Labor News From Coast to Coast.

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THE SWORN PAID NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS IS OVER 35,000 EACH ISSUE

GIGANTIC PROBLEMS FOR WINDSOR CONVENTION

LETTER CARRIERS DEMAND WHITLEY COUNCILS FOR POST OFFICE DEPT.

Many Important Questions Dealt With at Nineteenth Biennial Convention of the Federated Association of Letter Carriers—Demand Union Made Uniforms.

At the nineteenth biennial convention of the Federated Association of Letter Carriers, which was held at Peterboro last week, it was decided to hold the conventions annually hereafter.

About 70 delegates from all parts of Canada attended.

Several amendments were made to the constitution of the beneficiary department of the organization. A motion to raise the insurance age limit from 35 to 45 years was defeated. In the last two years 31 members have died, and $17,750 was paid out in insurance benefits last year, and $7,000 this year to date.

Three representatives will be sent to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, representing Eastern, Central and Western Canada, respectively. Delegates to conventions of the order are to be paid seven dollars a day expenses. By motion passed any member promoted from the ranks of letter carriers ceases to be eligible for membership in the organization after three months.

Executive Report.

The report of the executive dealt exhaustively with the secession movement west of the Great Lakes. Referring to the present cry of the associated postal workers (an organization formed in Winnipeg in 1918) for union of all postal workers, the question is asked: Why did they secede, and what had their separation accomplished? In answer to the charge that the Federated Association had adopted obsolete methods in applying to members of Parliament, petitioning the Government, etc., it is claimed that the democratic principle had always been followed that the right of drastic action remain solely in the hands of the membership, and should be employed only after all other means had been exhausted.

The first efforts toward amalgamation should be applied to postal bodies in the east. The report recommended a salary schedule of $1,320 for the first year, $1,500 second year, $1,620 third year, $1,740 fourth year, with a maximum of $1,860.

The committee dealing with the report found that the executive had done everything in their power to meet the secessionists, and recommended that the association make every effort to procure a working basis among the different postal organizations.

That the period for reaching the maximum salary shall not be over three years, with an initial salary of $1,500, was one of the resolutions passed at the second day's session. It was also recommended that uniforms be made locally and by union labor if possible.

A motion to have Panama hats supplied every two years, instead of Stetsons for summer wear, and black persian lamb for winter wear, every five years, was unanimously carried.

Ask Transportation.

The Postal department will be asked to set a limit of 35 pounds on any delivery, and the government will be asked to supply free transportation on the Government railways during the vacation periods of the letter carriers. The Department will also be asked to supply street railway passes, instead of tickets, and also provide the letter carriers with an issue of money, in lieu of boots.

Instead of asking for an appeal board the government will be asked to grant a Whitley Council to adjust salaries, the decision of the council to be final, rather than that of the civil service commission.

Want Less Free Periodicals.

The convention decided to address a communication to Hon. N. W. Rowell, suggesting a reduction in the number of periodicals now being carried free. Exception was taken to the postal rate under which the Hearst papers are distributed in this country. It was pointed out by the delegates that the Hearst papers are anti-British in sentiment and should not be permitted to enjoy such a cheap rate as a quarter of a cent per pound. They approved of the distribution of newspapers under existing conditions for the reasons that they are educational in scope.

The financial report presented by J. North of Toronto, showed an estimated expenditure of $7,675 for next year. The per capita tax will be increased to six dollars a year.

The need of a separate branch of the organization for the English-speaking letter carriers of Montreal was urged by F. M. Healy of that city. It was pointed out that the French-speaking members all spoke French at the meetings.

The convention approved a motion to appoint an organizing secretary with power to adjust disputes between the branches and the Post Office department.

BUILDING INDUSTRY SHOWING REMARKABLE INCREASE.

Canada is entering upon an era of tremendous development in the building industry, in the opinion of several distinguished "generals of building," who addressed the Ontario Association of Architects in convention at London, Ont., last week.

SERFDOM IN WEST VIRGINIA.

The industrial serfdom, backed by private armies, which coal owners have established in West Virginia is indicated by agreements they are forcing unorganized labor and defenceless miners to sign.

The organized coal miners call these agreements "yellow dog contracts." They provide that the miner shall not join a union while in the employ of the company, "and will not knowingly work in or about any mine where a member of such organization is employed."

In that portion of the agreement which regulates the use of the company house in which the miner lives, the miner agrees that he "shall not permit any improper or suspicious person to come upon the said premises," and that the company "shall at all times have the right to enter upon the said premises for the purpose of ejecting all such persons."

It is further agreed that the company's armed thugs may, "without resort to legal proceedings of any kind whatsoever, enter upon the said premises, and into such house and take possession," and "may use such force as may be necessary to evict said party of the second part."

It is under this contract that miners and their families are being evicted because the miners joined the union.

PRAISE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADES UNION MOVEMENT.

Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, gives credit where it is due when he declares that the great international labor unions are the most influential force working for industrial harmony and stability and one of the most effective agencies for combating Bolshevist tendencies in the United States and Canada. For the most part, the international unions have sane, temperate leadership. Those who are closely in touch with labor matters appreciate their influence. The worker is the first concern of the international organization, but its policy for the furtherance of the welfare of the worker is not that of promoting antagonism between capital and labor.

The international unions are not given to sympathy with the spirit of class-consciousness, one of the greatest deterrents to industrial stability. Industrial conditions in Canada are the better from the fact, mentioned by Senator Robertson, that about two-thirds of the organized workers of the Dominion are members of international unions.—Ottawa Journal.

CANADIAN SCHOOLS SUFFER FROM SIMILAR CAUSES.

Richard Yates, former Governor of Illinois, and United States Congressman, in an address at the Cobourg Community Chautauqua, last week, said there were 100,000 vacant schoolrooms in the United States because the teachers had not been paid enough.

Ex-Governor Yates said that of ten million boys mobilized into the United States army in 1917, statistics showed that 24 9-16 per cent. of them could not read sufficiently well to read a newspaper or write a letter. Education of the young as a vital factor in the well-being of the state was emphasized by Mr. Yates.

SIX AND A HALF MILLION POUNDS SUGAR HELD IN STORAGE AT HALIFAX

Canadians Paying From 23 to 30c Per Pound For Sugar, While Huge Piles Lay in Storage Held by Speculators.

While Nova Scotians were paying 25 cents a pound for sugar most of the summer, one of the reasons given for the high price being an alleged scarcity, millions of pounds owned by New York speculators were stored right in Halifax, in the Dominion Government warehouse at the ocean terminals.

Having been stored there for nearly four months in the hottest season of the year, part of the 6,500,000 pounds which still remain is now beginning to cake, and hence is deteriorating in value.

It is said that if the hot weather continued much longer a large part of it would cause a big loss to the New York owners, who will probably welcome the coming of cooler weather.

Early in May 112,000 bags of sugar were sold by a refinery to some New York brokers and the whole was stored in Government warehouse No. 24 here. Since then nearly half has been shipped to New York and elsewhere, but 65,000 bags remain.

The sugar has changed ownership several times, it is stated, without being moved from the warehouse each time at an advance in price, but now that sugar is on the decline here and everywhere, the portion still remaining here would cause the owners a loss anyway, even if the quality remained high.

The sugar is, or was, best granulated, and is in a huge, long pile in the warehouse, which is a hot, sultry building in warm weather and some of the sugar, particularly the bags at the bottom of the big pile, is feeling the effects of weather and pressure from above. During the shipyard strike here recently about $2,000,000 riot insurance was placed on it.

The Executive Council of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

TOM MOORE, President.

A. MARTELL, 1st Vice-President.

H. J. HALFORD, 2nd Vice-President.

A. J. McANDREWS, 3rd Vice-President.

P. M. DRAPER, Sec.-Treas.

"P. R." ONLY SYSTEM UNDER WHICH LABOR WILL RECEIVE JUST REPRESENTATION

Committee Appointed by Ontario Government to Study "P.R." Holds First Session and Those Favorable to Plan Present Evidence—Opposition to be Heard in October.

The Proportional Representation Committee of the Ontario Government heard advocates of the new voting system explain the workings of the scheme for several hours recently at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, and then, at the suggestion of Premier Drury, postponed further meetings until the afternoon of October 20. It is desired to have opponents of the system give their views on the question.

R. Hooper of Ottawa, who is honorary secretary of the Proportional Representation Society, addressed the members of the committee and explained the scheme, using diagrams to show just how members were elected under its operation. He told the members that the present system of voting practically had the effect of disfranchising the minority.

"This system probably served its purpose when education was a luxury, and the franchise was limited to what are known as the upper classes," stated Mr. Hooper. With Labor becoming more insistent on proper representation, he feared that the present system might not operate fairly where there was a conflict of interests. Political and industrial questions were becoming more closely interwoven. He used the British elections as an example where Labor had votes enough, under the proportional representation scheme, to entitle them to 120 seats, but in which they secured only 59 seats.

"The realization of something akin to political impotence on the part of Labor is causing much of the industrial unrest in Great Britain," he said. Parliament had failed to deal with the question. Suffrage had lost its savor, and meant no more than a representative government which did not represent.

Would Satisfy All.

Mr. Hooper, by means of his diagrams, was able to show that after the proportional system had been followed in an election, with the voters naming the candidates in order of the choice they wished to make, all parties would receive fair representation.

"How about Winnipeg, where the Labor people claimed that they should have had one seat more?" asked one of the committee.

"In Winnipeg, when the returns were made up, we found that a great many who voted for Dixon, who was the leading candidate, went on and marked their ballots for the remaining candidates, either straight Conservative or straight Liberal," explained Mr. Hooper. "There were about 2,000 ballots marked in this way, so that the Labor party got just about what they were entitled to."

This was in explanation of how all votes cast for a candidate above electing point went to help second or subsequent choices. Thus candidates running on the same ticket as Dixon would not be entitled to the surplus of this number of votes where the first choice was for the Labor candidate.

The Present Paradox.

Mr. Hooper also showed that with the present electoral system minorities, could hold power and could thus practically disfranchise major-Labor party and that this would be itles, as in the case where a three-cornered fight saw a candidate with little over a third of the total vote go in. He explained how the voting was done under the proportional system, and A. S. Winchester, who spoke following him, described the voting machinery used in Winnipeg.

"We should have those who oppose it called to give their views," said Premier Drury, who asked frequent questions in regard to various points of the proportional system.

"Just invite representatives," remarked K. K. Homuth, M.P.P. "If you asked for those who favored it they would fill the room three or four times over." It was brought to the attention of the committee that proportional representation was the leading plank of the British Labor party an dthat this would be the big bulwark against the direct action propaganda.

Premier Drury thought that opposition views should be heard, in justice to all, and asked that opponents of the system be invited to come and give reasons for opposing any change.

RY. BROTHERHOODS MAY YET AFFILIATE

Conference Held Last Week With A. F. of L. and "Big Four."

As the result of a series of conferences in New York city, last week, affiliation of the four powerful railroad brotherhoods with the American Federation of Labor is expected to be assured. The conferences are between the brotherhood chiefs and the members of the A. F. of L. executive council, including President Gompers.

According to members of the executive council material progress has been made in the direction of smoothing out differences and clearing the way for the admission of the Order of Railway Conductors, which seems to be leading the "Big Four" brotherhoods on the road toward a merger.

Secretary Frank Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, has made the significant statement that Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, has not withdrawn that body's application for admission to the federation, notwithstanding widespread publications to the contrary.

President Gompers has adhered to his policy of silence with respect to the possibility of a realization not far distant of his cherished hopes for great league of labdr. So far as the engineers' brotherhood is concerned the Plumb plan, indorsed by the Montreal convention of the federation and flatly repudiated by the executive council, will not be permitted to hamper negotiations.

"Federation" chiefs are confident that if the conductors come in the danger of the establishment of an opposing federation will be obviated by similar action speedily by the Firemen's and the Trainmen's brotherhoods.

GOMPERS SAYS NEBRASKA MEASURE WOULD BRING SLAVERY.

Samuel Gompers, President of the A. F. of L., has brought to the attention of the Central Labor Unions and all organizations affiliated with the A. F. of L. in the State of Nebraska an attempt being made to create an Industrial Commission for the purpose of administering laws relative to Labor disputes.

President Gompers charges that such an amendment to the constitution would permit of legislation as inimical to the interests of the workers and farmers as the Court of Industrial Relations Act of Kansas, upon which it was patterned, and would result in compulsory labor for the workers.

The proposal to create this Industrial Commission will be voted on at a special election to be held throughout the State of Nebraska on September 21.

Windsor Hydro Radial's Success

Notwithstanding increased cost of operation, it will not be necessary to increase fares for the Windsor street railway system, now operated by the Ontario Power Commission, according to Sir Adam Beck, chairman of the commission.

"At the present time," Sir Adam states in a communication to Mayor Winter, "we have no intention of cutting off the six for a quarter tickets, so far the street railway has paid expenses, provided for sinking fund, and yielded a very satisfactory profit which, however, has been turned back into the purchase of new equipment to replace worn-out rolling stock and machinery.

Canada Not A Clearing House For Europeans

Continental immigrants insist on coming to Canada in contravention of the regulations, and such a number of them have been turned back that the Immigration Department has sent sharply worded cables to the steamship companies warning them against bringing in such people. They are mostly Poles and Russian Jews.

The immigration regulations do not ban continentals if relatives or friends here send them a prepaid ticket or if they come from their homes on a continuous journey, but few of them do so. Instead, they come indirectly and thus are not eligible. All of them planning to stay in Canada are heading for the cities, while the greater number aim to get into the United States by the back door and evade the restrictions in vogue there. A large number have been rejected and taken back at the expense of the steamship companies.

The situation has come to be such that the department has warned the different lines to conduct such examinations on the other side as will prevent the futile embarkation of ineligibles.

FARM LABOR HOURS WILL BE DISCUSSED

Mr. Ed. O'Dell Represents Canadian Labor At Geneva.

E. W. O'Dell, Hamilton, general representative of the Boot and Shoe Workers of Canada, will represent Canadian organized Labor at the coming meeting of the governing body of the International Labor Office (League of Nations). The governing body meets in Geneva early in October.

Mr. O'Dell, as Canadian fraternal delegate, is now attending the British Trades Union Congress at Portsmouth, Eng. At Geneva, he will substitute for Mr. P. M. Draper, secretary of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, who is the official labor delegate from Canada.

The governing body will consider the date and agenda of the next meeting of the International Labor Conference. The date will probably be in the spring. The conference will meet at Geneva, the headquarters of the League of Nations. Principal among subjects to be discussed at the conference will be application of the eight-hour day to agriculture.

G. T. R. APPLIES AWARD OF U. S. RAILWAY LABOR BOARD.

Grand Trunk Railway employes belonging to the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes are to receive the same rates of pay as recently adopted by the Railway Labor Board in the United States. The C. P. R. adopted this schedule some weeks ago, and the G. T. R. have now informed the systems board for their eastern lines of their decision to follow suit. The other Government roads have yet to take action on this, but will do so soon. The new rates will take effect on September 15, and be retroactive to May 1 last, as in the States.

ONTARIO BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE.

A bureau of industrial hygiene, under the supervision of Dr. J. G. Cunningham, of Toronto, has recently been established in connection with the Department of Health of Ontario. The duties of the bureau are to investigate dangerous trades and report to employers methods of obviating danger to workmen; to advise as to the most applicable and cheapest safety devices for the different industries, and to instruct employes how best to avoid accidents. Factory sanitation will also come within the purview of the bureau.

BOLSHEVISTS SEEK TO DESTROY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADES UNION MOVEMENT AND URGE REVOLUTION

Executive Committee of Third International Urge All Radicals to "Bore From Within'" and Thus Bring About Complete Destruction of Labor Movement—Bolshevists Seek World's Control.

The executive committee of the Third International has launched an appeal from Moscow urging revolutionary minded union men to induce their unions to break away from the International Federation of Trade Unions and found a new "Red" union international, which would become a section of the Bolshevist-controlled Communist International.

The full text of the Bolshevist appeal, which is signed by G. Zinovief, president of the executive committee of the Communist International, was printed in a recent issue of the New York Volkszeitung. It bears no date. It confirms the statement made recently in The Canadian Labor Press that the Bolshevists aim to destroy the international trades union movement. After thoroughly denouncing the old labor organizations and their leaders, including Samuel Gompers and Carl Legien, the appeal continues:

The mighty strike movement that is stirring up the European continent, North America and the whole world of industry shows that the trade unions are not victims of decay, but will soon assume new forms. The trade unions cannot remain indifferent toward the extremely important questions that at present are exciting the attention of the entire world and which are dividing the human race into two sections—the Reds and the Whites. It is the duty of every trade union to come to an understanding on the questions of mobilization, demobilization, the introduction of obligatory military service, direct or indirect taxation, the paying off of the war debts, Government ownership and operation of railroads, mines and the more important branches of industry, etc.

The Communist International thinks the time has come for the unions that are freed from bourgeois influences and from the social traitors to reconstruct their international organization, as well as that of the whole trade union movement and of the various trade and professional associations. We must oppose the Yellow Trade Union International, which is trying in Amsterdam, Washington and Paris to call together the agents of the bourgeoisie, with the genuinely proletarian Red Trade Union International, which fights on the side of the Third, the Communist, International.

In many countries the trade unions are undergoing a decided transformation; the chaff is being separated from the wheat. In Germany, the cradle of the Yellows, i.e., the bourgeois trade union movement that was guided by a Legien and a Noske, many organizations are lining up on the side of the proletarian revolution. Already the old leaders, who had sold out the movement to the capitalists, are being cleaned out of the unions. In Italy nearly all the trade union associations stand for the rule of the Soviets. In the Scandinavian trade unions the proletarian revolution tendencies are becoming stronger from day to day. In France, England, America, the Netherlands and Spain the majority of the trade union members reject the former bourgeois tactics and demand revolutionary methods of fighting. In Russia 3,500,000 members of the trade unions voluntarily and unconditionally support the dictatorship of the proletariat. In the Balkans the majority of the trade unions are in close organizing relations with the Communist parties and fight under the latter's victorious banners.

The first International, led by Marx and Engels, endeavored to gather within its folds working class organizations of all kinds, including the trade unions.

The Second (now destroyed) International did, indeed, also invite the trade unions to its congresses, but was not connected with them by any firm organizing band.

The Third, the Communist, International, wishes to follow the lines of the First International in this matter also. The trade union associations themselves, after being freed from the errors mentioned above, will on their part seek to establish relations with the proletarian vanguard that is organized in the Third, the Communist, International.

The intelligent opinion of the working class demands the unity of all the organized powers of the proletariat. Arms of all kinds are indispensable for the attack upon capitalists. The Communist International is obligated to serve in every way the international struggle of the proletariat, and consequently it strives for close relations with those revolutionary organizations that have grasped the demands of the times.

The Communist International wishes to unite, not only the political organizations of the proletariat, but also all other working class organizations which recognize in acts, not merely in words, the revolutionary struggle and fight for the dictatorship of the working class. The executive committee of the Third International is of the opinion that not only the political parties but also the trade unions that stand for the revolution ought to take part in the congresses of the Communist International. These workers' organizations must unite upon a common general basis and form a section of the Third International.

We address this appeal to the trade unions of the whole world. The same development and the same division is bound to take place in the labor movement as has already taken place in the political movement. Just as all the great labor parties have severed connections with the Second Yellow International, so will the various trade unions be obliged to break with the Yellow Trade Union International in Amsterdam.

We call upon the organized labor men and women of all countries to bring up our appeal for discussion in the trade union meetings, and we are fully convinced that all the class conscious workers of the world will grasp the hand extended to them by the Communist International.

Long live the new trade union movement, freed from the plague of opportunism!

Long live the Red Trade Union International!

CARPENTERS TO MEET AT INDIANAPOLIS.

The quadrennial convention of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America will open at Indianapolis on September 20. Canadian delegates will attend.

TRADE CONGRESS COMPLETES 36 YEARS' ACTVITY

Annual Convention Opens at Windsor, Ont., on Monday, Sept. 13.

The 36th annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will be held next week at Windsor, Ontario. The sessions will open on Monday morning and it is expected that the business will occupy the entire week.

Attendance this year will not be quite as large as that of last year, but it will be larger than any previous year. At the time of writing, some four hundred credentials are in the hands of the secretary and it is expected that another hundred will bring credentials to the convention.

About one hundred resolutions have reached headquarters of the Trades and Labor Congress dealing with many of the problems confronting the workers.

Trade unionists at Windsor have provided ample amusement for the delegates and in the hours the convention is not in session the delegates will be royally entertained.

The past year has been a very strenuous one for the executive council, and they have performed their duties faithfully and well. However, the magnitude of the work may be summed up by a quotation from the convention call which reads as follows:

Gigantic Problems.

"The aggressive action of those workers who would destroy the international trades union movement still continues; the rapid growth of mergers and huge trusts controlling the industries of this country cannot safely be ignored; profiteering is still rampant and the benefits of wage increases are generally discounted before they have been received; inequalities in social life become daily more apparent; inordinate wealth flagrantly displays itself ostentatiously before the eyes of the great mass of workers yet struggling for a reasonable standard of living; unemployment still exists and production is curtailed by those who own and control the machinery of same; freedom of Speech and Press is yet far from being an accomplished fact; Immigration and similar problems loom up with ever greater significance, and without attempting to define more fully all the matters that the delegates will be called upon to consider, sufficient is above outlined to emphasize the importance of local unions and affiliated bodies choosing from their ranks members who are thoroughly representative, in order that the conclusions reached may reflect the matured and reasoned judgment of the organized workers of this Dominion on these important problems."

Canada's participation in the League of Nations has placed Canada in the forefront of industrial nations and Canadian workers have been brought into closer touch with the international aspect of many Labor problems.

The fraternal delegates to the Congress Convention at Windsor, are: British Trade Union Congress, J. A. Davidson; American Federation of Labor, Wm. G. Shae; Women's Trade Union League of America, Miss Mabel Gillespie, of Boston, Mass., who is a member of the Office Employes' Union and a member of the executive board of the W.T.U.L. of A.; International Working Women's Congress, Mrs. K. Derry, of Toronto, who for the past few weeks has been in attendance at the W.T.U.L.'s College at Chicago. Mrs. Derry is a member of the Boot and Shoe Workers' International Union and was one of the advisers at the International Labor Conference at Washington last year.

All eyes are on Windsor, and Canadian labor will demonstrate its fitness to govern.

CANADA MAY HAVE ANOTHER BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT ESTABLISHED FOR THE RYS.

Representatives of Railway Workers Have Conference With Railway Operators, Minister of Labor and Trades Congress Officials.

Conferences were held last week in Montreal between representatives of the railway brotherhoods and the representatives of the Canadian railways. Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, and President Tom Moore and Secretary P. M. Draper, of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, were also consulted.

Representatives included: Warren G. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; W. S. Carter, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen; E. H. Fitzgerald, grand president of Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes; A. C. Hay, vice-president of the last named, of Ottawa, but lately with headquarters in Winnipeg; Louis Morales, general representative of the same union, and various officials of the brotherhoods resident in Canada.

The question of enlarging the scope of Canadian Adjustment Board No. 1, or of forming a second adjustment board was taken up with Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, who favored the latter scheme, which became necessary because some of the unions had not expressed a desire to be represented on the first board, and consequently some classes of railway men are unable to put claims before this board.

Another subject discussed with the railroad managements was the stabilization of railroad labor, and the representatives of all the standard organizations gave assurances, not only to the railway executives, but to President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades Congress, that they would endeavor by all possible means to secure that end. To railroad executives this ensures the execution of contracts, and to President Moore a promise of organization work against outlaw or secession activities of railroad men. At the recent American Federation of Labor convention in Montreal the building trades union adopted the same policy, looking to the restoration in Western Canada of conditions existing before the One Big Union agitation.