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NOVA-SCOTIA MINERS TO FIGHT REDUCTIONS

At an emergency meeting held by the executive of the United Mine Workers of America (District No. 29), a strong protest was made against the proposed cut in wages, effective December 1, of employees of the Dominion Coal Company.

The executive intimated that the whole strength of the organization would be thrown into the fight against such reduction.

A committee representing the miners will meet representatives of the management of the Dominion Coal Company in Halifax on November 19 when the wage question will be fully discussed.

The miners of Nova Scotia are not "slamming the door in the face of negotiations," and are desirous of the fullest discussion of the coal mining situation, according to Robt. Baxter, president of District 26, United Mine Workers of America, in an interview. Mr. Baxter made this statement in reply to a charge from some quarters that the men were prejudicing the prospective negotiations at Halifax on November 10 between the British Empire Steel Corporation and themselves by declaring before hand that they would resist a wage cut. The declaration, said President Baxter, is as justified as the announcement of a cut by the operators before the conference.

Provision of free milk in Poplar during the eight weeks to September 3 cost \$1,300. Free milk was granted to 2,116 out of 2,766 applicants. The Welfare Committee has ordered the refund of \$418 odd by 96 persons in respect of milk supplied on false information.

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OTTAWA TRADES COUNCIL IN LENGTHY DISCUSSION

Politically labor in Ottawa is in a mixed and muddled state, according to a discussion at the meeting of the Trades and Labor Council, when Mr. Thomas Marcell received the unanimous endorsement as the only labor candidate in Ottawa for one of the two Federal seats.

The discussion was the most lively in many months, the outstanding feature being the condemnation on the part of the delegates of the breach of faith by the Ottawa Progressives in not endorsing Mr. Marcell. Mr. David Loughnan, who is a Progressive nominee, was severely condemned in the score that he was not a labor man. Delegate Mackie wanted to know where Mr. Loughnan stood. The candidate had accepted the Independent Labor Party's programme, which includes a protective tariff, and he had also mounted the Progressives' tariff steel-free trade. How could he promise one group one view on the tariff and the opposite to others?

Delegate Mackie wondered where the I.L.P. was drifting to. "Crazy" retorted one delegate. Allegations that labor men held cards in both old political parties and at the same time had joined the I.L.P. gave the delegates something to think about.

Controller Cameron agreed that labor was muddled politically, but he held that the workman had more to expect from an amalgamation of producers, farmers and labor than from either of the old parties.

Delegate W. J. Patterson, who is president of the I.L.P., confirmed the report that the party had broken

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GOLD FIELD MINERS THREATEN STRIKE

Johannesburg, Union of South Africa.—Threat of a general strike in the Rand coalfields, one of the richest mining districts of the Transvaal, if the government puts into force its proposals providing for a slight increase in the per centage of native labor employed, was made during the negotiations between representatives of the government and the white miners. The miners' secretary, Mr. Hendricks, told Premier Jan. C. Smuts, that the white miners would leave the workings within 48 hours after the gazetted of the proposals.

Premier Smuts, after pointing out that the present prosperity of the industry was due chiefly to the existing premium on gold, declared that the mines should be more thoroughly exploited and that he was convinced the plan would, in the end, bring about an increase in the employment of white labor.

It is understood that another conference on the question will be held next week.

The "Big Five" railroad brotherhoods will revive the strike vote and use it if necessary if the promises of the Railroad Labor Board made to the brotherhood chiefs just before the threatened general railroad strike was called off last week, are not carried out in a statement contained in a memorandum which had been mailed to all general and local chairmen and members of the five organizations.

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