

# Labor News From the Busy City of Hamilton

Hamiltonians were afforded much in and out of court during last week. The gentleman known as "that man O'Connor," vice-chairman of the Canadian Federation of Commerce, visited the City Hall on Tuesday, hearing testimony pro and con respecting his admission to several witness stands.

Mr. O'Connor, who is a well-known Hamiltonian, was the subject of a sensational trial in the city. He was charged with selling sugar at a profit of 15 cents per pound. The trial was held in the City Hall and attracted a large crowd. Mr. O'Connor's defense was handled by a prominent lawyer. The trial lasted several days and was a major event in the city's news.

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# WARRIOR LABOR MEN: BRITAIN'S PERIL

### Frederic Harrison Calls on Leaders to Curb Radical Mutiny Within Unions.

In an article in a London paper Frederic Harrison, a veteran champion of trade unions, strikes a deep note of warning to British labor and makes a strong appeal to labor leaders to use their efforts to avoid the chaos into which our country seems to be hurrying.

"It starts with you, the trained and chosen leaders of labor, to make sure that the standard-bearers of the labor movement do not become the pliant tools of a few extremists. This is no panic cry; it is the plain truth, which your experience and common sense should have forced upon your own minds. Make those who look to you for guidance see it as clearly as you see it yourselves."

# Labor Items of Interest From the Capital City

### UNION REPRESENTATIVES FOR POLITICAL ACTION.

Perhaps one of the most representative gatherings of local trade unionists that ever assembled in Ottawa were in attendance at a meeting in Pate's Hall on Thursday last. The meeting was called by the special committee of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Council, to decide on the advisability of taking political action.

The meeting was a lively one and all kinds of arguments were advanced. The Labor standard-bearers gave the Labor standard-bearers their whole-hearted support. Unless they do Labor will again find itself without representation in the Ontario Legislature.

# Creation of national reserves of coal and timber.

### Government control of cold storage.

National Health and Unemployment Insurance.  
Maternity benefits and free hospital services.  
Equality of opportunity for men and women, politically, socially and industrially.  
The eight-hour workday.  
The democratic control of industry.

# OTTAWA TRADES COUNCIL.

### The possibility of organizing the school teachers of Ottawa and their affiliation with the American Federation of Teachers was broached at the meeting of the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council Friday night.

A change was suggested. The worker was not thinking of dollars and cents. He had a vision of a new era, a new status. He said this new era it was necessary to learn control, organize, and set the goal.

He contended that it was necessary for labor to organize politically as well as economically.

# SOLDIERS' GRATUITY LEAGUE.

Exemption from high in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. President H. L. Flynn, Toronto, returned to Hamilton for several weeks for organizing purposes.

Last Friday's meeting of the Trades and Labor Council was short and sweet. Everything was over before 9 o'clock. The delegates from \$10 to the striking clear-makers and \$5 to the Toledo Central Labor Union in behalf of 16,000 employees of the Overland automobile plant. In the appeal circular from the A. F. of L. executive board, mention was made that there were 25,000 organized and 100,000 unorganized clear-makers on strike in several of Uncle Sam's states, fighting for their economic existence.

# HAMILTON'S NEWS BRIEFS.

The city firemen are getting impatient. The City Council's delay in passing the bill for the 1919 tax increase was requested months ago, has got their goat. And unless the Controller hurry up, very many of the fire fighters will resign. Mayor Booker says the Board of Control can't discuss the increase until there's a full meeting of the board. The firemen attending the International Journeymen Barbers Convention. A special meeting will be held this week to decide what the firemen will get.

# FIGHT THIS WASTE.

"Nothing is more absolutely wasteful than a street car accident regardless of who is to blame. This applies equally to any other type of accident, that burrs a human being or damages a piece of property. Wasteful is the word. Just plain waste, it is. Waste of somebody's property, somebody's time, somebody's health, somebody's ability to do his work well and earn good money; maybe waste of somebody's life."

# Those Who Fought

Endorse the Citizens' Liberty League

# WORKINGMAN'S SPOKESMAN.

When the question of the unorganized worker came up at a meeting of trade unionists of the city of Ottawa last week for political action, Bro. John Cameron, president of the Building Trades' Council, said: "The only intelligent spokesman for the working man today is the straight trade unionist."

# BAKERY DRIVERS' OFFICERS INSTALLED.

At a largely attended meeting of Local No. 438, International Union of Bakery Drivers, held on Wednesday evening last, officers for the ensuing year were installed by Bro. Donald Dear of the Fire Fighters. Bro. R. H. Plant again occupies the chair and another successful year is anticipated by the local which is in good shape and in a 100 per cent. Oid age pensions.

# COAL DRIVERS' UNION CHARTER UNFULFILLED.

That Wednesday night in the Labor Hall the recently organized coal drivers' union, which unfurled their charter, and their officers. It was a most interesting and enthusiastic session. Recording Secretary, J. C. Woodley, a member of the Trades and Labor Council organization committee, presided over the proceedings. Besides installing the officers, the union also initiated 58 members. There will be another drive initiated at the next meeting to be held in two weeks. Mr. Foster gave his auditors the very best of counsel regarding the operation of the union and advised caution in all matters undertaken, and questions taken up at local meetings. The local bears affiliation with the International Teachers' Chauffeurs, Stenographers and Helpers Union. The following officers were elected: President, John Judd; vice-president, Isaac Hamilton; secretary-treasurer, Munroe Nicholson; recording secretary, Arthur Walker; trustees, Alfred Baker, C. Nelson, J. Jackson, W. Melbolland, J. Walker and A. Baker, will secure a suitable meeting hall. The employees of the city are leading coal merchant in the city are members of the new union. Every effort will be made to organize the coal drivers 100 per cent.

# FAMILY BUDGET GETTING OUT OF SIGHT.

An increase in employment and also in the cost of living is reported by the Labor Department in the September Labor Gazette.

At the beginning of August, says the report on industrial conditions in Canada, the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions was 2.6, as compared with 2.7 at the beginning of July. During August there was a continued trend toward employment throughout the country as a whole. In the Maritime provinces and the Western provinces there was the slight dip, and in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia there was an increase. According to preliminary figures, the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions was 2.6, as compared with 2.7 at the beginning of July. During August there was a continued trend toward employment throughout the country as a whole. In the Maritime provinces and the Western provinces there was the slight dip, and in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia there was an increase. According to preliminary figures, the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions was 2.6, as compared with 2.7 at the beginning of July. During August there was a continued trend toward employment throughout the country as a whole.

# RAILROAD MEN TO ESTABLISH CHAIN OF STORES.

Establishment by the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Railway Shop Laborers of a chain of department stores, to handle the necessities of life direct from producer and manufacturer to consumer, for the purpose of reducing living costs, was recommended in the convention of the organization at Detroit by Grand President Allan B. Barker.

The recommendation proposes immediate opening of the first of these stores and selling at 25 per cent. below present prices, gradually extending the chain throughout Canada and the United States.

# VETERANS ASK SALE OF BEER AND WINES

### Oppose Return of Open Bar, But Would Learn From French System.

Denouncing the License Act as "stupid" and the Ontario Temperance Act as "barbarous" and "unjust," the veterans of the Great War are asking for the return of the sale of beer and wine, and advocating an affirmative answer to all four questions on the forthcoming referendum, as the means of attaining that end.

(1) The most unbusinesslike and unprofitable method of raising the revenue of the province is the sale of beer and wine. (2) Our foreign investment has been paid away to save exchanges. (3) Owing to the cost of coal, the rise of wages and the cost of raw materials, our manufacturers are becoming too dear for foreign traders to buy. America, Germany, and Belgium are producing them more cheaply. (4) Our merchant navy largely has been sunk. Rising prices make it too costly to build and we have not enough ships to bring food.

"One hundred millions in Europe are on the verge of starvation. Not a third of the industrial power of Europe is at full working efficiency. For many months the American is producing three times that of the British. Our central power in coal is giving out. The nations around us are driving us out of our markets abroad—and even at home. We cannot go on working five days for six hours if foreigners work six days for eight or ten hours."

"About nationalization, I will say nothing or only this one word. Unless it is another word for robbery by the state, it is a monstrous addition to our monstrous present debt and another earthquake to our present quaking and crumbling industry. These splendid, these invaluable and indispensable reforms in the air—must be adjourned until more normal times, when we are no longer in danger of famine or attempting to regroup the forces of our army in the midst of battle."

"Today, we perhaps, are in greater stress than at any time during the war. As to what is called direct action, I will only say it is a delusion not only of democracy but of orderly government. What is called lightning is a crime like throwing a bomb in a crowded street. If any mob of conspirators who can seize a vital organ of society, say the Bank of England or the London waterworks, are to dictate to their fellow-citizens, he is the end of civil society and a desperate like Spartacus is our King. It is indeed just what our fellow tried to do when they wanted to blow up the King, the Ministers, and the Commons in one blow."

# Those Who Fought

### Endorse the Citizens' Liberty League

The Citizens' Liberty League is proud to state that the following Organizations of Veterans have signified their approval of the League's objects and are supporting it in the endeavour to obtain sane, moderate temperance legislation.

- Great War Veterans' Association—Toronto Branches: Parkdale, Central, Riverdale, West Toronto, Earls Court.
- The Grand Army of Canada, His Majesty's Army and Navy Veterans' Association, The Naval Veterans' Association, The Originals' Club, 75th Battalion Association, 83rd Battalion Association, 75th Battalion Officers' Association.

These great Organizations of men who were the first to answer the call in the fight for liberty are endorsing the platform of the Citizens' Liberty League because they know, with the League, that the Ontario Temperance Act unduly restricts the liberties of the citizens of the Province.

These men ask,—and what men in the Province have such a right to ask?—that you vote "YES" on questions 2 and 3 on the Referendum Ballot—and so assure to the citizens a beer containing 2.51 per cent. alcohol by weight, absolutely non-intoxicating—the Beer of the Ballot.

# Vote "YES" on all Four Questions

Remember, every voter must vote on every question or his ballot will be spoiled.

# Citizens' Liberty League

PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS  
22 College St., Toronto  
President: Lt.-Col. H. A. C. MACHIN, M.P.P.  
Hon. Treasurer: F. GORDON OSLER  
T. L. Carruthers, Secretary

# CAR BARN MEN ASK 25 PER CENT WAGE BOOST.

The Hamilton Street Railway Company's car barn employees have

# KIMBERLEY MINERS LAY DOWN TOOLS.

Refusal of the demand of men employed in mines at Kimberley, B. C., for an increase of \$1 per day in wages has resulted in the men going out on strike, according to the British Columbia Department of Labor.