

Parties Stand on Railroad Policy

CIVIL SERVANTS AND MANUAL WORKERS IN FRANCE

(L. F. T. U. (The Congress of the National Federation of Civil Servants Unions (Federation des Fonctionnaires) was attended by 200 delegates representing about 150,000 civil servants organized in 31 unions. The National Federation is affiliated to the French General Federation of Trade Unions.

The evolution towards a new social order of which the organized working class movement is the driving power as well as the gradual transformation of the political state into an important factor in the process of production, impose new tasks upon the Civil Servants.

"We have come to realize," said Tessen in moving his report on the right of association, "what a great part can and must be played by the trade unions in the economic transformation of the State."

The State is encroaching more and more upon the domain of economic life. "In these times," he said, "the State builds; the State forges; the State plants and sows; the State administers; the State possesses; the State buys and sells. The State has become a great employing concern. The political State, which hitherto has been confined only in the task of ruling human beings, is becoming an institution for the administration of economic operations. The State, however, has not yet been adapted and equipped for this task of production. The State is still a mere political organism. "But it is not possible, from a capital town or from a central bureau, to impose fixed rules upon the delicate and endless variety of national and international economic relations; neither is it possible to administer the affairs of a nation by means of bureaucratic forces."

Parliament must transfer more and more of its power to specialists and experts. The State is becoming a purely political institution, the State is becoming an economic organism, "representing the organized body of expert knowledge." This new State is a reflex "of the Social Epoch" through which we are passing, in this epoch which we are passing, in this epoch of Labor, the sovereign power and not the State."

The organized Civil Servants do not wish that their position in the State should be regulated by laws and the trade unions which stand before the State and an independent Civil Servants' movement came into being. On the contrary, laws and institutions must take into account the existence of the trade unions of Civil Servants.

"It is not the State that creates the rights of the Civil Servants; these rights exist independent of the State."

"The State has only to recognize the social rights of the workers whom it employs and must negotiate with the Trade Unions on the basis of absolute equality."

"It is now the chief task of the

CO-OPERATIVE HOME BUILDING SUCCESSFUL

The People's Construction Company, of St. Paul a co-operative building association organized by steady employment for the workers at the high union wages. During the past year many large jobs had to be refused by the company because the workers were not organized to handle them; but with the success and experience now achieved the manager predicts that next year's construction will reach \$1,000,000.

In Boston the building trades unions have formed the Construction and Housing Company of Boston, which has been incorporated for \$100,000, divided into 80 shares, held by more than 1,000 workmen. A number of important building projects have been successfully handled. The management and administration of this important undertaking has been entrusted to leaders who fitted themselves as competent business men through courses in business methods, accounting and finance at the Boston Trades Union College.

A similar movement has started in San Francisco, where the workers, tired of waiting for the contractors to provide them with work, have started building homes for themselves through a workers' building and loan association. Recently organized, any man can secure credit to build a home by making small monthly payments. In Jackson, Mich.; Reading, Pa.; and Brooklyn, N.Y., workers' building guilds have successfully erected many homes at cost of labor and materials; while several western co-operative societies have built co-operative apartment houses to solve the housing problem for their members.

The shortage of several hundred thousand homes throughout the nation is due to the fact that the co-operative system has broken down as an incentive for real estate speculators and contractors to provide homes for the people. Co-operative home-building has proved the one way out.

KILLED BY SMOKING.
Utica, N.Y.—Edward Burrey died at his home in Clayville, near here. He was an incessant smoker and was 105 years old at the time of his death.

LABOR GREATLY INTERESTED ON THE ROCKEFELLER'S "UNION" MEETS PREDICTED FATE

Denver.—The 1914 miners' strike in southern Colorado was followed by a company "union," approved by John D. Rockefeller, jun., and hailed by President Welborn of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company as industrial democracy. The company is a Rockefeller unit.

Tons of valuable white paper was used to explain the new system that would end strikes. Hard-headed trade unionists were called cynics and joy killers when they predicted failure of the new "union," but their prophecy has been fulfilled.

The company has reduced wages 30 per cent. in violation of an award by the government's vituperous coal commission, and in violation of the state industrial law which provides that 30 days' notice must be given before wages are reduced or workers strike.

The commission took no action against the company and the coal miners suspended work. The company "union" has been forgotten and martial law proclaimed, as in the days of Ludlow.

The commission will appreciate information whereby it can jail these workers without being censured for not taking action against the company when it violated the law.

OLD FOGIES IN THE NAVY.
Newport, R. I.—The country's navy has its share of the old fogies, according to an address by Admiral Sims, president of the naval war college. He said the submarine and air plane are in their infancy, and that the navy is still a habit of mind that could be indulged in the past with comparative safety, "but which is manifestly a danger to a country which has become involved in international politics."

He said "military conservatism" has often been responsible for defeat in battle and sometimes for national disaster. He cited Fulton and Ericsson to prove his statement, and said that the navy has had a hard time in convincing naval officials of the merits of their invention.

BAKERS WILL ARBITRATE.
Jersey City, N. J.—An arbitration agreement has averted a strike of organized bakers, who were asked to accept a 12 per cent. wage cut.

QUEBEC FIREFIGHTERS WITHDRAW FROM THE CONFEDERATION OF CATHOLIC WORKERS OF CANADA

Vice-President A. Donald Dear of the International Association of Firefighters paid an official visit to the Montreal local last week. He was accompanied by Mr. Arthur Thibault, secretary of the Hall Firefighters. Many important questions pertinent to the Quebec Firefighters were considered and efforts will be made by the International Association of Firefighters in that province during the next session of the Legislature to have the double platoon system made compulsory upon municipalities. This law is now in full force and effect in Ontario and in the Winnipeg Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada a resolution was unanimously adopted instructing the Provincial Executives to press for this legislation when the legislative program of the Congress was being presented to the various Provincial Governments.

President Arthur Beaulieu of the Montreal Firefighters is a member of the Quebec Provincial Executive Committee of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and as such will be in a position to answer all questions concerning firefighters which might be put to him by members of the Quebec Cabinet Council.

The Quebec Firefighters, who have been members of the National Catholic Workers of Canada, have withdrawn from that organization.

It will be remembered that during the last session of the Quebec Legislature an arbitration law for civil employees was enacted. Due to the efforts of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada the compulsory acceptance of the Board's award was struck out of the law. The National Catholic Union was opposed to this move but the Legislature upheld the views of the Congress. During the summer the Quebec Firefighters went out on strike after an arbitration board had made its award. The strike was a failure and demonstrated that the views held by the Congress were the correct ones, namely, that no strike can be successful unless the public is with the strikers. The National Catholic Union at their recent convention in Hall decided to again press for the compulsory acceptance of a Board's award. The Executive word instructed to press for this amendment to the Act. The Quebec Firefighters have withdrawn from the National Catholic Union and are now a hundred per cent. International. It is expected that no change will be made in the Arbitration law of Quebec.

Vice-President Dear reports that the Montreal local is in excellent shape and they expect that before long all of the Firefighters in the Province of Quebec will be identified with the International Association of Firefighters.

CO-OPERATORS' WAGES

Further reports are to hand regarding proposed reductions in wages for Co-operative employees.

The Northern Council of Co-operative Hours and Wages Boards (Northumberland, Durham, etc.) has confronted the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, the members of which suffered a reduction as late as August last, under an award of the Industrial Court, with a demand for new reductions of 15s for adult males, 10s for adult females, and 5s and 7s 6d for juniors.

In the North-Western area, the Co-operative employees, whose last reduction was fixed in August by the Joint Committee of Trade Unionists and Co-operators, are now asked to accept a further 15 per cent. cut.

A 12s reduction is demanded of the Distributive Workers in the Midlands counties.

In Mid-Glamorganshire a 30 per cent cut has been put into operation without communicating with the union, and the Distributive Workers' organization has accordingly reported the case to the Joint Committee of Trade Unionists and Co-operators, which is stated to be taking action in the matter.

A similar state of affairs exists in Bedford and Buckinghamshire.

MAJORITY REPORT ON THE GRAND TRUNK

The majority report of the board of arbitration was presented before the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees and the Grand Trunk Railway upholds the general decrease in wages of 12.5 per cent. made effective by the railway last July. The opinion is expressed that the method adopted in distributing the reduction resulted in the lower paid employees suffering greater decreases than those receiving higher pay. The board recommends that an effort should be made by further negotiations to adjust these inequalities.

The report is signed by John M. Godfrey, chairman, and H. H. Vaughan, the Grand Trunk Railway representative. A minority report will be made by Peter Bercevitich, K.C., M.A., the representative of the employees. The sessions of the board were held in Montreal and Toronto during October and November.

It will be remembered that following the session of this Board in October that an agreement was reached between the Grand Trunk Railway Co. and certain of its employees. It was afterwards alleged by the C.B.R.E. that these employees did not have the opportunity to enter into an agreement with the company. Subsequently the negotiations were reopened before the board. In the majority report it is stated that as far as the Board is aware representatives of three other organizations, who signed the agreement, have not repudiated their action. The report sets forth that the employees signed their willingness to accept certain reductions but that they contended that the aggregate reduction of 12.5 per cent. was excessive.

The question before the arbitrators, the report states, was whether the reductions proposed were unjustifiable and inequitable. These reductions practically conformed to those offered by the United States Railway Labor Board and made effective on railways in the United States.

After examining the evidence the representatives of the company, and the chairman of the Board reached the decision that there had been a decrease in the cost of living since last July of 20 per cent., and that in view of this, and the financial position of the railway that the proposed reduction in the aggregate, was justifiable and equitable.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM OVERSEAS

BRITISH UNEMPLOYMENT.
"We are confronted with the worst period of unemployment that this country has seen probably for a hundred years." This was the opening sentence of Mr. Lloyd George's speech on October 10, in presenting his measure for relief.

The Premier went on to say that the present trouble was not one of the usual cycle of trade depression. It was due to one abnormal cause that 1,750,000 workers were out of employment. There had been nothing like it since the end of the Napoleonic wars. The causes were the same, and the symptoms the same.

FAIR PRODUCTIONS.
An important and far-reaching agreement has been made to between the Amalgamated Woodworkers' Union and the Employers' Federation regarding foreign joinery.

The agreement provides that no joinery shall be accepted in this country unless it has been produced under satisfactory conditions.

Large quantities of foreign joinery have been coming into the country, and these the woodworkers have refused to handle. The employers threatened a lock-out, but negotiations have resulted in the agreement outlined above, and the decision of the woodworkers to handle existing stocks of foreign material.

It is understood that this is the first agreement of its kind entered into in this country.

WAR BONUS.
At a conference of the National Federation of Postal and Telegraph Clerks, presided over at the Holborn Restaurant by W. H. P. Smith, a resolution was unanimously adopted pledging the conference to "unqualified opposition to any modification of the agreement of the National Whitley Council regarding the 'war bonus' award, which would have the effect of lowering the already inadequate standard of living of postal and telegraph clerks."

It was decided that the annual conference should be held at Matlock in May.

COTTON WORKERS.
Unemployment depression continues to deepen in the Lancashire mill district. An increase of 18,000 unemployed was registered at the labor exchange for the week. A change for the worse is markedly noticeable in the cotton trade and in the engineering plants there is no indication of any activity.

Nevertheless, some tram workers, who, of course, are in regular work, are repeating their refusal to work on Christmas Day and the following day. Some local authorities announce that if this refusal is persisted in, such workers will lose the two days' summer holiday, which in the past has been granted with full pay.

STRIKE SETTLED.
Cheltenham tramway strike has ended by a virtual win for the strikers.

The manager met a deputation headed by Mr. Gleave, Birmingham, organizer of the United Vehicle Workers, and it was resolved that the 45 hours should be reduced to 42 hours for a 54-hour week.

The men agree to a reduction of 5s a week, instead of 2s, for the next 13 weeks, but at the next sliding scale reduction is agreed that the cut shall be correspondingly less.

All the workers are to be reinstated.

COURT CASE.
In the High Court Mr. Justice Astbury heard an application to restrain the National Executive of the Electrical Trades Union from suspending the London District Council of the Union.

The action was brought by Stephenson and others, London members of the union. The judge ruled that the case did not lie, and made an order for costs against the applicants.

In giving his ruling, the judge pointed out that the executive had no power under the constitution and rules to suspend the District Council, but the rules provided that the District Council should consist of 99 members elected by the 99 branches in the district. The power to suspend such a council lay only with the 99 branches.

The Daily Herald understands that the London district officials of the E. T. U. are taking steps for the formation of a London District Committee in conformity with the constitution.

STRIKES ILLEGAL.
A measure described as an Industrial Armistice Bill, the object of which is to avert strikes and lock-outs for a period of five years, has been presented by Mr. Jesson.

It seeks to establish for each group of trades an arbitration board consisting of a chairman (appointed by the Minister of Labor), two representatives of the employers' associations, and two representatives of the employees' trade unions.

Under the Bill strikes and lockouts are illegal, the maximum penalty being £500. Provision is also made for penalties in respect of failure to comply with awards of the arbitration boards or Court of Appeal.

OMNIBUS WORKERS.
The London Omnibus Workers, after taking a second ballot, decided to accept the advice of the Labor leaders not to strike for a readjustment of the hours necessary to the handling of traffic during the rush hours. The leaders were emphatic in stating that if a strike had been precipitated, the men would have fought alone and would have been decisively beaten. The new agreement gives the men the rate of pay until next April, with an additional pay for night and Sunday work and longer annual holidays than they have had.

The Manchester Tram Company officials are strongly urging the employees on the trams in Manchester to work on Christmas Day, which they have refused to do in the past three years.

BUSMEN'S BALLOT.
The ballot of London busmen on the question of accepting new terms negotiated between the United Vehicle Workers and the companies has resulted in the rejection of the proposals. The figures, officially announced, were:—

For acceptance	3,134
Against	6,823

Majority against... 3,689

There are approximately 12,000 members of the union affected by the issue, and 125 voting papers were spoiled.

The United Vehicle Workers' Executive meets to consider the proposition and the executive of the National Transport Workers' Federation, to which the union is affiliated, and through which the negotiations were conducted, will meet later in the week.

The chief objection of the men is understood to be the extension of the system of spreader duties from nine hours to ten per day, even though wages were to be stabilized until April.

MAKING TERMS.
Ile of Wight farmers, after meetings with laborers' representatives, have decided to pay 3s for a 52 1/2 hour week. Until the end of the year a deduction of 2s a week is to be made for the half-holiday, which has to be a matter of arrangement between farmers and worker.

CANADIAN CATTLE.
"By refusing to grant full facilities for the importation of Canadian cattle, the Government is assisting to keep up the price of home-fed cattle."

So says John Jagger, general president of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, who is in an interview, that his union is now seeking to persuade the Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Importation of Store Cattle.

The union, Jagger states, has now received from no less a source than the Canadian Government, a telegram stating that, according to Canadian opinion, the reopening of the Deptford cattle market is urgently necessary.

Such reopening, the cablegram adds, would be followed immediately by the placing of at least 14 vessels into the Transatlantic cattle-carrying service.

WAGE ADJUSTMENT.
When the Joint District Board for the South Wales Coal Trade met at Cardiff, it was confronted by the problem as to what constitutes a subsistence wage for the lower-paid men.

The issue was raised by the workmen's representatives under the clause in the national agreement which secures a subsistence wage for laborers and other lower-paid day-wage men in the event of a general wage rate falling below that level.

Under the adjustment for November

CLOAK MAKERS GAIN; OUTGENERAL BOSSES

New York.—Organized cloak manufacturers have been out-general in an effort to smash the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. The bosses have won the workers' vote and the long work week. As a result, 60,000 employees suspended work, following a referendum vote of 38,672 to 162.

The broken agreement cannot be enforced by the employers, who are making strenuous efforts to stem the tide against them. They first attempted to conceal their purpose by claims that their success would mean lower prices for women's cloaks, but the unionists destroyed this alibi by showing the small labor cost in the garments. The bosses then insisted that the union interferes with greater productivity, but again the union put the employers on the defensive by showing that the joint production plan created under the agreement, was considering this question, and that before its report was made the employers precipitated the present situation.

The employers' talk about "an honest day's work," which is referred to by President Schlesinger of the

that stand out of a mass of changing and debatable aspects of Russia. The Soviet government control Moscow absolutely. According to reports of American and other travelers in the provinces, Soviet Russia enjoys varying degrees of autonomy, and the Kremlin takes orders from the provinces in important matters.

The Red army has strength to control food supplies—a supreme test in days of famine. Trotsky's function is to direct the military machine for war, because the army's prime duty is ordinary police work.

Moscow's garrison alone total 200,000 men. Other important points are policed as strongly. Consequently Russia is one of the most law-abiding countries in the continent.

The majority of the population are illiterate, indifferent to the political form of government and ally only to things that interest them personally—principally, obtaining a livelihood.

If the Soviet's new economic policy—the revival of capitalism—successful, the Bolsheviks will likely be popular throughout Russia.

MINERS' WORK NOT PLEASING.
Des Moines, Iowa.—In welcoming a district convention of miners, Mayor Barton, in a speech, said that the effort of this kind.

"Your duties as miners," he said, "have always appealed to me as being one I might say of work that is pleasant. I have been down in the mine, and I will say that I have never seen a man working such as you are compelled to do, for 10 hours a day, and that if you are such a man that you are up against it."

"Another thing, I do not believe the people as a rule appreciate, and that is what you are up against with your employer. It appears to me that you are kept at work just a part of the time, and that if you are going to be permitted to work a part of the time of course you must have sufficient wages to keep you going. It seems to me a man working half time must have double wages or at least as much as those who were putting in his entire time."

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES.
Washington.—In comparing the employment figures of October, 1921 with those for 14 identical establishments in October, 1920, the bureau of labor statistics reports that in eight of the industries employment increased and in the remaining six less employment was recorded. The largest increase, 32.5 per cent., is in the woolen industry. Men's ready-made clothing increased 20.5 per cent. The iron and steel industry shows the largest decrease in employment, 37 per cent.

WINNIPEG PLAN TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT

Definite plans to relieve unemployment in cities and to cope with the serious condition of farmers throughout the province is laid before the provincial government at Winnipeg by a delegation of labor members headed by F. J. Dixon, leader of the labor group. Several of the labor members residing in rural constituencies, dealt with the problems facing the farmers and the need for financial assistance in order to permit them to carry on agricultural operations next year.

"Scores of rural schools throughout our province will be forced to close their doors this winter, due to inability of farmers to pay their taxes," M. J. Stanbridge, M.L.A.,

HALIFAX FIGHTERS SCORE

Halifax, Nova Scotia.—The Typographical Union has again scored in its fight to enforce the 44-hour week agreement between employers and the International Typographical Union. The local union is slowly beating down

SOVIET CONDITIONS TO BE AVOIDED

The average working day in Soviet Russia is two hours longer than in Canada.

The majority of unskilled laborers in the United States work a 48-hour week, despite the fact that the legal working span is only eight. The last two hours are "overtime," but in practice a regular part of the working day.

Members of the Communist party are obliged to work eight hours a day, but they are not compelled to by law, they generally do remain at their posts.

The anomaly of a proletarian-ruled country with a longer standard working day than a capitalistic country, grew from the necessity of the hour. In contrast with the labor leaders of France, who insist on strict adherence to the eight-hour day even in the devastated regions of the Communist party, one of the best disciplined political and economic bodies in the world, passed a ruling compelling all its members to stay at their posts at least ten hours a day.

This refers, of course, to laborers working in the few factories that are operating, in railway and street-car services, and the various government plants.

"Free lancers," such as drabkay drivers, or anyone not directly employed by any large institution, average from 11 to 12. Skilled workers, clerks, accountants, and professional people attached to government bureaus, theoretically work only eight hours, but actually often work longer, according to whether the head of their department happens to be a "driver" or not.

Their day is also increased, as a rule, by the necessity of walking home. Owing to the fact that manual workers are always preferred in the distribution of free streetcar tickets, and also to the fact that all cars are so crowded during off hours that it is difficult to get a place even with money, a large section of the former middle class are obliged to walk home.

The few errand adventurers from America, who have come to Russia expecting to find a workman's paradise of short hours and high pay, have been bitterly disappointed when they found themselves put to work longer hours and for less pay than in America.

Also those expecting not to have to work at all have suffered even greater disillusionment. Everybody has to work in Russia, to all appearances, head one of the strongest governments of Europe.

This is one of the radical facts