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In The World Of Labor

A Budget of News
For Those Inter-
ested in Labor

By G. A. M.

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Exchanges and
Other Sources

The Inauguration Of
Real Social LegislationHistory of the Workers' Fight for
Accident Compensation

Late in 1909 the Ontario Executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada asked Sir James Whitney to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the whole question of workmen's compensation.

June 23rd, 1910, Sir William Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario, was appointed by the Ontario Government as a Commission to investigate the whole question.

First session of the Commission. October 23rd, 1911. Labor presented the first brief on December 27th, 1911. Sir William Meredith presented an interim report to the Ontario Legislature at the 1912 session. Labor presented a further brief on January 16th, 1913.

Final report of Sir William Meredith in the form of a draft act presented to the Ontario Legislature in April, 1913.

Ontario Government introduced Compensation Act on March 17th, 1914, when it received its first reading.

The measure received its second reading on March 24th, 1914.

The bill received its third reading on Tuesday, April 28th, after being considered in committee of the whole House many times.

The Act is to come into operation not later than January 1st, 1915.

Features of the Legislation
Compensation for injuries arising

out of or in the course of employment.

Compensation without litigation, to be paid automatically by a Crown Commission.

Employers in Schedule 2 to carry their own insurance, but entirely under the jurisdiction of the Board.

Prohibition of employers deducting anything from workers' wages by any means to help to pay for compensation.

No contribution from workers to Accident Compensation Fund.

Contributory negligence, etc wiped out. Part I, the real part of the legislation.

Industrial diseases included, compensation to be paid for industrial diseases, as if they were accidents arising out of employment.

In Part II, which applies to workers who do not come under Part I, the common law defenses are almost completely removed, an immeasurable improvement upon present conditions.

Domestic servants and farmers not included in the legislation. In case of death, compensation paid to the dependents in the form of a pension for life, except in the case of the children left. Their compensation stops when they reach the age of 16.

Compensation for disability based upon the earning capacity of the worker. In case of total disability, compensation for life with a limit of \$1,100 a year.

as many representatives as there were present at Ottawa last year.

It is generally recognized that the Labor Educational Association has done splendid service during the year in connection with the publicity campaign in favor of workmen's compensation, and, what is more, there is probably no one who will come forward and say otherwise for the truth of the assertion has been only too well attested, and many of the organizations in forwarding their credentials plainly state that they are more than satisfied at the splendid record that the association has made.

It is also evident that the trades unions throughout the province are of the opinion that the proposition to put a live forward movement should be taken up heartily, and that the association can be used just as effectively to engineer it as to prosecute such a successful and far-reaching campaign as that recently put up in favor of workmen's compensation.

Workmen's
Compensation

There is not the slightest doubt but what the public sentiment of the province will be overwhelmingly behind the local legislature in its passage of workmen's compensation along the lines advocated in the draft act of Sir William Meredith.

In fact, it is the most far reaching legislation that has ever been enacted by any government in Canada in the interests of the workers, and it is certainly a matter for congratulation that for once the representatives of both parties in the legislature refused to be swayed by the threats or arguments of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

That such a measure should be passed by a unanimous vote of the legislature amid scenes of enthusiasm on the part of the adherents of both the old parties contains a significant lesson.

We believe that when the work was finally completed and the decisive vote taken, that the knowledge that

they had performed a meritorious act gave a certain satisfaction to every legislator who had had the opportunity of so recording himself.

It was an evidence of the fact also that even in the realm of politics the will of the people, the known sentiment of the great public, will eventually prevail, and behind this question of workmen's compensation all the moral forces of the province had arrayed themselves.

But, above all else, it was a demonstration of the growing power and solidarity of the great labor movement which has persistently forced the question to the point where it could no longer be ignored, but required that no uncertain action should be taken by the people's representatives in the Ontario House.

And the province will be the better for the enactment of the measure. It was humanitarian legislation in the broadest sense of the word, and in the years to come it will bring happiness and comfort into thousands of humble homes and habitations that would otherwise be hopeless and destitute.

It is a measure of justice to the workers and the wealth winners of the province that has already been too long delayed, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that, even the better nature of those who opposed the measure for financial reasons will, after due consideration, also be pleased that the step taken will indeed be in the interests of a common humanity and secure the greatest good to the greatest number.

That the enactment of the measure will be far-reaching in its effects will be hardly open to question. The employers will find it to their own pecuniary advantage to install safety devices for the safeguarding of dangerous machinery, thus preventing a large percentage of accidents and casualties that now only too frequently occur.

The action of the trades unions in their advocacy of the measure has not been dictated by any feeling of hostility to the interests of the employers, but rather with the desire to protect their homes and their wives and dependent little ones from the fear of future want and suffering, for back of all the agitation has been the one prevailing overruling sentiment in favor of provision for the maintenance of the home and loved ones when the bread winner has been incapacitated by injury or death upon the industrial battlefield.

In the very near future there is hardly a doubt but what both employer and employee will be mutually agreed that the passage of the act was in the interests of industrial peace

and harmony, and one of the most beneficial pieces of legislation that has ever been enacted in the premier province of Ontario.

Ontario Conference of
Typographical Unions

Advices to hand all tend to show that the third annual convention of the Ontario Conference of Typographical Unions, which will convene in St. Thomas on Tuesday, May 26th, is going to set a new high water mark. During the past year the energetic secretary, Phil Obermeyer, has been in close touch with the various T. U. locals in the province, and as a result of his good work there have been new accessions to the ranks. It can be safely asserted that more local unions will be represented and a larger number of delegates be present in St. Thomas, than at either of the other two conventions previously held.

Naturally, it takes some little time for a new organization like the Ontario conference to get down to rock bottom, but under the painstaking care of the present secretary, the conference is in fine shape and it now only rests with the local unions in the province to get behind it and make it a power for good in the interests of the craft.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA
Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
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FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

THE PAINTERS' STRIKE.

To the Labor Editor of the Courier:

Sir—It has come before our notice that the people of this city do not quite understand the reasons for the dispute between the masters and the men, the matter now being on strike. The master painters, we believe, are informing the general public that the only trouble is that we want them to pay the poor man as much as the good man, and, therefore, they want to grade the men. Now, we ask the people do they grade the prices when they send in the bill? We do not think so. Some of the members of this union were taking a stroll around the city yesterday and met some people who informed them that the strike was finished. Now, if the masters are supplying this information, we deny it, and inform the public that not until it is published in the paper to the effect that the strike is ended, must the public take any notice of rumor that is going around.

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Don't forget the day—Saturday

Russell & Company

Success Of Labor Educational
Convention Assured

The Gathering in St. Thomas on Monday, May 25th, will be the Greatest in the History of the Association.

There is no longer any doubt of the fact that the annual convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario, which convenes in St. Thomas on Monday, May 25th, will clearly outdistance all its predecessors as far as the number of delegates in attendance is concerned.

The first convention calls were received in Berlin on Monday last and in the evening the Trades and Labor Council elected three delegates and the brewery workers two, and advised

are to effect that a big delegation will go over from the Twin City. The London Trades and Labor Council have also elected three candidates and the Federal Labor Union two, and the Forest City will send a record number to St. Thomas. Charity Lodge of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, St. Thomas, have sent in credentials for three delegates, and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners have done likewise. Brantford Trades and Labor Council will also be represented, and it is understood some of the local unions are contemplating being represented.

At the time of writing twenty-six credentials have been received from organizations that were not represented last year, and the same news comes from all quarters. We are out to make this the biggest of them all.

These returns were all received during the past three days. None of the Toronto calls have gone out yet, but each organization as it meets will have one, and it is certain that the Queen City will have at least twice

Facts to Bear in Mind

Now that the workmen's compensation bill has been passed by the Ontario legislature it must be generally recognized that it was the persistent agitation of the trades unions that forced it to the front and made it a live political question, and it was furthermore the equally persistent watchfulness of the organized labor that made it possible to have the measure placed on the statute books of the province.

To organized labor and organized labor alone is due the credit of the fight that has been so determinedly waged in the interests of every worker, union and non-union alike, within the boundaries of Ontario.

Unorganized labor never takes the initiative. It was the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada that induced Sir James Whitney and his colleagues to appoint Sir William Meredith as Commissioner to take evidence and secure information of such a nature as to enable him to draft a suitable act for the guidance of the government. It was organized labor that blocked the game of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in its attempts to mutilate the draft act as submitted by the Commissioner. It was the hundreds of petitions sent in by the central labor bodies and the local trades unions from every section of the province that impressed the politicians with the solidity of working class sentiment that was behind the demand for justice to the artisans and laborers.

It was the funds of the trades unions contributed by their members in the shape of dues that furnished the finances wherewith to carry on the agitation, to hold public meetings, to issue literature and papers and give the question the publicity that made success financially certain.

Had there been no trades unions or had they been weak and indolent, the politicians or the non-union element would never have taken the initiative

and there would be no workmen's compensation act in evidence at all. It is also a fact that though the non-unionists have not been asked to contribute financially or in any other way to the success of the splendid struggle that has now been won, that though they have not had to make sacrifices of any kind, they will be advanced by the victory that has been gained equally with the trades unionist who has put up his money and sacrificed his time in the interest of the public good.

Hereafter the non-union workman will be protected under the workmen's compensation act. If he is injured in the workshop or the factory he will receive compensation to the extent of 55 per cent. of his earning capacity. If he is killed his widow will receive an allowance for life or until she marries again, and his children also until they arrive at 16 years of age. If he is permanently disabled he will draw a pension for life.

The law will make no distinction between the union and the non-union workman in the administration of the act. The man who by his union membership and the payment of union dues has made the compensation act a reality, shares only as the man shares who has done absolutely nothing to bring this desirable state of affairs about.

It is organized labor that has forced the government to enact laws for the safeguarding of dangerous machinery. It is organized labor that has enforced the demand for sanitary workshops. It is organized labor that has had placed upon the statute books every law that has directly advantaged the wage earner.

These are things that even the non-union workmen should begin to realize and to ask themselves what might not be accomplished if every toiler was enrolled in the union of his craft and battling unitedly towards a common goal.

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