

# EDMONTON FREE PRESS

Dept. of Labor  
Circulation Branch  
Ottawa, Ont.  
April 12-20

EDITED, CONTROLLED AND PUBLISHED BY THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

VOL. 1, No. 38.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1919

\$1.00 Per Year; 5c Per Copy

## ALBERTA U.M.W.A. GET 14 PER CENT WAGE INCREASE

Agreement States That All Men Working In and Around Mines Must Join U.M.W.A.

An order which embodies the agreement reached at the recent Calgary conference between the Alberta coal operators and the United Mine Workers was issued last Saturday, by Director of Coal Operations, W. H. Armstrong.

Hon. Gideon Robertson, minister of labor, was in Calgary for the conference. The order reads as follows:  
Order No. 141.

"By virtue of the authority vested in me by order of the committee of the Privy Council, passed under the provisions of the War Measures Act of Canada, 1914, I hereby approve and confirm the following agreement entered into between the Western Coal Operators' Association and the United Mine Workers of America, which reads as follows:

"December 18th, 1919.  
"Subject to the approval of the director of coal operations, by order, we the undersigned, agree to the following temporary agreement entered into between the Western Coal Operators' Association of Canada and the United Mine Workers of America, through their representatives.  
General 14 per cent increase  
"(1) It is hereby agreed that, commencing December 1, all members of the United Mine Workers of America, or those who hereafter become members of that organization, and who are employed in or around the mines by members of the Western Coal Operators' Association, shall be paid an increase of fourteen per cent, same to apply on prices and bonuses now paid to all classes of labor in such mines. This increase to temporarily remain in effect pending the investigation and negotiations which are now being conducted relative to mining conditions and wages in the competitive field of the United States.

Conferences in Future  
"(2) It is agreed that when negotiations are concluded in the competitive field of the United States, the representatives of the Western Coal Operators' Association and the United Mine Workers of America shall be se-

(Continued on Page Two)

## CALGARY LABOR NEEDS BETTER VOTING METHODS

Failure in Recent Civic Elections Due to Apathy of Workers and Cross Voting

The executive committee of the Calgary Trades and Labor Council will act as a committee, whose purpose it will be to conduct a campaign throughout the year, so that better preparation may be had for the next civic elections. Labor's failure to obtain more seats at the recent city elections in that city was due to a need of better methods. Only three Labor candidates were elected, which was due mostly to the apathy of the workers, of whom only about 30 per cent voted. Another feature was the cross voting which spoiled the chances for the Labor men.

Some scrutineers reported but little secrecy at the booths. A man would mark his ballot, and pass it across to his wife, and the whole thing seemed to be a sort of family affair. Other places there were no curtains in the room, the booths being quite open.  
Company voting was carried on to some extent. One company called a committee together and appointed a manager for the day. Several instances of boys and girls under 21, who came to vote for a company were turned away.

Alex Ross, M.L.A., drew the Council's attention to the fact that the Dominion Labor Party selected the candidates, and then threw the onus of providing the campaign material upon the labor council.

## BUILDING TRADES MAKE AGREEMENT AT NEW YORK

Practically all the 41 local unions connected with the building trades of New York have ratified a blanket agreement formulated between the union representatives and the New York Building Trades Employers' Association.

On January 1 the \$1 an hour wage will be in effect for all journeymen in the skilled trades. In some cases a higher rate will be paid and the helper will get an average of \$8, while the 44-hour week and the double time for overtime will be continued. The 40-hour week has been set back for at least two years by the agreement.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Delegates from local unions to the Alberta Federation Convention in Calgary are requested to phone the Free Press office (5695), or Mr. Roper (9324 or 71354), prior to Saturday, December 27th. This is important.

## JURY REPORTS RUSSELL GUILTY

Winnipeg Strike Leader Convicted On All Seven Counts On Which Indicted.

The jury before whom R. B. Russell, Winnipeg strike leader, was being tried on seven different counts, brought in a report, at 10:35 Wednesday morning, that Russell was guilty on all seven counts on which he stood indicted. The first count was "sedition conspiracy," the next five were for committing overt acts, and the seventh was "committing a common nuisance."

On Tuesday evening at 8:15, Mr. Justice Metcalfe commenced his summing up, which he concluded at midnight, and shortly thereafter the jury retired to consider their verdict, which they rendered at 10:35 the next morning.

In his summing up his lordship enlarged upon the points of law involved by the indictment, and declared that it was illegal to hold sympathetic strikes, that it was illegal for men to conspire to commit acts that would endanger the general citizens, that intimidation during a strike was illegal and that picketing, under the Canadian law, was illegal.

## UNIFORM CONTRACT ALTA. TEACHERS IS REJECTED

Teachers' Alliance Request For a \$1,200 Minimum Rejected at Calgary Conference.

At a conference of school trustees of Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, held at Calgary, on Monday, a motion by Wm. Rae, of the Edmonton public school board, was passed, favoring a schedule of \$1,000 to \$1,200. The uniform contract of the Alberta Teachers' Alliance, calling for a minimum wage of \$1,200 to \$1,800 was rejected upon the grounds that it was too much money. Mrs. George Corse, of the Calgary school board, supported the higher schedule, stating that she believed that if the people could raise money so easily for Victory Bonds, they could raise money sufficient to pay what she considered a proper salary for the teachers of the children.

J. M. Hutchinson, principal of the Calgary High School, said that "the teachers of Calgary will not be satisfied with that decision. It is not going nearly as far as we expected, and as far as the candidates elected at the recent election agreed to go. I don't know how far this action will govern the action of the incoming school board, but I am confident that the board will grant us further increases."  
H. W. B. Douglas, Wm. Rae and J. J. Duggan, public school, and D. J. Dooley, separate school, were the representatives from Edmonton to the conference.

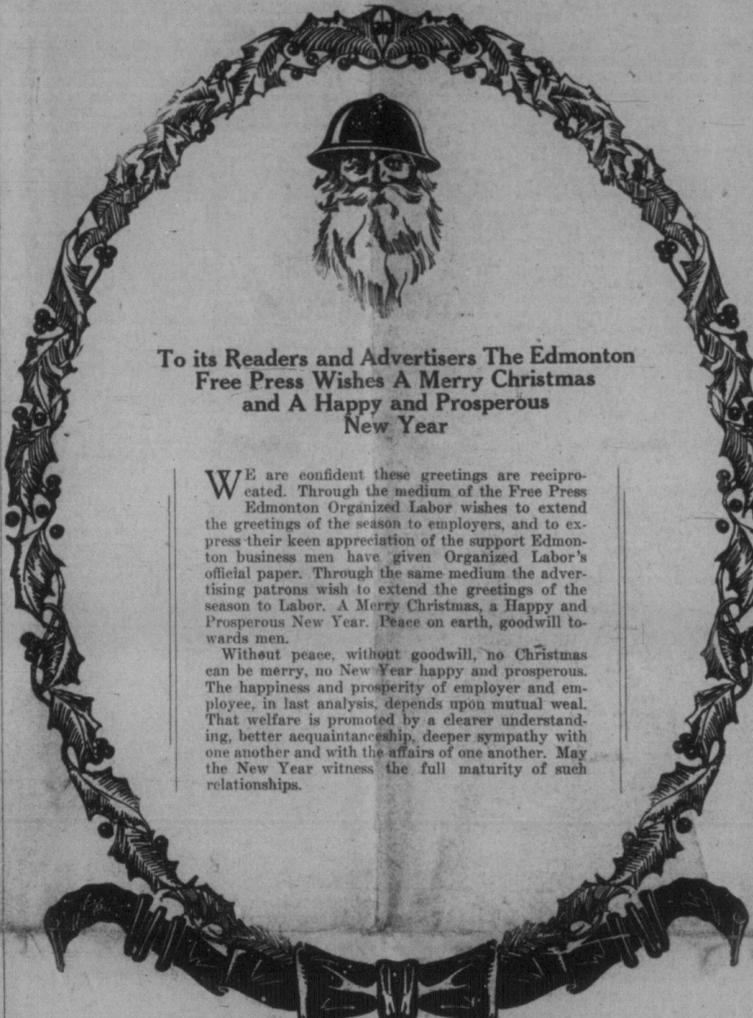
## MONTREAL PLUMBERS WIN OUT IN LONG FOUGHT STRIKE

The Montreal Plumbers who went out on strike on September 1st, for a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour and improved working conditions, emerged victorious from the contest on Monday, November 24th, with all their demands conceded. This is looked upon as an important win by the local Labor movement as it was a fight to a finish, both the employers and the unionists being determined to carry it into the last ditch if necessary.

After it had developed into a test of endurance only enough members remaining in evidence to keep things moving, but latterly it is apparent that it was impossible for the employers to fill the place of the strikers. Their loss was heavy and things were going from bad to worse, and the only way to prevent a split in their ranks was to come to terms with the united association which was accordingly done. Under the terms of the new contract the plumbers receive full recognition of their union and better all round working conditions and only men with a fully paid up union card will hereafter be employed.

## JOB PRINTERS OF HAMILTON ASK NEW WAGE SCALE

The job printers of Hamilton, Ont. have notified the employers of the new scale to be set January 1st, 1920. They are asking for \$35 per week for the first six months and \$37 for the following six months, with the inclusion of the 44-hour week.



To its Readers and Advertisers The Edmonton Free Press Wishes A Merry Christmas and A Happy and Prosperous New Year

WE are confident these greetings are reciprocated. Through the medium of the Free Press Edmonton Organized Labor wishes to extend the greetings of the season to employers, and to express their keen appreciation of the support Edmonton business men have given Organized Labor's official paper. Through the same medium the advertising patrons wish to extend the greetings of the season to Labor. A Merry Christmas, a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

Without peace, without goodwill, no Christmas can be merry, no New Year happy and prosperous. The happiness and prosperity of employer and employee, in last analysis, depends upon mutual well. That welfare is promoted by a clearer understanding, better acquaintance, deeper sympathy with one another and with the affairs of one another. May the New Year witness the full maturity of such relationships.

## PRES. M'CREATH TAKES PULPIT AT WESTMINSTER

Representative of Labor Rejoiced In Opportunity of Declaring Ideals of Organized Labor

In Westminster Presbyterian church on Sunday evening, December 21st the minister kept in the background, and gave way to three representative laymen, who briefly spoke of the application of the ideals of the inter-church forward movement to the local church.

Robert McCreath, president of the Trades and Labor Council of Edmonton, considered his presence in the pulpit as a forward move on the part of the church, and as the representative of labor rejoiced in the opportunity thus presented, of declaring the ideals and principles of Organized Labor. He expressed the hope that the day was near when the church and labor should be allies and friends, both carrying out the purpose of the Christ, to bring peace and good-will to the world. He declared that when professing Christians, employers and employees, in their industrial relationships, showed their Christian faith, capital and labor would cease their warfare.

The speaker called for the broadening of the Christmas spirit to cover the 365 days of the year and applied every day. He referred also to the recent industrial conferences at Ottawa and Washington when the labor representatives desired to have enacted the clauses laid down in the Peace Treaty as applying to labor, and claimed that in the captain of industry failing to acknowledge these clauses and apply them in a practical way, as labor sought, to the conditions of the workers that these captains of industry, who are practically all interested and active in church work had fallen far short of the principles of true Christian faith in refusing to assist in bringing about democracy in industry and as a result these actions had their influence upon the minds of the workers and created a measure of indifference to the church and its work.

Each circle formed in the interest of a particular reform expands toward the others, until all meet and merge in one great body, constituting a purchasing power quickened by conscience, directed by intelligence, and concentrated with unerring precision.

## TORONTO IRON MOULDERS ARE STILL ON STRIKE

The iron moulders are still keeping up their fight in Toronto for the eighth day, which they came out to enforce on May 1st, with other crafts in the metal trades.

Members of the organization are working steadily in the shops that met the terms of the union, but in the other shops, union men refuse to accept employment and as a result only inferior workmen are procurable. These firms are losing heavily through defective castings and a limited output, due to inferior workmanship.  
The L.M.U. fully expect to ultimately force a settlement. Quite a number of the locals of sister trades unions have sent men who are yet out, the majority having accepted work in the meantime. The L.M.U. says, "We always have won and will win again."

## C.N.R. POLICE AT ST. JOHN GET EIGHT HOUR SHIFT

A reorganization of the work of the C.N.R. police in St. John is being effected with the intention that the policemen in future shall work on eight instead of twelve-hour shifts. James P. Ryan, of that city who has been with the railway police since his return from overseas, has been placed in charge of the local staff. Mr. Ryan is a veteran of the Boer War and served for several years with the North West Mounted Police and secured his commission to serve with the C. E. F. in France.

## CALGARY TRADES COUNCIL TO ENTERTAIN CONVENTION DELEGATES

The Calgary Trades and Labor Council have decided to entertain the delegates to the annual convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor, which will be held there on January 5, which entertainment will take the form of light refreshments and a smoking concert.

The union label unites all interests that lie in the improvement of industrial conditions through the abolition of the sweatshop, tenement house, insubordinate factory, convict labor, Chinese labor, night labor, and child labor. Each of these evils has its antidote in the union label.

## LOCAL BARBERS HAVE TROUBLE OVER SHOP CARD

Nine Shops Return Card, Thus Locking Out the Men Employed Therein

On Saturday last, trouble arose between the Master Barbers and the Journeymen over the question of closing hours. At 10:30 a.m. the employers asked for an adjustment of the existing agreement to permit longer hours on that day. The time was too short for a meeting to be arranged and the barbers quit work at the usual time. The result was that nine shops returned the shop card, thus locking out the men employed therein.

The local Barbers' Union has an agreement with the Master Barbers of this city, the contract carrying with it the use of the well-known shop cards issued by the Journeymen Barbers. The agreement according to provisions therein, could only be changed by mutual arrangement between the employers and the union. The agreement provides for a nine hour day, closing at six p.m. each day including Saturday. Last August the Master Barbers informed the Union that they intended to have the shops remain open Saturday evenings until nine o'clock. A meeting was held between the two bodies at which the Journeymen agreed to a compromise to the effect that they would work until seven o'clock on Saturday. This offer the Master Barbers refused to accept and fixed the hour of closing at 10 p.m. however the city council about this time fixed the hour of closing at six, which has continued until things came to a climax last Saturday.

After a few days' deliberations, however, the employers again signed the shop card agreement and a meeting will be held shortly between the Master Barbers and the Journeymen for the purpose of revising the old agreement jointly.

## TEACHERS' NATIONAL CONVENTION AT CHICAGO, DEC. 30

The fourth national convention of the American Federation of Teachers is to be held in Chicago December 30 to January 2.

A good spiv a person who thinks too little and talks too much.

## NEWS OF THE LOCAL UNIONS

TO THE MEMBERS OF CIVIC SERVICE UNION No. 52.

The real spirit that pervades Christmas is generosity. This is usually manifested by giving gifts to one's friends. I have watched the growth of this spirit of generosity in your Union since its inception. There was a time when considerable jealousy was apparent amongst Civic Employees. This, I am proud to say, has almost wholly disappeared. Your success depends mostly on being generous towards each other and every one you come in contact with. My only wish is that this spirit of Christmas may always prevail.

A. A. CAMPBELL,  
Vice President.

"The wrong shall fail, the right prevail With peace on earth, good will to men." Longfellow's Christmas bells.

Let the year 1920 be a really progressive year. To accomplish this we must show a lively interest in co-operating with those in whom authority is placed. It may be the misfortune of some of us that we are not able to take prominent part, but that cannot condone apathy, indifference or destructive opposition. Our spirit must be progressive. People everywhere are searching the foundations of their principles in order to determine their soundness, their sincerity, their adaptability to the real needs of their lives and every one with any vision must see that the real test of justice and right action is presently to come as it never came before.

## FIRE FIGHTERS' LOCAL 209

Three new members were initiated into Local 209 Fire Fighters at the last regular meeting, viz.: N. Arnold, G. Whiteford, and J. Gowan. The new men have been "over there" and rendered valuable service to their country. Before the meeting adjourned all of them gave neat pithy speeches, which argues well for them being real live members in the future, and their remarks were much appreciated by the members present.

The unmarried members of the Fire Fighters are greatly in the minority, Bro. MacKay of No. 2 Hall who has sat a long time on the single side, has crossed the floor of the house and taken his seat on the benches of the family men. He was married on the evening of 17th and has taken up residence on the South Side, the membership with Bro. MacKay and his bride long life and happiness.

The Benevolent Fund of the Fire Fighters is \$50.00 richer through a donation received from the members of the Edmonton Club, as a token of appreciation of the work done by the boys at a recent fire at the Club.

All Locals in the city are reminded that the Firemen's dance takes place in the Separate School Hall on Monday the 29th, a good time to all is assured.

Captain H. Whitehouse, No. 4 Hall challenges any cribbage player on the Fire Department to a series of games at cribb. The conditions are that five games on five consecutive days be played at the hall of the opponent, the prize will be any trophy named by the party accepting the challenge.

## G.N.R. MACHINISTS.

On account of lack of power, half the machine shop force is working from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. until further notice.

Apprentice "Fatty Arbuckle" obtained a week's leave of absence to spend with his folks at Calgary.

How's the Entertainment Committee getting on? Must be strenuous work for the other two, trying to get Findlay's consent to spending some kopecks on smokes. Eh? What! Well, according to two of the committee the officers-elect are to put up an oyster supper for the lodge. What th'— who wants to beg for this here job? Next year we demob, etc.—no officers! Fine outlook, isn't it for a reconstruction organization? Wonder if the officers-elect will mob the mover of such an idea as an entertainment. It will be some entertainment watching the faces of the poor Indians when the bills are put before them to pay. Sick Committee! Attention! Get Sam McLaughlin well before this comes off—he's one of the officers—remember.

Bro. Sam Flint has kindly offered to look in on Bro. McLaughlin on his way home each evening.

## JOURNEYMEN BARBERS.

The Edmonton Barbers Local 227 met on December 23rd and elected their officers for the coming year and never was a more friendly spirit shown for the chief officer, that of the president. There were four entries with three starters, and the final lap was a neck and neck finish with the genial Jack Treble nosing out old time Foster. The office of

## FACTS DISCLOSED ABOUT CONVENTION OF WEB PRESSMEN

Newspaper Reports About Secession From International Are Without Foundation

The International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America issue the following circular letter setting forth the facts concerning the recent conference of web pressmen in St. Louis, at which time newspapers reported that the web pressmen's unions were seceding from the International.

To the Officers and Members of the Subordinate Unions of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America.  
Greeting:  
The following statement is self-explanatory in character and is issued for the purpose of acquainting the membership with the true facts concerning the conference of web pressmen in St. Louis at which time newspaper reports were issued for the purpose of misleading the membership.

A committee representing the newspaper web pressmen of certain eastern cities that held a conference in St. Louis, Mo., a few days ago, consisting of David Simons of New York, John J. O'Hare of Boston, and John Taylor of Detroit, conferred with Major George L. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America, in this city, and Mr. Simons, the spokesman of the committee, issued the following statement:  
"There is no intention upon the part of the web pressmen's unions to secede from the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America; our purpose is simply to advise with the International Union with a view of enlarging our scope of activities and to improve the conditions of web pressmen of the United States and Canada."

"The statement emanating from St. Louis that the web pressmen were to secede and form an independent union is without foundation and is untrue; likewise the statement issued from St. Louis declaring that President Berry had misappropriated money is untrue and without warrant in fact, and no one was authorized to make such declarations. We have explicit confidence in the integrity and character and honesty of President Berry of the International Union."

The foregoing statement is authorized to be issued to the press were to secede and form an independent union is without foundation and is untrue; likewise the statement issued from St. Louis declaring that President Berry had misappropriated money is untrue and without warrant in fact, and no one was authorized to make such declarations. We have explicit confidence in the integrity and character and honesty of President Berry of the International Union.  
(Signed) DAVID SIMONS,  
Spokesman of committee from St. Louis conference and President of Web Pressmen's Union No. 25, I.P.P. and A.U.  
Fraternally submitted,  
JOS. C. ORE,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

## LONDON PAPERS REPORT CRISIS IN TRIPLE ALLIANCE

The London Daily Express says that a crisis has occurred within the labor "triple alliance" and that it is possible that developments in the immediate future may result in the breakup of the most powerful trade union combination that country has ever seen. A meeting of the executives of the three constituent organizations—the Miners' Federation, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport Workers' Federation—is scheduled to meet in London soon and a stormy gathering is expected.

The Daily Express adds that the crisis has arisen out of the recent railway strike. It is contended by the railwaymen that the procedure rendered the "coalition" weapon useless and wrecked their nationalization plans.

Vice President will be handled by John St. Dennis, and the book end of the job will be looked after as formerly by E. P. Mehus and J. W. Heron.

Delegate Treble to the Alberta Federation of Labor was instructed to look after the model license law when at Calgary, and if the other delegates to that body get his slant of the matter they will not wait until the Legislature sit but go out after every member of the Cabinet and never leave them until they put a special order in council through, making the law operative immediately.

The boys were all very pleased that they were back on the job, for as a rule they hate to move around. They expressed their appreciation of the assistance they received from the other individual members of organized labor, especially from the Hotel and Restaurant employees and the Fire Fighters. What do you say Dave and you Guv?

The strike situation ended amicably by the five bosses again signing the shop card agreement and in the near future the bosses and journeymen will meet and revise their old agreement jointly.