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CONDITIONS BAD SAY CARPENTERS IN MAY REPORT

Provincial Council Convention Will Be Held at St. Catharines June 23-25.

TORONTO.—"The reports last month on the conditions in the Province," says the Monthly Trade Report of the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters, "were more cheerful than for some time, and it was hoped that this month trade would have improved to such an extent that all the members would be employed, but we are sorry to say that they seem worse than ever; in several districts where they reported that trade was improving last month they report this month as bad, rotten, and all kinds of language which expresses the disgust of the writer at the present condition of trade.

The month of May opened up

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with members out of work, on strike against reduction in wages, and lock-outs where they are trying to force our members to accept either lower wages or longer hours. This is only the start, as it has been pointed out for several months past that the American Plan, or the open shop, would be tried here, and our members were warned to organize and strengthen their ranks for this onslaught. Now that it is here it means that if they succeed in one place they will then attack another, so it is up to every member in the Province to give his full support both morally and, if necessary, financially, to offset this attack. The districts where they are now on strike are Windsor, Hamilton, Ottawa, and Kincardine. Members should see that they keep clear of these places and their surrounding territory.

"The employers at Windsor submitted a new agreement in direct violation to the existing one, which called for the giving of a certain length of time if, either parties wished to alter it, otherwise it was supposed to run from year to year. The new agreement called for a sliding scale of from 75c to 90c per hour in place of the \$1.00 an hour last year. No member should accept any work in any of the districts around Windsor without first writing around Windsor Local to see if everything is right.

"Hamilton wants every member to keep clear of their territory during the dispute of the Building Trades. Several of the contractors have already agreed to pay last year's scale, but the Hamilton members are going to allow the others to get their way; they have organized their strike committee and they have got every member tabulated, every job is plotted, and they have a live Press Committee who answer every advertisement the Bosses' Association puts into the papers, to notify the public what good fellows they are and how they are trying to save the people money who wish to build. In the Building Trades' first bulletin published in answer to one put in the daily paper by the Hamilton Branch of the Association of Building and Construction Industries, they certainly show where the responsibility of the high cost of building lays.

"The Ottawa Builders' Association refuse to consider anything but a 10c an hour reduction for the carpenters, and they also refuse to arbitrate the matter, showing again that some of the employers seem determined to cause as much unrest as possible. It was hard, very hard, to get them to advance wages when the cost of living was going sky-

high, and now when it has dropped a few cents on the Weekly Budget compiled by the Department of Labor, they want to immediately hit the workers. It seems to be the thought of several of the employers that the workers should only get just enough to make ends meet and that the men who produce everything should only exist; also through their daily press they are giving the public the idea that it is the organized workers who have put up the prices and it is their fault the prices don't come down.

"At Kincardine the men are on strike at the F. E. Coombe Co.; this is to resist a general cut they are trying to put into effect. The men are standing out well; also the finishers and some of the upholstering department are out. This is also the result of some of the shops in the different furniture centres who have already been reduced not being in a position to fight the decrease and now that the bosses in some districts have got away with it the others are following suit, but it is hoped that the boys at Kincardine will be able to win out, as the employers will not face many strikes, as they are as costly to the employers as to the men. Once the shop is disorganized it means a big loss to the employer training a new staff. The conditions of the furniture workers are bad, and the employers who are trying to make them worse are surely piling up a heap of trouble for themselves in the near future.

"The Provincial Council's Con-

vention will be held in the City of St. Catharines on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of June, and Local Unions should get the various resolutions and amendments which they wish to present there in order, and if possible mail them to the Provincial Secretary before June 20."

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