

# EDMONTON FREE PRESS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

VOL. 1, No. 19.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1919

\$1.00 Per Year; 5c Per Copy

## IT BEHOVES EVERY WAGE EARNER TO GET ON VOTERS' LIST

### Must Register This Month or be Disfranchised at Fall Elections

REGISTRATION OFFICE AT CIVIC BLOCK OPEN EVERY DAY DURING BUSINESS HOURS AND FROM 7:30 TO 9:30 P.M. THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK—ONLY ABOUT 3500 HAVE REGISTERED TO DATE WHEN LIST OF "TENANT" VOTERS SHOULD CONTAIN MINIMUM OF 12,000 NAMES OR MORE. MOST ESSENTIAL THAT LABOR EXERCISE TO FULLEST EXTENT THE FUNCTION OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

All persons of the full age of 21 years, British subjects by birth or naturalization, residents of the City of Edmonton for the six months prior to June 1st of this year, are entitled to vote at the municipal elections this fall, provided their names are on the voters' list.

Such individuals who are on the assessment roll, and who registered last year, do not need to register now. ALL OTHERS DO NEED TO REGISTER BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST.

Returned soldiers need to register now. They will not be entitled to receive a certificate and vote thereon as formerly.

Persons must appear in person at the Registration wicket, City Assessor's Office, Civic Block, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. except Saturday when the offices close at 1 o'clock. On Thursday's the Registration office is kept open in the evening from 7:30 to 9:30 o'clock. For convenience of South Side residents the civic office is maintained at the South Side office as in the past.

There are about seven or eight thousand persons in the city of Edmonton who will be disfranchised this fall if they do not register for the voters' list. There should be about 12,000 voters, other than property owners, on the list this year to keep pace with last year. And there should be many more than that if everybody entitled to a vote does his or her duty as a citizen. Registration to date is but about 3,500. The other eight or ten thousand need to wake up.

It behooves every wage earner to get on the voters' list. The ballot is the most powerful weapon in the hands of a citizen. If Edmonton Labor fails to exercise the functions of good citizenship—do its bit by registering, and depositing a vote on election day—then Labor need not complain if the affairs of the city are not conducted as Labor considers they should be. The wage earners control the entire situation. All necessary is to exercise the function of good citizenship; make use of the constitutional right of every citizen. An elective body is sensitive to authority which extends or deprives it of its existence. A city, province or nation where wage earners are apathetic, poll a small vote on election day, take little interest in public affairs, gets little consideration when the interest of Labor conflicts with that of the "big" interests.

That is the matter of the Initiative, Referendum and the Recall, measures which Labor has endorsed and worked for during many years past all over the country. Proportional Representation, or some form of Preferential ballot, is another progressive means of guaranteeing more "direct action" to the voice of the whole mass of the people. Collective bargaining as interpreted by the rank and file of Labor instead of an interpretation by some "Triple Alliance" may become a live issue any time. The ballot is the greatest boon and the greatest power ever placed into the hands of citizens. It certainly behooves wage earners here and everywhere to get on the voters' list, become active citizens in the community in which they live.

### WOULD CHANGE CONSTITUTION OF CAN. FED. LABOR

Affiliation With Canadian Federation Would Help Build Up Unionism In Canada

At an executive meeting of the Canadian Federation of Labor at Toronto, last week, step were taken to recommend changes in the constitution, which will permit of a wider union organization under this association.

The proposed changes will take the form of recommendations to come before the general meeting of the Federation, which is to be held in the first week of September, and it is hoped, if the changes are adopted, that the general tendency will be for the local unions in various parts of the country to become affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Labor instead of becoming associated with the International organization, which has its headquarters in the States.

According to the present system, when a new union is formed, it has the option of affiliating with the Canadian Federation of Labor, or with the International association, and it is felt that of late there has been too strong a tendency for the locals to line up with the International instead of with the Canadian. The officials of the Canadian Federation feel that the natural direction in which the Canadian locals should move is towards a large Canadian association, which would help to build up unionism in Canada as a whole, instead of having the Canadian unions associated to so great an extent with the American organizations.

As an illustration of the difficulty a local may encounter by becoming affiliated with the International Federation, it is pointed out that recently one of the locals applied for an International organizer to see them through a threatened strike. The reply came back that all the organizers of that particular section were busy and that they could not have a man for some weeks. By broadening the Canadian Federation, the association hopes to overcome that difficulty.

The proposed constitutional changes also aim to provide a more powerful parent body through which all Canadian unions can co-operate for their general benefit and protection, and through some of the officials state this is not a move in the direction of the One Big Union, it appears on the surface to have that flavor.

### FRENCH PROHIBIT JUGGLING OF THE EIGHT HOUR LAW

The vigilance and strength of organized workers is necessary to check employers from juggling the workers out of benefits intended under the eight-hour law, recently passed by the French parliament.

The employers favorite scheme is to cut piece rates below the point which prevailed under the long work day. This is prohibited by the new law and the unionists are compelled to rely on their economic power to enforce a statutory act.

These strikes are forcing the government to act and new regulations have been issued.

### LADY BARBERS AFFILIATE WITH PORTLAND COUNCIL

The Central Labor Council at Portland, Ore., will admit Lady Barbers to membership, according to a decision reached by that body Thursday. A request formerly made to the Journeymen Barbers' International Union was replied to with the information that the matter would be considered at the international convention to be held in September. It is said the ladies will organize 100 per cent.

### MILK DRIVERS UNION PRESENT O.B.U. RESOLUTION

A one-big-union resolution was rejected by the annual convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor. It was presented by the Minneapolis Milk Wagon Drivers' union and declared that "there is no possibility of further improvement in craft unionism."

In view of gains that are being continually made by milk wagon drivers, the delegates couldn't see the joke.

### FIREFIGHTERS TO HOLD CONVENTION AT PORTLAND, ORE.

The International Association of Firefighters will hold its second annual convention in Portland, Ore., September 25, and will replace the regular convention scheduled for the first Monday in October.

### R. A. RIGG AND O.B.U. MEN WILL NOT HOLD DEBATE

O.B.U. Men Unwilling to Confine Discussions to Organization Movement

R. A. Rigg, western organizer for the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, and Wm. Varley, general organizer for the American Federation of Labor, announced in a statement made public Saturday, that champions of the craft system of trades unionism have definitely refused to meet upholders of the One Big Union in public debate, because of unwillingness of the O.B.U. supporters to confine the discussions to efforts being made to organize a One Big Union movement in Western Canada.

"We refuse," says the statement, "to discuss the question in the form in which the challengers present it and arbitrarily insist upon. The effort being put forth by the challengers to organize the O.B.U. movement in Western Canada, is the concrete problem that vitally affects organized labor in this section of the industrial field. This subject we were prepared to debate, but inasmuch as the challengers have refused to modify in any degree their original proposal and insist upon discussion involving a comparison between a theoretical conception and a movement that has been in existence 20 years, we must decline to accept it."

### TORONTO WATCHES FIGHT IN LOCAL LABOR FIELD

There is in local labor circles today a feeling that some men in the movement are not satisfied with the unrest of the last three months and now when they get a chance to work are hesitating, or at least not showing haste, to get back on their old jobs.

Some of them at least have been induced to throw their lot in with one or two exploiters who are anxious to introduce the O.B.U. idea, or another faction who would establish what they term "the greater unionism." Literature was distributed in some of the meetings at the Labor Temple last night. One was the constitution and by-laws of the One Big Union. Another had a caption, "Shall it be trade unionism or industrial unionism?"

The members of the internationals are at last awakened to the policy of the enemy of their movement and they are displaying more activity than they otherwise follow. The battle in Toronto will be worth watching from this on.—Toronto Telegram.

### O.B.U. DEFEATED IN WASHINGTON FED. OF LABOR

The re-election of William Short as president of the Washington Federation of Labor is a mark of the determination of Washington Labor to follow a constructive, progressive course without resort to radical destructive tactics.

Short regards his election as a repudiation of the "one big union" idea. The victory of Short is regarded as of the utmost significance throughout the west. He was elected by a vote of 444 to 278. He was appointed by Samuel Gompers as a member of the first American labor mission to Europe in 1917 and served with distinguished ability on that mission.

About 100 members of Dredgemen's Union of California are back on the job with the Standard American Dredging Company after a strike lasting several weeks. All of the organized dredges of the state are now operating under strictly union conditions, according to Secretary E. E. Eison. Several weeks ago the men struck on several of the dredges in central and southern California. One by one the differences have been adjusted and all are now receiving from \$125 to \$195 a month instead of the former rates ranging from \$110 to \$175.

### UNION PAINTERS STRIKING FOR A FIVE DAY WEEK

Twelve Thousand Painters Ask 5 Day Week and Flat Wage Schedule of \$8 a Day

Twelve thousand union painters in New York City are striking on Friday, August 16, for the five-day work week, and a flat wage schedule of \$8 a day. This was decided upon at a meeting of District Council No. 9, at a meeting held in the painters' headquarters.

District Council No. 9 embraces the counties of New York, Bronx and Richmond. Council No. 29, in Brooklyn, it is understood, will take similar action. The council comprises eighteen locals, twelve of them consisting of painters, and the other six allied trades, such as gliders, paperhangers, glaziers, sign writers, etc.

All work on Saturday, Sunday and holidays will be considered overtime work and payable at the rate of double time.

Secretary Philip Zauser, of District No. 9, said: "For three years, during the progress of the war, the union painters of this city bided their time and for the sake of harmony made no demands. For three years, since 1916, we have plodded along at the same rates of pay and under the same condition of work. Now we are through. We have notified the Master Painters' Association that we consider the arbitration agreement null and void, for the reason that they have made it so. They have studiously ignored the rulings and decisions of the board of arbitration, which was organized to maintain peace in the industry. During the war the painters called no strikes."

"In other industries the workmen have secured wage increases consistent with the increasing cost of living. But in three years the painters only got one increase of 50 cents a day. That was in April last, when their pay was raised from \$5.50 to \$6.00 a day. That is not enough. Now we want \$8 a day. It costs all of that to maintain a livelihood in a decent manner, and we mean to get it."

### HOTEL MEN ASK SEVEN DAY WEEK FOR WOMEN HELP

The minimum wage and maximum hour commission of Arkansas has refused to abolish the six-day provision of the 54-hour law for women and permit seven-days' labor. The request was made by hotel men, who claim they are facing ruin and starvation if these women are not permitted to "enjoy" a seven-day week.

### WINNIPEG LABOR NOTES.

**O.B.U.'s Low Out.**  
The Trades Hall Company, owners of the Labor Temple, shattered the hopes of the O.B.U. leaders that they would obtain control of the Temple when at a meeting recently they decided that unions with international organizations should have precedence in the use of the building, and that it would continue to recognize all bodies with international affiliation. As a result of the labor split each union directly affected must have two headquarters, one for international followers and the other for the One Big Union.

J. L. McBride, treasurer of the Trades Council, has refused to turn over the property and funds of the organization to the O.B.U., which transfer was voted in favor at the meeting.

**International Progressing.**  
International officers report satisfactory progress is being made with the work of organizing international locals rendered necessary by the split in the ranks of the formation of the One Big Union. R. A. Rigg, expressed satisfaction with the results of the work being carried on. Most of the unions seriously affected by withdrawal of members have been re-organized and intend to carry on under the international constitution, it was declared.

**Ivens for Alderman.**  
According to reports circulated, William Ivens, former editor of the Western Labor News, and one of the prominent leaders in the recent strike will run for Alderman in Ward 4 at the next civic elections.

**Strike Probe Adjourned.**  
Judge Robson has postponed the general strike probe at Winnipeg, until September 1, although it may reopen earlier. Much evidence has already been given by the labor leaders.

Eight million women are engaged in all kinds of labor in the United States. These figures are given out by the Women's division of the U. S. Employment Service. It is said the total number of females employed equal 22 per cent of all persons engaged in gainful occupations.

### DELEGATES ARE ASKED TO ATTEND LABOR MEETING

There is important business to come before the meeting of the Trades and Labor Council at the regular meeting next Monday night, August 18. Delegates from all the affiliated unions are requested to be present.

R. McCREATH, President.

### KEY MEN WILL HOLD CONVENTION CHICAGO, AUG. 25

A special convention of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America will convene in Chicago August 25, and will replace the regular convention scheduled for the first Monday in October.

The general executive board states that "inasmuch as this convention will result in the reorganization of the C.T.U.A., we earnestly request all subordinate units to send a full delegation."

### PRESIDENT CIGAR MAKERS' UNION URGES CAUTION

Workers Are Urged to Ascertain Facts Before Making a Decision

"It is either orderly development or a panic with the inevitable rout," declares President Perkins of the Cigar Makers' International union in writing in the official journal of that organization on the need for trade unionists to their duty.

"It is either construction along orderly lines," continues President Perkins, "or over the precipice of destruction by following destructive leadership. Let us all have the courage of our convictions and stand manfully by the orderly, constructive methods."

"Men and women are the victims of environment and conditions. We don't blame people who have been forced to work for low wages, long hours and under miserable living conditions, for holding resentment and bitterness in their hearts and minds. They have been brow beaten, cheated and robbed by unscrupulous manufacturers; they have been led to by unscrupulous, hair brained, radical, self constituted would-be leaders, who have unhesitatingly denounced the legitimate trade union movement and the officers and members thereof.

"At this time and in this crisis we ask the unorganized and others, however, to look the facts squarely in the face; to inquire what the international union is; to ascertain from reliable sources who its leaders and its officers are, and then to consider for themselves what is best to do."

### VETERANS EJECT O.B.U. LEADERS FROM DRUMHELLER

Five or six of the One Big Union leaders, at Drumheller, it is reported, were taken out of town on separate roads by a group of veterans employed at the Moodie mines, and told to keep going. The men run out included Secretary Sullivan of the One Big Union local organization, and McDonald, Dufois and Thompson, other prominent leaders in the movement.

It is also reported that President Christophers, Vice-President McFagen of the District 18, and other O.B.U. leaders, were taken out of Wayne in the same manner. None of them have been heard of since, although it is reported that they will attempt to return to the town. A clash is expected if this attempt is carried out.

It is reported that many of the striking miners who had signed up for the One Big Union, have signified their intention of going to work.

### NEW PIANOMAKERS' UNION ORGANIZED AT TORONTO, ONT.

It is reported that the piano makers in Toronto, who have been organizing quietly for the past two or three months, have reached the stage where practically all the workers are included, and that they have been able to secure an offer of increased wages which will prove satisfactory to the majority. Owing to the varied scales of wages in the piano industry, the increase has been worked out on the percentage basis.

The Pianomakers' Union now has a membership of between 700 and 800, and is one just recently organized.

The system of "welfare" work in the plants of the International Harvester Company has failed and restlessness is rampant among the employees, who are now discussing trade unionism. Recently the harvester trust organized a "company" union along the lines of Rockefeller's Colorado organization.

### ALL WORKERS MUST UTILIZE THE BALLOT

Ultra-Radical Paper Urges Labor to Make Use of the Franchise

Due to a lack of understanding of the international character of capitalism, there is an element in the working class ranks of Canada, that would cease to use the ballot, and devote their efforts to the one channel by mass action. This element also seems, if their actions denote anything—to be of the opinion that the workers in this country can bring about a change in the form of society under which we live. They also have the idea, that by an industrial organization alone, they can accomplish the final object of the workers. This element is dangerous to the working class movement of this country. It is dangerous because it does not understand the capitalistic system, and unless checked, may do much to cause bloodshed and suffering in the ranks of the workers. The Federationist has repeatedly pointed out that Canada in the scheme of things, amounts to but little, and while it is necessary that the workers of this land shall become alive to the class nature of society, and understand the class lines of demarcation, it is folly for them to think that they can lead. With a working class that is educated to an industrial environment such as the largest industrial centres in the world, the actual industrial conditions in Canada are but similar to the more undeveloped countries. In this there is danger.

The workers of this country must resist by all means the further encroachments of capital. They must attack, wherever possible, and by whatever means at their command. It would be folly for them to refrain from taking part in elections, either Provincial, Dominion or municipal, and perhaps the municipal is of greatest moment than is even the Provincial political field. Industrial organization must be continued. It is essential under the competitive system, and it must also be realized that if industrial organizations are necessary, so also are any activities that will aid this industrial organization.

The workers of Winnipeg realized just what the municipal government may do in an industrial struggle, and particularly when the movement took on a political aspect, as did the general strike. When all is said and done, it is the municipal powers that are the ones that enforce the laws in the cities, which are enacted by the Dominion government. The powers of suppression, and for proclaiming martial law, rest with the civic authorities. And it is necessary that the workers should have some say in affairs of this kind.—B. C. Federationist.

### BRITISH GOVT HAS RECOGNIZED POSTAL UNIONS

The British government has again recognized postal unions by agreeing that these organizations shall appoint one-half of the 54 members of a national council that will make effective in the civil service the recommendations of the Whitley commission. The government will appoint the other members of the national council.

The national council's functions include those general functions adopted by the Whitley commission for the adjustment of disputes between employer and employed. As applied to the civil service it provides for a national council, departmental councils and district and office committees.

### ORGANIZED LABOR WILL MEET TO FORM LABOR PARTY

Delegates from ten states, representing more than 2,000,000 organized workers, will meet at Cleveland, Ohio, after Labor Day to organize the American Labor Party, it has been announced by local proponents of the movement. The convention may also decide whether to nominate a national ticket in 1920.

An effort will be made to insert a plank in the platform calling for the repeal of the Federal prohibition amendment, it is said. Other policies to be included in the platform may follow recommendations in resolutions adopted by the American Federation of Labor convention.

Delegates from Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Washington, Oregon, Montana, New York and Ohio are expected to attend the convention.

Are you on the Voters' List?

Register at the Civic Block.

Are you on the Voters' List?

Register at the Civic Block.

Are you on the Voters' List?

Register at the Civic Block.