

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

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THE OFFICIAL PAPER.

The Edmonton Free Press is the official paper of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council, hence the recognized medium of trades unionism in this city. To emphasize this fact the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council Monday night again gave formal endorsement to the Edmonton Free Press, made the publisher and editor honorary members of the Council, appointed an active committee to formulate and direct the policy, editorial and otherwise, also to promote the interests of Labor's publication in every manner, shape and form.

SO FAR, SO GOOD.

If to participate in supplying the foreign demand for leather necessities made from that product become prohibitive to Canadians, the export of such raw and manufactured materials should be prohibited. Ethically the purpose of making shoes and clothing is to clothe people; in practice the incentive for making them is profit. Prices paid during the past few years have been sufficient for the most avaricious—some concerns making up to 300 per cent. A still greater demand for raw and manufactured hides is sending the price to the sky. The result is that citizens of the country producing leather are unable to have leather—because somebody wants to make more profit. That which is a menace to the happiness and well-being of a community or nation should be curtailed. Impossible prices of clothing are a menace to the well-being of any people. A government representing the people, seeking to serve the people, will give the people first consideration. By order-in-council the Dominion Government this week has prohibited the export of raw hides and leather. The government fears the consequences to the nation if the foreign demand and accompanying prices prevail. The government purposes controlling the export by issuing export licenses. The system of itself appears commendable. If it is operated in the interest of the public instead of in the interest of the "big interests" no small credit will accrue to the long erring and much impeached Union Government. Performance in the past however, in regard to such things may excuse one's skepticism.

ANOTHER REPORT.

Again the cost of living commissioner is talking about the price of worsted cloth for suitings, reiterating something he said early in June and remarking "I told you so" in rebuttal to criticism directed at his reports by the retail trade. He says that cloth for fall delivery was sold by Canadian manufacturers at from eight to 10 per cent. cheaper than formerly; also that many Canadian cloths are of quality equal to pre-war Old Country goods. He further says that prices of wool in Canada have not reached the level of a year ago, and adds that as to raw material Canada is better supplied with wool than ever before owing to large stocks having been brought from Australia and New Zealand and having accumulated for war needs.

All the above information is interesting and more or less pertinent, but the main thing everybody would like to know is when someone is going to cut off about 250 per cent of excess profit made by some of these clothing concerns and bring the price of a suit of clothes within reach of people who have to work for a living. With the three and a half yards of the very best top notch cloth listed by the manufacturer at \$17.50 and providing a 300 per cent profit, it does look as if the retail trade should be able to get within the bounds of reason. In the meantime the cost of living commissioner has made another report.

SITUATION MUST BE MET.

In addressing a group of large employers of labor in New York City a few weeks ago, Mr. Frank Vanderlip, financier, former New York banker, stated that before the next five years were passed the struggle between capital and labor would pass through the critical stage, according to an exchange. Whether this struggle is to become violence or whether it is to be settled by peaceful methods will depend on the methods adopted by the employers. He advised his hearers both to do everything in their power to satisfy the legitimate demands of labor and to keep it employed. He further added that during these critical years all plants should be kept going whether they make a profit or operate at a slight loss.

Wall Street considered Vanderlip's forecast to be decidedly pessimistic for the future of business and the market took a 6-point drop. The war has undoubtedly intensified the problems of the industrial situation. The change which has taken place during the war in the status of labor is probably as sweeping as that which took place through a generation in the Industrial Revolution in England. The war swept the ablest of the laboring classes out of the factory into the army and trained him intensively in the deadliest methods of killing which science could evolve. It hammered into him a tremendous appreciation of the value of obedience and discipline. He knows now more than ever before the tremendous power there is in organization.

Their duty done, many of them have come back to find that the fruits of liberty are still as non-existent for them as before and that the rising cost of living has outstripped the advances in wages and that it is harder than before to make ends meet. We may suppress free speech, deport the ringleaders of mobs, call out the militia, and meet violence with violence, but such measures will hardly do more than temporarily improve conditions. In the end every contest of force has found the balance to line on the side of the proletariat.

Labor's demands must be more fully satisfied in this country. When they are given a proportionate stake in the profits of industry, whether through stock-holding or profit-sharing devices; when they are taken into account on the betterment of the hours and the conditions of labor, there will be no need to worry about the Bolshevik and the Anarchist getting a hearing from Labor on this continent.

CARVELL MAKES GOOD TRADE.

Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the Railway Commission board, has resigned his perfectly good job to accept a precarious position in the Dominion cabinet as minister of finance, while F. B. Carvell, minister of public works, has escaped from the national cabinet and landed safely in the job vacated by Drayton. With the entire country whetting knives to scalp the Ottawa gang of profiteers at the very earliest and long desired opportunity, it looks as if Carvell has slipped something over on Sir Henry.

SITUATION PERPLEXING.

Farmers, mechanics and all labor, skilled and unskilled, must have more money proportionately than they have ever had before, capital invested in enterprises must have a substantial margin of profit, and the cost of living must be within reach of everybody. Reconcile such diametrically opposing conditions, and the cost of living problem is solved. A Solomon is the need of the hour. Economists, statesmen, Socialists and Bolsheviks are prescribing solutions. Spasmodic efforts are made in isolated instances to inaugurate some suggested procedure. But from a national, or world-wide standpoint, the problem stands defiant.

The man on the farm will no longer work for the scanty return received in the past—excluding the war years. Price of land, machinery and plant required for farming coupled with returns make the farm unattractive to the young men and women of the North American continent. Consequently they will not farm. Western Canada is an exception to some extent where land has not reached

the \$200 and \$300 per acre mark. If those who could farm refuse to do so, production is stopped. Cost of living increases instead of diminishing. With price of land products sufficiently attractive to take men and women to the farm cost of living stays up and goes higher.

Unless capital receives a substantial return for investment and risk, it will not function. In that event commodities are scarce and the price goes higher. Eliminate profiteering, guarantee only a reasonable return and the price to consumer promises to be little better because the excess profits will have to be utilized in providing ample return to the actual producers. It merely means but a redistribution of profits. That will, necessarily, help considerably, for the producers will be more able to pay the higher price for the finished product.

TRADES UNIONISTS WIN.

What was to have been a lively scrap for control of the Portland, Ore. Central Labor Council, proved to be a decidedly one-sided affair when the actual balloting took place this last week. The orthodox unions held the trenches by more than two to one majority. The strength anticipated by the Red leaders failed to materialize. It developed that three unions out of 80 affiliations really constituted the radical strength.

ANSWER IS EASY.

Why has Sir Thomas White resigned as minister of finance? Well, the last parliament voted to spend a few hundreds of millions this next year. Sir Thomas would have had to find the money.

Great Britain is having serious labor troubles. For a while things were going nicely across the pond and it was hoped that reconstruction would be effected without much difficulty.

STRIKE SITUATION IN ENGLAND IS BECOMING SERIOUS

Wave of Industrial Unrest Seems To Have Finally Reached Britain

The strike situation in England is becoming serious. Liverpool is without bread, owing to the bakers' strike. The dockers' union there are threatening strike in sympathy with the police union, and unless the dismissed police are reinstated, they will give whole-hearted support to them.

Another meeting of trade union organizations of all trades was convened at Liverpool to consider the advisability of calling a general strike in support of the police union and to elect a strike committee. It is stated that Tom Mann, president of the Workers' union will go to Liverpool to take charge of the situation.

Negotiations between the government and the associated locomotive engineers and firemen to arrange a new scale of pay for engine drivers have been in progress for some time, and the government has just issued what is described as a final adjustment of the scale, which is entirely unsatisfactory to the engineers. Scottish miners and railroaders are also threatening strike, it is rumored.

Until recently England has been practically free from the turmoil of unrest in the industrial world, but it seems she is getting her share just now.

LEGISLATURE HAS KILLED EVERY 8-HOUR BILL

The Wisconsin state legislature killed every eight-hour bill that has been introduced. The last one to get the axe provided for an eight-hour day for women employed in commercial establishments. This bill passed both branches of the legislature. Assemblyman Anderson of Kenosha asked that it be recalled as he wanted to offer a slight amendment that would make the act effective the first of next year. This was agreed to and then when it was placed before the assembly it was promptly done to death.

CITIES OF PERU TO HAVE REGULAR AIR SERVICE

The Peruvian Government has decided to bind more closely together the scattered communities on the Eastern slopes of the Andes by means of regular airplane service, handling mail, passenger, and freight. It is possible that the first route will extend from the city of Huancayo, high in the Andes, northward along a branch of the upper Amazon, then eastward over passes in the high mountain ranges, to Iquitos, 500 miles away. Iquitos is 2,653 miles from the mouth of the Amazon River, yet is touched by many foreign ocean-going vessels, making it the centre of the Peruvian river-transportation system.—Popular Mechanics.

GOVERNOR OF TEXAS IS SUPPORTER OF ORGANIZED LABOR

Switching of a large contract for school books for the state of Texas from a presumably union to a non-union shop, amounting to \$700,000, has brought Gov. W. P. Hobby, of Texas, into the limelight as a supporter of organized labor. Recently this contract, covering a period of five years' supplies, was let by the textbook commission of Texas, of which Governor Hobby is chairman, to the R. F. Johnson Publishing Company, Richmond, Va., and in turn this concern sublet the contract to R. R. Donnelley Sons & Co., of Chicago.

When information reached Governor Hobby that the book contract had been let to a non-union shop, he immediately took steps to have it annulled, assigning as his reason for his action in the matter that the contract was let by the members of the textbook commission of Texas on the assumption that they were dealing with a union shop.

MACHINISTS' LOCAL No. 357, CALGARY IS SUSPENDED

Calgary Local No. 357, Machinists Union, has been suspended by James Somerville, international representative, because of its One Big Union activities. Any future meeting the local may hold, he said, will be unconstitutional and illegal unless called by himself personally. Mr. Somerville expects to be in Calgary shortly.

O.B.U. FACTION LOSES OUT AT PORTLAND, ORE.

Result of Attempt of Three Unions To Gain Control of Eighty Organizations

The attempt of the O.B.U. faction, at Portland, to obtain control of the Trades Council there, was completely overthrown at the Council meeting last Thursday, when Harry Anderson was re-elected president, and William Kimsay, vice president of the Portland Trades and Labor Council.

The result of the election of the above officers, also others, ought to be a solemn warning to the small group of advocates of the O.B.U., industrial unionism, ill-advised strikers, sympathetic and otherwise, and revolution and social government, that the labor movement of Portland is not in sympathy with them.

About 260 delegates were present representing approximately 80 organizations and of the ninety-odd votes the "reds" were able to muster, more than two-thirds were delegates from three unions. This shows the futile attempt of three unions to control the action of eighty unions.

Floyd Hyde, the paid representative of the council from the Machinists' Union, has been withdrawn as a delegate owing to the fact that he has not been a member of the local for three months, the time required by their constitution.

TRADES' UNION OFFICIALS GO IN FOOD BUSINESS

Officials of the Federated Trades Unions at Havre, France, went to the wholesale market Saturday and obliged the producers to sell them a quantity of foodstuffs at prices varying from five to 75 per cent. under the average market price. They then took the foodstuffs to one of the public market places, where they were sold at cost price.

In the excitement arising from the operation, a crowd partially pillaged a farm cart laden with produce and a baker's store.

WAITERS REFUSED RAISE FROM \$7.50 TO \$10.00 PER WEEK

Waiters of the Marquette Hotel House at Detroit, last week made a demand for increased wages, which was flatly refused by the manager. The union employes immediately went on strike to force their demands. The manager of the road house absolutely refused to deal with the men in a fair manner and would not even speak to their representative who called and offered to settle the dispute. He further threatened to hire Chinese waiters if the union workers persist in their agitation for American standards and conditions.

The striking waiters were working for the magnificent sum of \$7.50 per week, and put forth the demand for a \$2.50 increase which would bring their weekly wage up to \$10. This the manager refused to grant and displayed such hostility to the men that they were compelled to go on strike.

NOTICE.

The North and South Side Voters' Registration Offices will be open till 9 p.m. on the first and second Thursday in August and till the same time each night during the last two weeks of August.

A knocker never wins, a winner never knocks.

Notable Savings from the Men's Section

Men look to us for quality, and we are ever urging it as a basis of economy in their buying. It's not what a man pays, but rather what he gets for what he pays that counts. The whole section is full of overflaming with unbeatable values on timely and seasonable merchandise. Here are a trio of notable economies worth taking full advantage of:

Clean-up of Men's Cotton Combinations; Small Sizes Only. Regular \$1.75; Clearing at 98c

We are offering tomorrow a line of Men's Fine Cotton Combinations, spring needle knit, closed crotch, short sleeves, ankle length, in white. As all the large sizes have been sold, we are clearing the balance of the small sizes at a sacrifice. Hurry for these. Clearing at **98c**

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A lucky purchase direct from the makers enables us to make you this notable offer. In the ordinary course of events these Shirts would sell for considerably more. The materials are extra fine quality prints and percales in neat stripes, etc. Soft double cuffs. Large and roomy. Sizes 14½ to 17. Wonderful value. **\$2.00**

New Ribbons Just Arrived

For the past few weeks ribbons have been at a premium, in fact it has been almost an impossibility to procure many of the staple lines. However a long delayed consignment has just come to hand which will relieve matters considerably. Make your selection while the assortments are complete.

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| Velvet Ribbons
Best quality Velvet Ribbons with satin back, for trimming and millinery purposes, etc. ½ inch to 4 inches wide. Priced at, per yard.....12½¢ to \$1.00 | New Black Ribbons
Included in this consignment are fine quality black satins, black faille and black moire ribbons, all widths. Priced, from, per yard.....20¢ to \$1.50 |
| Fancy Dresden Ribbons
A large variety of pretty designs and color combinations, suitable for camisoles, vests, fancy bags, etc. Prices, per yard, 98¢, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.00 | Lingerie Wash Ribbons
Plain and figured Wash Ribbons, suitable for lingerie, in white, pink and pale blue. Put up in bunches of 2, 3 and 4 yards. Price, per bunch. 15c |

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LONDON POLICE GO ON STRIKE

The police of London have gone on strike over the reorganization bill now before parliament. This bill provides for the organization of a police union, but prohibits it from affiliating with labor unions and prohibits policemen from going out on strike under any circumstances, with heavy penalties.

Secretary Hayes, of the national union of police and prison officers has issued an order in the name of the executive committee calling out all members in the kingdom at once, and also an appeal to all organized workers "To move to our support at your earliest convenience."

The passage of the police bill will mean the complete destruction of the union, the existence of which was fully agreed to by the prime minister on August 31, 1918, and again by Lord Cave, on behalf of the government, on September 12, 1918.

TYPOS ENTERTAIN INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS, I.T.U.

J. W. Hays, secretary-treasurer, and W. W. Barrett, first vice-president of the International Typographical Union are being entertained by the local union this Friday and Saturday.

TWO CLAUSES OF NOVEL CHARACTER IN PEACE TREATY

Among the hundreds of clauses in the treaty presented by the allies to Germany are two of a particularly interesting and novel character. Within six months the Germans must return the skull of the Sultan Mikawa to the British Government.

This skull is that of a native chief of German East Africa, who for seven years defied the Germans, till, in 1898, rather than surrender, he committed suicide. The Germans decapitated him and sent his head for exhibition to a Berlin museum. It was a brutal, unnecessary act, and Great Britain is determined that the natives shall have returned to them the head of their old chief.

Germany is also called upon to return the Koran of the Caliph Ottoman to the King of the Hedjaz. This is one of the world's most ancient literary treasures, dating back to 711 A.D. It doubtless fell into the hands of the Turks when they captured Medina in 1812.—Tit Bits.

Ambitions, like alfalfa, with indomitable spirit for moisture, can be cut down often, but is always growing deeper.

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