TO GOVERN

Queensland Has Had a Labor Government Since May, 1915.

"Is labor fit to govern?" This question was put recently to Mr. Edward Granville Theodore, the Labor Premier of Queensland. "The Labor Party," Mr. Theodore replied, "has governed Queensland since May, 1915. It has had to manage the affairs of that state during the most critical and strenuous period of its history, during dislocations caused by the war and drought, and by the consequent financial disturbances. Labor, however, has demonstrated that it is as well capable, even in these circumstances, of administering the affairs of the state as any other political party. No impartial observer in Australia has ever doubted the fitness of the Labor Government to carry on as efficiently under the labor regime as under any previous Conservative administration."

GERMAN DELEGATES TO ATTEND SEAMEN'S CONFERENCE.

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BEAUTIFUL VIRGINIA WHERE GUNMEN RULE

United Mine Workers Call on U. S. Gov't to Investigate.

Every possible effort is being made by the United Mine Workers of America to bring about a full and thorough investigation of conditions in West Virginia, under which coal miners are employed. The recent battle between coal miners and coal company gunmen at Matewan, W. Va., in which ten men were killed, has caused the officials of the union to redouble their efforts to induce the United States Congress to make a sweeping probe of the situation. John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, has repeatedly urged Governor Cornwell of West Virginia, to take action along this line. Following the Matewan affair, Lewis again brought the subject forcibly to the attention of the Governor. Recently, Senator Francis P. Pickens, introduced a resolution in the Senate calling for an investigation, and Governor Cornwell and Senator Francis a stinging telegram requesting him to keep out of West Virginia's affairs.

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Surely if there is one aim in the whole world which should strive to make the League of Nations alive and powerful it is Labor. It is not the League of Nations as a "capitalist" or even the unformed leaders of "militarism" safe at headquarters in the rear, that suffers most when the shells burst and the poison gas rolls forward. It is the soldier in the trenches, the "common man," the laboring man, in so many thousands, who has been justly proud of the part it played in the last great struggle. Would it not avert that deadly toll if it could do so for all the days to come? Labor is suffering severely in these days of reconstruction—if the truth be told, it is suffering more than ever. Would it again make the critics of blood, of treasure, of obedience and hard-won rights and privileges given up in war-time, or would it do what it could to make the League of Nations live and powerful? The League of Nations is not perfect; it is far from perfect. But it is all we have, the only thing that has come out of the war. It is mankind's first attempt to translate dreams into action, a halting, stumbling attempt perhaps, but still a definite move at last. And there were some within the ranks of that class which has suffered more from war, ever since history began, who would have betrayed their dead, their children and the generations of their class as yet unborn at the dictates of a class of malcontents and schemers. Thank God the heart of Labor responded and the brain of Labor was clear to see.

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