Labor Items of Interest From the Capital City

FIREFIGHTERS' NOTES LOCAL 162.

The boys training for track events are showing up fine. A little encouragement from the officers is all that is needed to have a formidable team. Romeo Girouard is making exceptional fine time at the five-mile. No. 9 station's "white hope," Leo Claude, has corked himself while training but it is hoped to have him on deck this week to lead the boys. It is indeed pleasing to the Ottawa boys to see the strides our brothers across the river have made. If they keep up the pace the city will soon board them. It must have been a big drop for His Worship, the Mayor. But our advice to the Hull boys is look out for that electric stove they may be trying to electrocute you.

With the arrival of the new combination motor waggons "Ottawa comes up to the scratch with a fire department equipped second to none on this continent.

Lieut. Burns is having the front of No. 10 station painted and says: "There is no color that stands the sun quite so well as the shade of the shamrocks. Capt. Jacques tried to make a change; he even went so far as to upset the pot of paint but the lieutenant won out, in fact, everything around the Exhibition grounds will soon be garbed in a beautiful shade of green.

A lively meeting of the G.W.V.A. Hull branch was held in the temporary quarters of the association. The alleged refusal of the Hull Chief of the Fire Department to employ members of the association in his department came in for some warm comment on the part of a number of the veterans. They claim that the chief refused some of their members because they would not act as strike-breakers in the recent strike in his department. A resolution was passed requesting the chief to forget this fact.

Fire Chief Graham was an honored guest at the Kiwanis Club luncheon, and gave a short talk on fire prevention, in the course of which he stated that the fire alarms in the City of Ottawa have been decreased 50 per cent. since 1913, as the result of the thorough inspection given the city by the Fire Department officials. "Eighty per cent. of the fires in the City of Ottawa are preventable and 62 per cent. of all the fires in the city have been extinguished with chemical extinguishers alone," stated Chief Graham.

The Fire Chiefs of England who have an association similar to the Fire Chiefs of Canada, and the United States, are about to approve and urge the adoption of the two-platoon system as a standard for Fire Departments of England. What's the matter with the International Fire Engineers of Canada and the United States?

With the "two Bills" back from overseas the Fire Department has now all the old boys home and on the job once more. Bill Halliday is in No. 7 station, and Bill Maxwell is in No. 8 station, the stations they left to fight for democracy.

There was no question of the attitude of the Trades Council being a correct one when it came to the support of the machinists now on strike. Without a dissenting voice at both meetings held the suggestion was endorsed "that all the members contribute 25 cents weekly to the support of the striking machinists."

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BUSINESS AGENTS' VEHICLES.

President Pat Green, business agent of the District Council of Carpenters, now carries on his business by the aid of the motor car. He leads in the race.

The business agent of the Building Laborers was within an ace of duplicating Pat's means of transport, but owing to his extreme nervousness the local purchased him a bicycle. That's his method.

Now Business Agent Dan McCann is in a quandary. As a representative of the teamsters, it is considered the correct thing for him to have a horse, but Dan has not yet been convinced, and is holding off until all the chauffeurs are organized, when a limousine will be the correct thing.

Another business agent now on the job for the Stationary and Portable Engineers is Bro. Chas. Lewis, with ambitions for an aeroplane. However, Charlie says he is not of the aeroplane variety, and he is willing to give this present day system of transfer to those whose aerial views are in evidence on state occasions. Business agents and the amount of business they are called upon to perform gives a complex question not easily solved.

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PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS.

Following the lead of the building trades in industrial council in settling differences, the local Union of Plumbers and Steamfitters are now engaged on a similar plan with their employers. Representatives of both sides are shortly to meet in conference to further the project. At the last meeting of the local the committee was selected for this purpose. Results of a far-reaching nature may be the outcome. Among the number for Local 71, Bros. Fever, Lee, Jack Barrett and Killeen will act.

To assist the striking machinists, the assessment was unanimously endorsed, and from the local treasury the first week's payment made, the boys being of the opinion that the quick contributor was the necessitous and best action. Bro. Chas. Smith introduced this, and did not mince words in condemnation of the attitude of the machinists who refuse to confer.

Trade is now good, and soldier members are being placed, the returned brothers being assisted to the fullest extent.

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STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYES.

The employes of the Ottawa Street Railway, are seeking increase in wages and better working conditions. A schedule has been presented to the company, by a committee of the men's union, demanding a maximum wage of 60c an hour, the closed shop, and a 9 hour day. Negotiations have been opened with the company, but no definite results have yet been obtained. The union was never in a better position, than at present, as they are 100 per cent. strong. At a recent meeting of the Street Railwaymen's Union a motion was passed whereby all returned soldiers, entering the employ of the company and wishing to join the union, are admitted free without any initiation fee. The same meeting also strongly urged financial support to the striking machinists. The employes recently formed an athletic club and have a baseball team ready to meet all comers.

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NEW INTERNATIONAL FORMED.

A brand new local has been formed this week in the city, to be known as Local 44 International Brotherhood Composition Roofers. This is the first time that a charter for this class of workers has been hung in Ottawa, and the local starts off to use a common expression as being on velvet, owing to the fact that all the eligibles come in under the charter list of membership.

The initial ceremonies in bringing this local into the fold took place on Tuesday evening last at the Carpenters' Hall, at which meeting the officers were elected and everything settled that regular sessions may be held as soon as suitable quarters as well as nights of meeting can be arranged.

To get fully into the game is the intention of the local, linking up with the Trades Council, and they are also eligible to join the building trades council, which will be one accomplished. Fortunately for this new union they start off with experienced heads, who have been members in other cities where a local of this International was in existence.

This International has been in the progress van during the past year. Although numerically small in numbers it ranks amongst the highest in point of organization perfection. For the past term one charter was gained. Number of strikes won 5, number involved in strikes 209; number benefitted 200. Gain in wages 10 per cent. Ten agreements secured. As a result of organization hours have been reduced from 55 to 44 per week and wages have been increased from $2 to $6 and $7 per day. Donations to other unions was also a part of the activities. The foregoing shows the stability of the organization.

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PROGRESS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

Largely through the efforts of Mr. C. S. O. Boudreault, of the Ottawa Printing Co., a bylaw which has been in existence for some years has recently been put into effect and the union label must hereafter appear on all civic printing in Ottawa—no matter how small.

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WOOD WORKERS' UNION.

The Wood Workers' Union met on Tuesday night to consider the reports of the different committees. A committee of the union from each of the mills recently met representatives of the manufacturers of wood products and mill owners. The latter made no offer to the wood workers. After some discussion it was decided to write the different wood manufacturers to meet a committee of the wood workers on June 24th at the Windsor Hotel with a view to making a satisfactory agreement between the wood workers and the manufacturers. A similar conference was requested recently but only two furniture manufacturers attended. The local is 97 per cent. organized and it is anticipated that a satisfactory agreement will be made.

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OTTAWA JOURNEYMEN BARBERS.

The local union of Journeymen Barbers, which recently became almost 100 per cent. organized has made a demand for a salary of $20 per week and 50 per cent. of all receipts over $30 per day. The master barbers offered $17 per week and 50 per cent. of the receipts over $27 per day. However this offer has been refused by the men. The present agreement expires on July 1st.

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TEAMSTERS' AND CHAUFFEURS' UNION.

All of the striking teamsters of Ottawa have returned to work following an agreement which was drawn up at a conference between Mr. Daniel McCann, business agent of the Teamsters' Union, representatives of the team owners of Ottawa, and Fair Wage Officer Killlines. By the agreement the first class teamsters will receive $19 per week and whatever amount more their employers consider they are worth. Inexperienced teamsters will receive $17 per week. Previous to the strike no fixed scale of wages was in force and salaries of the teamsters ranging all the way from $13 to $18 per week.

MANY SOLUTIONS OFFERED FOR UNREST AT OTTAWA.

Since our last issue the Royal Commission on Industrial Relation sat in Ottawa.

The Commission was appointed some weeks ago, and during that time has visited every city of importance in Canada from Vancouver to Sydney and has taken evidence bearing on industrial conditions throughout Canada. The session in Ottawa last Friday brought the taking of evidence to an end, and a report will very shortly be presented to the Government.

At the Ottawa sessions Chief Justice C. J. Mathers, of Winnipeg, presided. Other commissioners in attendance were: Messrs. John W. Bruce, Toronto; Tom Moore, Ottawa; Frank Pauze, Montreal; Senator Smeaton White, Montreal; Carl Riordan, Montreal; Charles Harrison, M.P., North Bay.

Those who gave evidence were Mr. W. M. Southam, managing director of the Citizen; Mr. R. Hooper, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society; Mr. Pat Green, representing the Ottawa District Council of Carpenters; Mr. L. Pelletier, who spoke as a private citizen; Mr. Fred H. Cook, assistant King's Printer and president of the Ottawa branch of St. John's Ambulance Association; Dr. C. A. Hodgetts, honorary secretary of the same association; Mr. Edward M. Trowern, Dominion secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association; Messrs. John V. McCaffrey, and William Jennings, representing the Ottawa Street Railwaymen's Union; Mr. William Lodge, secretary of the Allied Trades and Labor Council, and Messrs. C. J. Tully and H. T. Barbour civil servants.

Morning Session.

The first witness, Mr. Wilson M. Southam, in a carefully prepared paper which he read, advocated the adoption of the single tax as a solution for the prevailing industrial unrest. Capital viewed as a whole, and labor, meaning all mental and manual workers, were not in conflict, he argued, but in close co-operation, and could not well be otherwise. The disagreement in wealth production should not be between labor and capital, but with another force, which robbed both of the fruits of industry.

Mr. Roland Hooper, of the Proportional Representation Society, spoke on behalf of his society.

Mr. Hooper took exception to the present electoral system claiming minorities had really no representation and pointed to Dominion and Provincial elections where majorities really disfranchised minorities through the latter's lack of representation.

"In choosing Parliament we do not want the land areas represented, we want the brains of the citizens of the country."

He held that the present electoral system did not provide for the representation of the best brains. Another mark against the present system was the shifting of boundary lines, gerry-mandering and the refusal of political parties to run more than one candidate in a constituency for fear of splitting the party vote.

As an improvement for this condition Mr. Hooper urged the single transferrable vote and the grouping together of several of the present electoral districts where several candidates representing different bodies could run.

Mr. Pat Green, president of the Allied Trades and Labor Council, appeared before the Commission representing the District Council of Carpenters, which he said included 97 per cent. of the carpenters of the community, and of whom 60 per cent. were engaged in the building trades. He stated that there was practically no unemployment among them at present, and that they were occupied nine months in the year, living on their earnings during the other three months.

He was of the opinion that a certain amount of the present unrest was caused by high prices, and recommended price fixing to the Government along with the nationalization of mines, railways, banking systems, and cold storage plants, eliminating the middleman's profit.

When the question of strikes was mentioned, Mr. Green said he found the majority of strikes were caused by employers refusing to meet a committee of the unions representing their employes. **He thought legislation should be enacted to compel employers to accept a board of arbitration, should they fail to come to an agreement.**

Mr. Moore: But you would not have employers compelled to accept the award?

Mr. Green: Not necessarily.

Mr. Moore: You mean too, that employes and employers shall have the right to self-determination in what committee each shall send. If the employer wishes to send a lawyer he may; and if the carpenters wish to send a bricklayer who is in the same union they may do so.

Mr. Green assented, and added that collective bargaining might mean the Carpenters' Union could meet their employers, or officers empowered to represent them, not necessarily carpenters, might meet the carpenters' employers.

The question was raised as to whether employers could enter into collective bargaining if they were not organized, since the men with whom they bargained were organized, Mr. Green replied that he thought most employers were organized more or less loosely.

By request he explained the industrial council through which local disputes in connection with agreements were settled. It was composed of five members of the Building Trades Council and an independent chairman, and was obliged to sit within 48 hours of the announcement of a local dispute. Its finding was final, and Mr. Green said the council had worked most satisfactorily. What local unrest there was, was due to the refusal of employers to meet their employes, he reiterated.

The next man to testify was Mr. L. Pelletier, deputy to the president of the Order of Railway Conductors. He spoke as a private citizen.

"Unless the international brotherhoods are permitted to function fully within their own laws there is nothing for it but One Big Union," he said.

The enhanced cost of commodities was not alone to blame for unrest. He considered that 40 per cent. of the purchasing value of money was due to world causes over which our Government has no control, the balance being due to profiteering.

Collective bargaining, he thought was bound to grow. No limit could be placed upon it. It had done much in the brotherhood of which he was an officer. He also was in favor of self-determination in the matter of who should represent both employers and employes in settling disputes.

The commission then adjourned to meet again in the afternoon.

The Afternoon Session.

Mr. Fred H. Cook, Assistant King's Printer, and president of the Ottawa Branch of the St. John's Ambulance Association, was the first witness after the Industrial Relations Commission assembled at 2.30 p.m. yesterday.

Mr. Cook outlined the aims of the association and gave an interesting history of its activities during the war. The association had instructed many employes of factories and railways in first aid work. It was hoped to have it compulsory for factory owners to have a certain number of employes trained in "first aid" at all times. First aid provisions had been adopted by Compensation Act Boards and enforced by them. Miners were also instructed, and in several provinces senior employes could not be given employment unless they were qualified in "first aid."

In reply to Senator White, witness regretted to say there were many returned soldiers out of work in Ottawa. He had had many applications for positions.

Mr. Bruce—The unrest you notice is due to low wages and hours of work?

Mr. Cook—Principally wages.

Mr. Moore—Do you think shop councils would alleviate minor difficulties?

To this Mr. Cook observed that his personal opinion was that the employer should be supreme, as he put his money into the business.

To Mr. Moore witness said he did not think joint boards of management would be applicable.

Dr. C. A. Hodgetts, honorary secretary of the Ottawa Branch, St. John Ambulance Association, said long hours of work had effect of increasing the number of accidents in industry. During the latter part of a long day a workman's vitality was not so high. This would become apparent in the case of returned soldiers, who were suffering from shell shock.

Mr. Edward M. Trowern, Dominion secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association spoke of the relation between the producer and the consumer. There are many more million dollars involved in distribution than in manufacturing.

Co-operative societies were in direct opposition to retail business and a method by which a part of the purchase price is handed back savored very largely of bribery. The reputable retail merchants will have nothing to do with the so-called co-operative societies for this reason. The retail merchants are governed by the law of supply and demand and if purchasing rules high, the profits will be less.

Replying to a question, Mr. Trowern said the maximum wage in retail stores was upwards of $18 a week, the hours being from 8.30 to 6 o'clock. As far as he knew there was no unrest among employes.

Mr. John V. McCaffrey was delegated by the Street Railwaymen's Union, and he represented 535 men, organized above 98 per cent.

He advocated repeal of the Lemieux Act and the substitution of a body similar to the Railway War Board of the United States.

"We are 100 per cent. against the Lemieux Act," he said. "We have no use for it. It squeezes the employe but never the employer.

"There is nothing in the Lemieux Act that provides for arbitration, investigation and conciliation unless both sides are agreed.

"We want a law we can obey, one binding on all parties. We want a system of compulsory arbitration, and decisions based on the cost of living."

Commissioner Pauze interrupted to comment that there would always be a test of strength behind it.

"We want that eliminated," Mr. McCaffrey replied. "Under the Lemieux Act there is a test of strength behind the demands made on the board that determines the decision."

He thought the Government should take over all trusts, and should nationalize all industry and capital. "Not nationalization as the Canadian Northern was nationalized—the Government must take over everything," he explained. "Then the joint council should be chosen half by the Government and half by industry." A joint council was necessary for the final solution.

Mr. McCaffrey was not in favor of the One Big Union, but he thought it was bound to come, forced by conflict.

Before retiring Mr. McCaffrey said: "The workers have lost confidence in Government commissions. Of the 50 Ottawa unions, only three were represented today. The workers have lost faith in constituted authority and in what the Govenment was going to do."

In reply to Senator White, witness said there was a certain sympathy in Ottawa for the One Big Union, but there was no organization as yet. "The test of economic strength was to come."

William Jennings, delegate from the Street Railway Employes' Union, said he wished to emphasize more strongly than his fellow delegate the matter of hours of labor. His union had received resolutions from many Canadian cities in this respect.

"In the city of Ottawa there were street car men working 84 hours a week. It was necessary to work long hours in order to make a living at the low rate of pay per hour. The maximum pay per hour was 39 cents. The union was not a craft but an industrial association entirely. The present rates of pay were established one year ago. It was necessary to strike to get this.

"We have men at the present time working 15 to 18 hours a day to make a nine-hour pay per day. No man in the company completes his day's work in less than 12 1-2 hours. Nine in 12 was the best, nine in 16 was nearer the average."

Replying to Mr. Bruce witness said unrest in his calling was never so acute as at present. This was due to low wages, long hours and the high cost of living. Unemployment was beginning to be felt owing to the return of the men who enlisted for service in France. This made the company overstaffed and often men reported three times a day for one hour's pay.

Witness did not agree with the terms of the present Industrial Disputes Act. He realized the only weapon the unions had was direct action. In all cases witness would agree to forcing the issue providing the decision of a Board of Arbitration was not acceptable.

In answer to Mr. Trowern he would like to point out that since the clerks employed by retail merchants had joined a union it had jumped from 10 to 350 members in a very few days. The employers had reduced the number of hours before the clerks could act. "In Ottawa now most of the stores are on an eight-hour basis."

Mr. William Lodge, secretary of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Council, had heard of unrest in Ottawa through organized channels. The trades unions believed in co-partnership. "There must be less of the superintendent and more of humanity in the relations between employer and employe."

Mr. Lodge believed in constitutional labor advances, and felt the eight-hour day would eventually be universal. "I believe that if it requires nine hours to produce enough for all, then let us work nine hours; but we feel eight hours is sufficient to provide for the demands of the country.

"I believe that ultimately seven hours will be sufficient."

Judge Mathers—What about the national debt?

Mr. Lodge—I suppose posterity will take care of that.

The Trades and Labor Council wants a minimum wage law, based on a national standard and local conditions. Especially where female workers are concerned. This minimum wage law should be national, so that manufactures in certain provinces wouldn't benefit through being permitted to pay low wages.

Seasonal trades in Ottawa suffer through the climatic conditions. This was specially true of the building trades.

Mr. Lodge then dealt with old age pensions, free hospitals, and medical attendance. This was especially necessary in maternity cases.

The International Trades Union movement was recognized in Ottawa with possibly two or three exceptions.

Questions by Mr. Moore brought out the information that the Government did not recognize the union from the printing trade in the Government Printing Bureau, although the Bureau is governed by the union wage scale prevailing in other cities.

"Cold storage plants should be Government-owned and controlled," concluded Mr. Lodge.

Mr. C. J. Tulley and Mr. G. N. Barbour read instructive papers on the single tax question. Both gentlemen advised the adoption of taxation of land values as the only means of revenue. This, they claimed, would reduce the high cost of living and allay the labor unrest.

This concluded the sittings of the Commission.

STANDARDS FOR WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

The question of women in industry is a vital topic and the following standards governing the employment of women in the industries, prepared by the U. S. Department of Labor, will interest you.

1—Eight-hour day and 48-hour work week.

2—Half-holiday on Saturday.

3—At least 45 minutes allowance for meals.

4—Ten-minute rest period in the middle of every working period.

5—Women not to be employed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

6—Women shall be on parity with men in respect of wages and increases thereof. Wages to be established on basis of occupation, not sex. Minimum wage rate should cover cost of living for dependents and not merely for the individual.

7—Sanitary conveniences should be provided for women entirely separate from men, clean and accessible.

8—Seats for women employes should be provided and their use encouraged, and repeated lifting of heavy weights by women employes should be prohibited.

9—Women employment managers and women supervisors should be appointed.

10—Existing channels should be preserved and the new ones opened to provide easier access for discussion between employers and employes.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS ENDORSE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Resolutions endorsing the League of Nations and instructing the president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers "to advise Sir Robert L. Borden, Premier of Canada, and President Wilson of the United States that this organization favors the adoption of the League of Nations covenant" were adopted at a session of the triennial convention of the Brotherhood at Denver, Col.

Labor News From the Busy City of Hamilton

Now then ye Ontario powers that be, perhaps you may see your way clear to accommodate the most tolerant citizens of the Ambitious City with an unstinted report as to the charges made against some of the city's avaricious coal dealers of their overcharging for coal during the winter of 1918-1919. But then Canada's cabinet ministers and adroit parliamentarians have the happy knack of "getting out from under" even when democracy's voice rises up in angry revolt.

At last Friday's meeting of the Independent Labor Party, Central Branch, held in the sweltering Labor Hall, Ald. E. O. Book moved the appended resolution which carried unanimously:

"Resolved that the I.L.P., here assembled, demands that a report be given to the citizens of Hamilton as to the charges which have been placed before the Hon. G. H. Ferguson, minister of lands, forests and mines in the provincial legislature, regarding the illegal charges made by some of the coal dealers in the City of Hamilton during the winter of 1918-1919; also that a copy of the resolution be sent to Hon. Mr. Ferguson, provincial secretary, and further, that the East and West End branches of the G.W.V.A. and every labor organization in the city, political or industrial, be asked to take similar action.

Controller Harry J. Halford started the coal ball discussion rolling. He stated he was surprised that so far the provincial authorities hadn't done anything, despite the fact that some gentlemen from Toronto, armed with authority, had visited Hamilton some time ago to investigate the alleged illegal coal profiteering here. Controller Halford declared with emphasis that he was determined to prosecute the investigation to a finish.

Ald. Book said that if the coal dealers of Hamilton and elsewhere could get away with over-charging with an order-in-council adorning the statute books, what would some of the greedy coal dealers do when there's no orders-in-council to protect the public (Hear, hear, said many voices.)

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OTHER LABOR PARTY BUSINESS.

Controller Halcrow and his picnic confreres will now get busy for the annual summer picnic of the I. L. P. A deputation from the Women's Labor party addressed the meeting. They informed their auditors that their party was anxious for a joint picnic of all Hamilton and district Labor party branches during July or August. A resolution was passed supporting such a move and a joint meeting of representatives from every branch will take place soon to determine plans.

Lieut.-Col. A. F. Hatch, member of the Hospital board, announced some time ago that he would retire when his term of office expired, which isn't afar off. The Laborites are anxious for a representative to be appointed, for never has there been a Labor Hospital Governor. The matter was aired at the meeting and on motion, was referred to the Executive Committee.

Residents of Ward 3 are delighted with the effectiveness of the Labor party's stand in opposing the location of coal shutes in that residential neighborhood. This was conveyed by several prominent denizens of that ward during the meeting and the members thanked for their efforts. Harry Bourne presided during the session. In the absence of General Secretary A. P. Gibbon, Walter R. Rollo took down the minutes of the meeting.

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BEAVER TRUCK COMPANY WILL LOCATE IN HAMILTON.

Industrial Commissioner C. W. Kirkpatrick announced last Saturday that the Beaver Truck Company would erect a $225,000 plant here. In the meanwhile, while the factory is being built the company will engage in business in temporary quarters. Mr. Kirkpatrick is not allowing the grass to grow under his feet and well deserves a promised salary increase from $1,800 to $2,500 per annum.

HAMILTON'S BUILDING BOOM.

According to Business Agent Arthur Dickeson, District Carpenters' and Joiners' Unions, Hamilton is experiencing the biggest building boom in its history. Ten dollar bills are easier to find than union carpenters and joiners. Every manjack of the journeymen is working. For more than a week, Mr. Dickeson told the C.L.P. correspondent, he had been trying to get 25 union carpenters for a local contractor, who was ready to start building operations on a job which easily will last two months. He offers 75 cents per hour and the best of working conditions. The union rate here is 65 cents per hour, but very few carpenters are receiving this figure, 70 cents and ovvr being paid. Mr. Dickeson reckons that the building boom is no flash in the pan. Very many residential and workingmen's houses are being erected with every speed, for there's a pronounced shortage of homes here, particularly now the khakiclads are coming home by the hundreds weekly. "It's the cheapest thing on the market today, house building," says Mr. Dickeson, whom the carpenters would'nt part with for "love nor money," so good has he made during his several years' office as business agent.

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PROVINCIAL CARPENTERS' COUNCIL.

Hamilton was adequately represented at the annual convention of the Ontario Carpenters' and Joiners' council which started in Toronto on June 19, for a three days' session. Besides Fred Hawes and Albert Blythe, both provincial vice-presidents, delegates from Local Union No. 17, the Hamilton District Council commissioned W. Jamieson and W. Anderson to attend as fraternal delegates.

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BRICKLAYERS' UNION MAN DIED FOLLOWING FALL.

Reginald H. Herod, 20 Canada street, an esteemed member of Local No. 1, Bricklayers' and Masons' Union, succumbed last Saturday morning as a result of injuries received from a fall the Tuesday previous. Deceased, who was in his 31st year, was tuck-pointing the brickwork on the Bank of Hamilton building at Burlington, near Hamilton, when he lost his foothold and fell from the scaffold. The funeral, which took place last Monday afternoon from his late home, for interment in Hamilton cemetery, was very largely attended by members of the Bricklayers' Union and other union men.

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T. AND L. COUNCIL SOON GOT BUSY.

The Trades and Labor Council organization committee lost no time in convening following its increased membership from 7 to 15. Its first session was held in the Labor Hall last Wednesday night, every one of the delegates being present. Harry G. Fester was elected president, and Victor Croom secretary-treasurer. Committees of three each were appointed to act as fraternal delegates to the Building Trades and Metal Trades Council and coordinate in any work undertaken by those bodies along organization lines. It was decided to organize the butchers and packing house employes, and to speed up the object Secretary Croome was commissioned to communicate with the International Union and ask that an organizer be sent here to co-operate with the organization committee. Last, but not the least business of the session, was the decision to go ahead and organize the telephone girls, which certainly is badly needed here.

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MUSICIANS.

Vice-president John Pryke, Local Musicians' Union, submitted a very comprehensive and interesting report regarding his attendance at the International Musicians' Union convention at Dayton, Ohio, at last Sunday's regular monthly meeting in the Labor Hall, which was largely attended. Bro. Pryke stated there were twelve Canadian delegates present, the majority being from Ontario. He reported the following officers elected: President, J. M. Webber; vice-president, Dave Cary, Toronto; secretary-treasurer, A. J. Kenwood. The 1920 convention will meet in Pittsburgh, Pa. It was decided not to hold local meetings during the summer months, all business matters to be transacted by the executive committee. The members purchased 100 more shares of Hamilton Labor Temple stock. A committee was appointed to wait on the War Veterans' band and urge them to join the Musicians' Union. During the afternoon five new members were initiated.

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WOMEN'S LABOR PARTY.

Despite the hot night there was a big attendance at last Monday's meeting of the Women's Labor party, central branch. Mrs. Edward J. Madden was in the chair. In the report of the delegates who attended the Ontario Labor Education Association convention one clause especially appealed to the ladies. That related to the important decision of the convention to organize a Women's Labor Federation, and that their president, Mrs. Madden, had been elected one of the committee to draw up a constitution and bylaws. The members are anxious to know when the Independent Labor party intend to hold its annual picnic. Mesdames Madden, Fester and Murphy were commissioned a committee to wait on the members of the I. L. P. at their next meeting. On June 23 the ladies are holding an open meeting, to which domestic servants are cordially invited, if they desire to learn and hear something to their advantage.

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PAINTERS.

At the last meeting of Local No. 205, Painters', Decorators' and Paperhangers' Union, many new members were initiated. Since the eight-hour workday was secured and an increase in wages, the membership has advanced by leaps and bounds. The organization committee are going right ahead, and intend to leave no stone unturned until every painterman in the city has joined the union.

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STAGE EMPLOYES.

When the Stage Employes' Union hold their next meeting on the fourth Sunday in June, James Harper, who represented the local at the international convention, will present his report. The union men are kept busy these days with stock in vogue at the Lyric and Savoy Theatres. It will be of interest to learn that there is an international law, to become operative shortly, prohibiting stage hands from accepting tips from actors. The object is intended to place the calling on a higher plane than the Pullman car system of employes depending on tips for a living.

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BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.

The Building Trades Council held a short session last Monday night, President Edward J. Madden officiating. Trade conditions were reported remarkably good by the various delegates. The council is anxious that every large job in the city be union from cellar to garret and an organizing campaign is now under way to effect that object. On Monday, June 23 in the Labor hall a mass meeting will be held to which all union building tradesmen and laborers are entitled to attend. After the meeting the C. L. P. correspondent learned that President Madden had quit his job with Adam Clarke and had started business on his own. He was congratulated and wished success in his undertaking.

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UNITY DIVISION NO. 113.

The Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo railway clerks and shedmen met in the Labor hall last Wednesday night, when after some discussion it was decided to call the union Unity Division No. 113. Messrs. G. A. Laing, J. Millar, A. Kenyon and J. Risdall were appointed a sick committee and J. Ball, press secretary. Five new members were initiated during the meeting. The Division will henceforth meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the Labor hall.

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G. T. R. SYSTEMS FEDERATION.

On Tuesday, June 10 in the Labor hall a new organization was formed to be known as the Grand Trunk Railway Systems Federation. The following officers were elected: President, J. Palmer; Vice-President, R. Boyd; Secretary-Treasurer, B. Kendrick; Trustees, J. McKee, A. Leek, G. Linnon. The aims and objects of the Federation were enunciated by President J. Palmer. The new local will meet the 2nd Monday night in each month in the Labor hall. To insure fraternalism among the members plans were made to hold social evenings.

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STRUCTURAL WORKERS REORGANIZE.

At last the Structural Iron and Stel workers of Hamilton realize that unless they unionize, nothing can be done in the way of securing advantageous working conditions and adequate wages. Before the war the toilers who follow this dangerous calling, used to have a good organization. But indifference and apathy exacted its toll. The local union becoming defunct. Now however the men have "gotten-together" again with the result an organization of 70 members to date is the happy result. Last Friday night during an open meeting addressed by President G. Binnington, S. Corner and Harry G. Foster, vice-president of the Independent Labor party, central branch, 30 new members were initiated. Much enthusiasm was manifested during the interesting session. The organization committee reported that at the next meeting another bunch of men would be initiated.

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METAL TRADES COUNCIL.

The newly reorganized Metal Trades Council met in the Labor hall last Friday night, 59 delegates from about ten local unions being present. Another step was made respecting the big organizing drive which will soon start.

SEAMEN'S UNION REFUSE TO WORK WITH GERMANS.

That the attitude of the British Mercantile Marine to the question of future relations with Germany has in no way weakened during the armistice, was made evident at Cardiff last week when a mass meeting of the Seamen's Union reaffirmed their previous resolution not to sail with German sailors and to rigorously boycott everything German until the Government of that country has expressed repentance for the horrible crimes against non-combatants and seafaring men pursuing lawful actions at sea.

WHITLEY SCHEME WORKING SATISFACTORILY.

The Democratic Supper Club which meets at the British House of Commons every fortnight, discussed recently industrial organization on the lines of the Whitley report. Mr. J. F. Green, M.P., presided, and the chief speaker was Mr. J. H. Whitley, M.P.

Industry before the war, said Mr. Whitley, had grown up on the basis of trench warfare. They were designed for trench warfare, of offense or defense. The employers' sole aim was to give as little as they could, and to put it off as long as they could, while the trade unions, on the other hand, were doing all they could for the betterment of the position of the man. The committee came to the conclusion that if any good was to be done in any industry in the days to come it was a case of getting out of the trenches and trying to devise a scheme in which all persons engaged in an industry, whether as leaders, foremen, or workmen could take their share. Industry could not longer be a selfish business; it must be a national service, for the whole existence of the nation depended on it. "Our future depends on our finding a way out, not only to maintain, but to improve our position in the industry of the whole world. We must be able to produce in quantity and quality, and at a price, goods which will be welcomed by the nations who can contribute counter-service to us in exchange. Then surely one of the things most worth while is to find the means by which all workers in industry of whatever grade can work together with good will and with thoroughness." There were now, he was glad to say, over 50 industrial councils in existence, and many more were in process of formation, and he received weekly the most happy and encouraging reports from those engaged in the work, both employers and workmen.

THE 8-HR. DAY.

Remember the 8-hour day and keep it holy. Thou shalt have no longer day besides me, for I am your friend. I shall be with you wherever you go. In your place of Labor I give you refreshing strength and intelligence; I increase your hours of joy, in your bed I give you peaceful sleep, and in the end a longer, a more pleasant life with greater vision.

CALLS FOR CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

The vital importance of close co-operation between British and American nations as a means of insuring the future peace of the world was impressed upon the reconstruction convention of the A. F. of L. at Atlantic City last week by Miss M. Bondfield, delegate from the British Trades Union Congress.

"British labor," said Miss Bondfield, "has been through four terrible years of war and now feels that upon its attitude and activities depends whether the new world is going to be better than the old one."

Miss Bondfield said that reports of strikes published in American papers made an erroneous impression of the attitude of British labor, which, she said, was always for the prosecution of the war to a victorious conclusion.

LABOR'S POSITION MUST BE MAINTAINED.

The executive report of the A. F. of L. regarding wages says:

"The position of labor must be maintained and advanced at all hazards. It is the opinion of your executive council that no wages paid to American workmen today are too high, but that on the contrary wages far too low still are paid in many industries. Progress is the word today and the progress worth most and best understood is the kind that reaches the individual in the form of a better life, a freer and larger opportunity and more of the things by which life is sustained and enriched. The progress of our movement in realizing these things for the workers is not to be denied by any influence or obstacle."

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