

## SANE LABOR PREVAILS WITH TOM MOORE AT THE HELM

### INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

By TOM MOORE  
President, Trades and Labor Congress of Canada

TOM MOORE



Who was re-elected President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, at the convention held in Vancouver, B.C.

"Whereas conditions of labor involving such injustice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperilled and an improvement of those conditions is urgently required." So runs the preamble to the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations.

To carry out the ideals of the above declaration the International Labor Conferences are held each year and are composed of four delegates from each of the fifty-four states which are members of the organization. Though Germany is not a member of the League of Nations, she was admitted to membership in the International Labor Organization at the first annual conference held at Washington, October-November, 1919. Of the four delegates from each country two represent the Government, one the employers and one the workers.

Decisions of the Conference are made in three classes—  
(a) Draft conventions which require a two-third majority to be adopted and which must be accepted or rejected without alteration.  
(b) Recommendations which merely lay down the broad lines which the states in each country should follow and are adopted at the annual conferences on a clear majority vote.

(c) Resolutions which are forwarded simply as suggestions to each country and are also adopted by majority vote of the conference.  
Four annual conferences have been held—first Washington, 1919; second, Genoa, 1920; the latter two Geneva, 1921 and 1922, whilst the fourth annual conference is convened at Geneva October 22nd this year at Geneva.

The first conference adopted six resolutions dealing with—  
(1) The application of the principle of an eight hour day and a 48 hour week;  
(2) The question of preventing providing against unemployment;  
(3) The employment of women before and after childbirth;  
(4) The employment of women during the night;  
(5) The minimum age of employment of children in industry;  
(6) The night work of young persons employed in industry.

Six recommendations were adopted along with—  
(1) Public employment exchanges.  
(2) Reciprocity of treatment of foreign workers;  
(3) The prevention of anthrax;  
(4) The protection of women and children against lead poisoning;  
(5) Establishment of Government health services;  
(6) The application of the Berne Convention of 1906 on the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

The Second Conference adopted five Draft Conventions concerning—  
(1) The age for admission of children to employment at sea;  
(2) Unemployment indemnity in case of loss or foundering of ship;  
(3) Facilities for finding employment for seamen;  
Four Recommendations were adopted concerning—  
(1) The limitation of hours of work in the fishing industry;  
(2) The limitation of hours of work in inland navigation;  
(3) The establishment of national women's codes;  
(4) Unemployment insurance for women.

The Third Conference adopted seven Draft Conventions concerning—  
(1) The right of association of agricultural workers;  
(2) Workmen's compensation in agriculture;  
(3) The minimum age of employment of children in agriculture;  
(4) The use of white lead in painting;  
(5) The minimum age of employment as trimmers and stokers at sea;  
(6) The medical examination of children and young persons employed at sea;  
(7) The weekly rest in industry.

Eight Recommendations were adopted concerning—  
(1) The development of technical agricultural education;  
(2) The prevention of unemployment in agriculture;  
(3) Social insurance in agriculture;  
(4) Night work of children and young persons in agriculture;

(5) Night work of women in agriculture;  
(6) The protection of women in agriculture before and after childbirth;  
(7) The living-in conditions of agricultural workers;  
(8) The weekly rest in commercial establishments.

The Fourth Conference, in addition to formulating a number of amendments shown by experience to be necessary in the constitution of the International Labor Organization, adopted one recommendation concerning—  
(1) Statistical and other information regarding emigration and immigration.

The latest information received is that 73 Ratifications of Draft Conventions have been formally registered with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations while twelve others have been authorized but not yet formally communicated. Twelve countries have adhered to the Berne Convention of 1906 regarding prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in match-making since the adoption of a Recommendation on the subject at the First Conference. In 85 cases ratification has been recommended by Governments to the competent authorities, but approval has not yet been signified. Ninety four measures have been finally adopted by legislative authorities to give effect partially or wholly to the provisions of the Draft Conventions and Recommendations while 96 others have been proposed and are before different Parliaments.

As it is particularly emphasized in the Treaty that "the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labor is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries," it is worthy of notice that great progress has been made in Eastern countries where working conditions are admittedly much below Western standards. India has, as a result of the International Labor Conference, reduced her statutory working hours in industry from 72 a week to 60, and in mines to 54. She has also taken measures to prevent the exploitation of women and children from 9 to 12 years. Japan, whose hours of labor in some industries such as the silk industry, exceed 90 hours a week, has just passed Acts regarding the employment of women and children in industry, including the prohibition of the labor of children under 14, and has in preparation similar measures for the reduction of hours of labor.

Sweeping reforms in factory conditions are also being effected in China. The International Labor Office is headed by Mr. Albert Thomas as Director, formerly a prominent member of the Socialist Party in France, and during the war a member of the French Government, with Mr. H. B. Butler as Assistant Director.

Between annual conferences the work of the organization is supervised by the governing body which meets every three months, composed of twelve representatives of Governments, six Employers' representatives and six Workers' representatives. The governing body officers hold office for three years, the present one being elected last year, Canada having two members thereof, the Hon. James Muddock, Minister of Labor, representing the Government, and Mr. Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, being chosen as one of the six workers' representatives. Mr. Cou-

### RADICALISM GIVEN ANOTHER SETBACK WHEN THE PRESENT PERSONEL OF THE DOMINION TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS IS RETURNED TO OFFICE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR AT ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN VANCOUVER, B.C.

Once more sane labor has gained a decided victory over radicalism in Canada by the re-election of Mr. Tom Moore as President of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and Mr. P. M. Draper as Secretary for another year, but it was not without a bitter struggle and the convention just over only emphasizes the fact that radicalism in Canada has gathered considerable impetus during the past few years as evidenced by the increased strength of this class of labor representatives attending the Congress conventions.

Mr. Moore is to be congratulated upon his victorious return for it is indeed a victory when you consider the active opposition created by his enemies during the months preceding the convention and the many attempts made to upset the balance of sound judgment which exists in labor ranks through the influence of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and as exemplified by its President, Tom Moore.

Now that the immediate battle is over for the maintaining, as in the past, of sound trade union conditions, it is most essential that steps be taken to fortify ourselves against the onslaught which is just as sure to follow as night follows day, for we have seen evidence that leads us to believe that the Workers' Party of Canada is far from being discouraged, and while they had designs on the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress in an endeavour to secure control, that was only one link in their scheme of revolution. Various meetings are regularly held throughout the country, where the speakers denounce Canada and her citizens and exalt Russia and the Soviet regime. At a recent meeting held in Toronto, the illustrious Joe Knight referred to Canada in most scathing terms.

In an article issued recently by the United Mine Workers of America, it is charged that collection of funds from American people of high and low degree for the promotion of social, economical and political revolution has become an organized industry in the last two years as part of a far-reaching plot to spread the dictatorship of the Communist International at Moscow, over this continent.

Laborers, society leaders, school teachers and well-meaning philanthropists, ignorant of the menace they are promoting, add millions of dollars annually to the war chest of the underground workers for revolution in America, it is charged. Other millions are described as streaming in from Moscow, Berlin and Stockholm to make a total impossible estimate.

Capture of the Miners' Union is alleged to be the first aim of Communist agents in this country, as a step towards establishment of the "One Big Union" principle in all industrial groups. After that nationalization of coal mines under the Soviet rule as a preliminary to nationalization of other industries; then forcible overthrow of the governments existing in the United States and Canada, and establishment of Communism after the Moscow pattern.

Solicitation of funds is said to have been most active among the miners. Money usually is asked for some "defence" or "relief" cause.  
A conference of "Reds," whom the author names, was held at Pittsburgh last February 10th, out of which grew a platform alleged to contain these planks:—  
"1. Establishment of headquarters at Pittsburgh for an aggressive campaign to reorganize the Miners' Union in accordance with Communist doctrines.  
"2. To bring about a general strike on April 1st.  
"3. To hold a convention of miners' delegates of the United States and Canada at Pittsburgh the first week in June, when would be launched a new international organization to absorb the United Mine Workers and eliminate its international and district officials."

An outstanding feature of this programme, which failed to wide fulfillment is alleged in the "expose" to have been the unauthorized strike of steel and coal miners in Nova Scotia which was ended only after the President of the Mine Workers ousted Dan Livingstone, President, and J. B. McLachlin, Secretary of the District.

### WOMEN AND THE GERMAN TRADE UNIONS

Trade unionism among women in Germany has undergone a very marked development since the war. Whereas in 1914 the number of women organized in the German "free" trade unions was only 210,314 or 10 per cent of the total membership, in 1922 it had grown to 1,753,576, or over 21 per cent of the total membership of the "free" trade unions. Women form a similar proportion of the other trade union organizations.

Women workers in Germany generally receive lower wages than men—in most cases about two-thirds of the men's wages. A few collective agreements lay down that women's wages must not be less than 80 per cent of the men's. It is only in the small minority of cases that men and women receive equal pay. These cases are to be found almost exclusively in the textile and tailoring trades. In theory, according to an article by Madame Gertrud Hannar, member

### USEFUL WORK VERSUS DEGRADING IDLENESS

Labour's Proposals for Dealing with the Immediate Needs of the unemployed now regarded as Efficient, Practical and Productive

By FRED BRAMLEY  
(Assistant Secretary of the Trades Union Congress General Council).

For over three years, from one-and-a-half to two million men and women have been denied the right to work. The official records show that on May 27, 1921, the number registered at Labor Exchanges was 2,109,654, and a month later, June 24, 2,171,288. The level of about two million was again reached in January and February, 1922, and at other periods up to the present month has been consistently maintained at approximately one million and a half. These figures do not include thousands of unemployed men and women who are not registered. The Unemployment Insurance Act covers less than 12,000,000, as compared with a total of nearly 115,000,000 wage-earners liable to be affected by unemployment.

During the three years of chronic unemployment the Labor forces have been actively engaged in an effort to rouse the public conscience and galvanize Governments into action. Special conferences, record demonstrations, manifestoes, elaborate reports, deputations to Prime Ministers and House of Commons debates—all these and other methods have been tried.

It is not without interest to note that Sir Allan Smith and his colleagues accuse the Government of being "lacking in foresight and imagination." We endorse the impeachment but express no surprise that those who remained indifferent when unemployment reached the level of over 2,000,000, should become specially active when the number is reduced by over 600,000, and forthwith proceed to accuse others of being devoid of the necessary "foresight and imagination." It almost appears like the audacity of the new enthusiasts.

We can, however, appreciate the mental attitude of Sir Allan Smith's Industrial Group, for they have evidently arrived at their conclusions subsequent to investigation and adoption of Labor's proposals for dealing with unemployment, over two years and a half after their publication.

These proposals, as contained in a special report submitted to, and adopted by a National Conference, called by the Labor Party and the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee on January 27, 1921, constitute the most reliable and practical palliatives for dealing immediately with the unemployed problem.

They are now being supported by supplementary information prepared by the Emergency Committee on Unemployment, appointed by the Parliamentary Labor Party. If adopted, they would provide work for skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled of both sexes, and, in addition to substituting useful work for degrading idleness, would produce other results of immense social value.

The general adoption of Labor's proposals by the Industrial Group is due to their irresistible value as practical measures and not to a desire to assist the political or industrial objectives of the Labor movement.

Within the trade unions at the present time a comparatively small proportion of trade union officials are women, and the most responsible posts are almost entirely filled by men. There are no women delegates, or very few, to Congresses and similar meetings. This fact has led some people to regard the mixed form of trade union which is usual in Germany as unfavorable to the representation of women's interests.

Madame Gertrud Hannar, however, considers that this view is erroneous.

### OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN

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### BAKERS DISCUSS WAGE OUTLOOK

Annual Conference Withholds Action on Agreement: Conditions Inquiry?

After discussion a resolution calling for the termination of the present wage agreement was withdrawn at the resumed conference of the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners and Allied Workers, at Worcester, yesterday.

The resolution put forward by a London delegate was to the effect that notice should be given to determine all present agreements as to wages, hours and working conditions as from September 1, and that a new national programme should be drawn up, laying down minimum rates for England and Wales, with a differentiation between bread bakers, together with a scheme for apprentices.

### THE MOVER AND SECONDER AGREED TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE RESOLUTION.

A proposal from Leicester to reduce membership contributions was defeated. Further resolutions from Middleborough to reduce the fees to Head Office to 1s. per head met with strong disapproval from the general secretary, who said that the resolution should never have been brought. The resolution was defeated.

Bargoed had a resolution asking the Executive to appoint a national organizer, but Conference preferred the amendment by the Executive, which empowered it to engage Mr. J. Hines, who has been an official of the union for 12 months, to do organizing work.

The Conference also turned down a motion by Manchester Women's Branch, urging that a woman national organizer should be appointed. It was argued, in support of the motion, that if night work were abolished the employers would seek to reimburse themselves for expenditure on machinery by employing women at cheap rates.

Both had a resolution declaring that no full-time official of the union should hold public office. Mr. Watcham (London) said a more tyrannical motion could not be put forward.

Only the mover voted for the resolution. Mr. Marriott (Newport) moved a resolution viewing with alarm the number of cases of dermatitis, demanding an enquiry into the milling trade, and calling on the Ministry of Health to make inquiry with a view to getting a guarantee from the miller to the purchaser of purity.

Even now, he said, some members of Parliament thought the disease was due to uncleanliness of bakers, which was a libel on a respectable calling. The matter was left to the Executive.

The Conference unanimously decided to adhere to the principle of endeavouring to obtain Parliamentary representation, and empowered the Executive to take the necessary steps. It was decided to affiliate to the Baking Trades International, and the Conference appointed Messrs. W. Banfield and P. H. Brown to attend the Conference at Hamburg.

### RAILWAY SHOPS CONTROVERSY

SEEKING CAUSE OF UNION DIVISIONS

N. U. R. REPLY TO A. E. U. LINES COMMITTEE'S NEW STATEMENT

The points which have arisen in connection with the wages and conditions of railway shopmen are the subject of a communication to us from the Lines Committee of the N. U. R.

Last week we published a statement from a member of the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, in which charges were made that the National Union of Railwaymen had been the cause of the division in the negotiations.

The N.U.R. Lines Committee, in its letter, controverts the A. E. U. statement that "the basis laid down by the N.U.R. for joint negotiations in effect means that the N.U.R. shall negotiate and control railway craftsmen."

Attention is drawn to the meetings held between the representatives of the N.U.R. and A.E.U. on January 25 and 26, and February 3, 1921. At those meetings, it is observed, the president of the A.E.U. explained that the meeting was being held at the request of the A.E.U., owing to the refusal of the N.U.R. to take part along with the N.U.R. in the negotiations for railway shopworkers.

Where Unions Disagree. At these meetings a general discussion took place on the policy and claims of the two organizations in regard to the skilled men in the railway shops, when the following proposal was submitted by the N.U.R.— "That the N.U.R. is prepared to cooperate in the setting-up of a joint committee to consider the whole question of membership as between the N.U.R. and the A.E.U. immediately. Pending the decision of such committee, joint negotiations shall be commenced, and in view of the fact that the N.U.R. has a considerable number of craftsmen employed in the railway shops, the N.U.R. shall continue to represent all who are its members without prejudice to any future arrangements."