Labor News From Coast to Coast.

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UNFAIR TACTICS OF THE O. B. U.

Again Fittingly Illustrated at Mass Meeting in Montreal on Sunday.

The unfair tactics of the One Big Unionists were again fittingly illustrated at Montreal on Sunday night at a mass meeting in the L'Assistance Publique Hall, held under the auspices of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council. The disturbance started when Mr. P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, said that the only true movement in Canada was that represented by the Trades and Labor Congress. A number of O.B.U. sympathizers immediately began to express their opinions and attempted to shout down Mr. Draper.

The continuance of the interruptions caused Mr. Foster, president of the Montreal Trades and Labor Congress to threaten to close down the meeting. Those who cried most loudly for the right of free speech were the first to deny it to others, he said, and as the meeting was held under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Council those who did not like the way it was run were quite at liberty to leave. After Mr. Draper had finished his remarks, the president called upon Mr. Ben Tillett, noted British Labor leader, and member of the British House of Commons. Mr. Tillett said that the scene, while not perplexing, was decidedly disheartening, for it was an evidence of disunity among the workers. He severely scored the disturbers for their action and made a strong plea for unity and constructive effort on the part of the Labor classes.

It is indeed regrettable that such scenes should occur when a Labor leader from the British Isles was present. The Canadian Labor Press has pointed out on many occasions that the O.B.U. leaders and adherents will stop at nothing to further their ends. It makes little difference to them whether their tactics be fair or otherwise. However, with all their efforts the International Trade Union movement is growing stronger and healthier every day. The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress is following the proper course, and Secretary Draper should not be perturbed by the tactics used in Montreal. Mr. Draper has ever had the workers' weal at heart and, although he has made some enemies, he has also made many friends. With the secretaryship of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress in his hands the Straight Trade Unionists need have no fear. "Paddy" is this week at Washington as the representative of the workers at the International Labor Conference in connection with the Peace Treaty.

STONE APPROVES LABOR'S ACTION AT CONFERENCE.

Warren S. Stone, Grand Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and a member of the International Conference, declared last week he was in accord with the decision of the Labor group to withdraw from the conference in Washington.

"This was the only stand organized American labor could take, when the conference refused to indorse labor's well established policy," Mr. Stone said. "Railroad men have had collective bargaining 35 years. I don't know why at this late date there should be any question as to its value.

"I expect the engineers' representative acted with the rest of the labor group, at least I hope he did.

"I did not consider that the employers nor the public were fully represented at the conference. The labor group, I believe, did represent American labor."

BROTHERHOODS WILL FIGHT TO A FINISH.

Railroad employes are prepared for a finish fight with the United States railroad administration for increased wages, time and one-half overtime and improved conditions before the Government surrenders the roads to private control. Unmistakable notice to this effect has been served by Timothy Shea, of the firemen, appearing before the board of railway wages and working conditions.

"If our demands for a living wage should not be met when the time approaches for turning back the railroads to their private owners," Mr. Shea said, in testimony which became public recently, "we shall demand as a condition precedent to the change the realisation of the fundamental rights of labor, the living wage, the eight-hour day, on all federal controlled roads, with time and one-half for overtime, and other principles to which the Government pledged itself during the war, which have now been made a part of the treaty of peace and which, so far, the railroad administration has never fulfilled."

EMPLOYMENT ON THE INCREASE.

Weekly reports from employers in Ontario and Quebec to the Eastern Clearing House of the Employment Service of Canada, Department of Labor, indicate that despite the [illegible] strikes, a further increase in the volume of employment was registered during the week ending October 11, and that the gains made during the preceding week were in most cases maintained.

Returns for the week ending October 11 were received from 2,001 firms which firms reported 426,341 persons on pay-roll as compared with 422,403 persons on pay-roll during the preceding week—an increase of 3,938 or .89 per cent. A further increase of 1,480 or .34 per cent., was anticipated for the week ending October 18.

ALBERTA TO HAVE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

"Before the next general election is called in the Province of Alberta, the proportional representation system of voting will have been put into effect by the Provincial Government."

This important pronouncement was made recently by Premier Charles Stewart.

[illegible]S OF BR[illegible] AMERICAN

[illegible] workers have the conditions which American steel workers are striking for, and the [illegible] the Britishers in a cable received by the steel strikers.

The fraternal message is as follows:

"On behalf of 150,000 British iron and steel workers, who already enjoy all and more than you are asking, and who, through joint representation of employers' and workmen's organisations have the most successful machinery of industrial negotiation in the world, we send warmest wishes for success of your fight on behalf of the workers in American iron and steel industry. By the refusal of the representatives of the steel corporation to submit the dispute to arbitration the corporation stands condemned."

STRATFORD WORKERS TAKE STRIKE VOTE.

A crisis has been reached in the threatened strike of furniture workers at Stratford. A vote was taken among the men on Wednesday night, but the decision has not been announced.

In answer to the men's demands for higher wages and better conditions, it is understood that the employes have made an offer, which has also been placed before the unions.

WORKERS SUPPORT THE VICTORY LOAN.

Take care of the dollars and the hundreds will take care of themselves. This is the maxim which every Canadian was taught in boyhood. It is the maxim which, if applied to the Victory Loan enterprise, will send it over the top with a swing.

Let no subscriber withhold his help to the new Victory Loan on the plea that his $100 is not much and is not worth offering. Never was there a greater mistake. Every subscription of $500 and under will be welcomed. Indeed, it is required to make the Loan a success.

It should be remembered that 90 per cent. of the subscriptions to last year's Victory Loan were for amounts of $500 and under. If these subscribers would make a resolution to double the amount of their last year's subscription on this occasion the triumph of the Loan would never be in doubt.

The working classes—the subscribers of $500 and under—will benefit considerably from the uses to which the Victory Loan is to be put. They will profit from the prosperity in trade and business which will continue, and at the same time they will be getting a good return for their money, and if they allow the interest to accumulate the money will double itself in thirteen years.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS FOR ONTARIO URGED.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission has made application to the Ontario Government for two orders-in-council: one to authorize the submission of estimates and agreements covering the construction and operation of an electric railway to connect cities and towns of Hamilton, Galt, Preston, Hespeler, Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo and Elmira; the other to authorize the submission of an agreement covering the purchase of the Sandwich, Windsor and Amherstburg Railway Company, and the Windsor, Tecumseh Company, including the electric distributing systems in the municipalities of Windsor and Sandwich.

As soon as the Hamilton to Elmira line is authorized, a meeting of the municipalities interested will be held in the city of Galt, and it is expected that the question will be submitted to the electors not later than January next.

The Windsor lines are controlled by the Detroit United Railway. The purchase of the lines and electric system will involve an expenditure of $3,000,000, for which the Commission and the Hydro-Electric systems in the municipalities involved will issue bonds.

"If the electors vote favorably," Sir Adam Beck, chairman of the Commission, said, "this will be the first railway that the Commission will operate under the act of 1914, although we are operating between 40 and 50 miles of construction railway at Niagara Falls and the municipal railway at Peterboro for the Provincial Government, but these do not come under the heading of radial railways."

PIECE WORK IS AGAINST BEST LABOR PLANS.

The plan of paying labor for piece work or offering a bonus for increased production has been generally condemned by the organized movement. This is sometimes scientific management, and is only a high sounding phrase to enable employers to fix the standard of a living wage by the production of the most highly skilled and physically strong laborer. Most of the crafts have abolished the system, and others which have not yet been able to get away from it are striving toward that end.

In the records of the American Federation of Labor, that body has shown its attitude on different occasions when the principle as applied to Government work was under discussion. In 1905 the leather workers voted to abolish piece work in the Rock Island arsenal. A report made to the American Federation of Labor convention in 1909 stated that ordnance officers were endeavoring to use the system to reduce wages from 15 to 33 per cent. and to employ boys of tender years. The convention condemned the practice. In 1913 the painters complained that an effort was being made to introduce the system in the navy. Again the national body entered a protest, branding the system as a "diabolical scheme for the reduction of the human being to the condition of a mere machine."

In 1914 the question was before Congress and Labor succeeded in abolishing it in a branch of the post office department. The next year occurred the memorable attempt of Postmaster General Burleson to foist the objectionable system on post office employes. He failed in the attempt and in 1918 it was abolished in practically all Government work by Congressional action.

UNREST AMONGST COAL MINERS OF U. S. A. AND NOVA SCOTIA.

THE MINERS' SONG.

We mined the coal to transport soldiers,
We kept the home fires all aglow,
We put Old Kaiser out of business,
What's our reward? We want to know.

—Sung at Cleveland convention.

At the time of writing their seems no indication that the threatened strike of miners in the coal fields of the United States and Canada will not come off according to schedule. Conferences across the border are now being held by the officers of the United Mine Workers of America and the operators, while down in the Maritime Provinces the officers of District 26 U. M. W. of America, and the operators are also in session in a last effort to avert a strike. It is claimed that the threatened strike in Canada has nothing to do with the proceedings in the States, still it is conceded that the result of the conference in the south will have an important bearing on the situation in the coal fields of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

The miners are demanding a sixty per cent. increase in wages and a five day week.

President Wilson warned the officials of the United Mine Workers against strike action but we do not believe that the miners will accede to the President's wishes. The Department of Labor does not believe that a strike will occur in the Maritime Provinces but the President and Secretary of District 26 make it pretty plain that unless their demands are met that a strike will surely occur.

The miners in District 18 of the U. M. W. of America i.e. those in Western Canada, are not likely to participate in the strike in any way. The miners in Western Canada have only recently resumed work after a long drawn out battle in which the One Big Union played no small part. It will also be remembered that the International sent organizers into District 18 and made a "clean-up" of the Radicals. The district charter and a number of the local charters were revoked. The district has since been reorganized and all the mines are again in operation under agreement with the United Mine Workers of America and a strike in that district is out of the question.

Miners Not Bolsheviki.

Demands of mine workers for higher wages and a five-day week are purely economic, and "have no relation to any radical or ultra-radical political reforms being advocated by certain elements in our Nation," John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, declared last week in a statement discussing the strike of half a million bituminous miners, called for November 1.

"We are neither Bolsheviki nor the advocate of any isms," Mr. Lewis said. "The position of the miners has been dictated by the elements of physical necessity which are involved, and we shall not be deferred in our programme by any false issues which may be injected into the situation by coal operators or the interests which may be in opposition to our demands."

Mr. Lewis asserted that these demands "could be applied in toto without any material increase in the price of coal to the consuming public."

He charged that the operators had endeavored to make the public believe that the miners had come forward with "radical and outrageous demands."

"More than a year has elapsed," he added, "since the Washington wage agreement, negotiated as a war measure, expired with the cessation of hostilities. The miners, during this period, have, by common consent, continued working to enable the Nation to work out its reconstruction problems and to permit the mining industry to adjust itself to post-war conditions. The compelling force of physical necessity now requires that a new wage agreement be negotiated, effective November 1, 1919."

The operators, Mr. Lewis declared, refused to discuss the merits of a possible new agreement, on the ground that war with the Central Powers had not ended, which he charged was a "mere subterfuge to enable them to continue longer the reaping of their prodigious profits and to create a panic in the public mind, which will bring the operators even added security."

The present margin of profit, as shown by a recent report of the Federal Trade Commission, Mr. Lewis said, "is sufficiently large to practically cover the increased wage to the miner and still permit a fair margin of return."

President Wilson's Warning!

Holding the impending coal strike to be not only unjustifiable, but also unlawful, President Wilson, in a statement issued Sunday last with the support of his entire Cabinet, called on the coal miners of the nation, both union officers and members, to rescind the strike order effective November 1.

The President declined to enter into the merits of the controversy between the miners and operators, but emphatically declared that the strike, which he characterized as the most far reaching proposal in the nation's history to restrict production and distribution of all necessaries of life, had apparently been ordered without a vote of the individual miners concerned.

For this reason, the president served definite notice, "that the law will be enforced and the means will be found to protect the interests of the nation in any emergency that may arise out of this unhappy business."

The President in his statement reviewed the steps leading up to the strike call, including the Cleveland convention of the United Mine Workers of America, one month ago, at which the demands for a thirty hour week and a 60 per cent. increase in wages were formulated.

The war in itself, the President asserted, still was a fact, peace negotiations still in suspense and troops still transported. Because of these factors and the added consideration that victims of the strike would be among both the rich and the poor of the nation, the President said the proposed walkout could only be considered as unlawful, and as the nation's executive, entrusted with enforcement of the law, he would use the means at his disposal to prevent any stoppage of work.

The services of the Government as a mediator, offered Saturday by the President through Secretary Wilson, but not accepted, were again held out, the President declaring that he held himself in readiness at the request of either or both to appoint a commission to investigate the situation, to affect an orderly settlement of disputed questions with due recognition of the rights of the miners, the operators and the public.

There was no direct intimation of what steps the Cabinet had discussed to prevent stoppage of work should the President's solemn warning to the miners to rescind the strike order fail.

It was regarded as significant, however, that attention was drawn in White House circles to the statements made by Secretary Baker in a recent address in Cleveland, when Mr. Baker announced that department commanders had been directed to furnish troops at the request of Governors without referring the matter to Washington. Major Gen. Wood in the Central Department, has already exercised that authority in the steel strike situation.

INTERNATIONALS TO TAKE ACTION

American Industrial Conference Failed to Achieve Results.

The National Industrial Conference held at Washington recently did not end so harmoniously as the Industrial Conference at Ottawa. As a matter of fact the Labor group was withdrawn by the great Labor chieftain, Samuel Gompers. The representatives of the Railway Brotherhoods, which are not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, endorsed the move of Gompers. The result of it all was that the conference closed without any real beneficial work being done. Mainly through the efforts of the steel corporation Labor found itself assailed on every issue and despite determined efforts to get the two forces, Labor and Capital, together on some common ground no success followed. Labor's chief tolerated the attacks longer than most men would have done and it was not until after due consideration that he withdrew his forces.

Now the heads of the International Unions in Canada and the United States are being called together and at this conference the Railway Brotherhoods and the Farmers will send representatives. We confidently expect that a policy of action will be unanimously adopted. This will have a far-reaching effect for the organized workers will be practically all represented and with the Farmers the conference will be the most representative one ever assembled.

We in Canada had our trouble during the summer just passed and came through it very creditably, due in no small measure to the determined efforts of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. The employers, too, when the National Industrial Conference met at Ottawa showed their willingness to discuss the industrial problems in a round-the-table conference the result being that much of the industrial unrest has been washed away. The employers in the United States should have adopted the same principle as did their Canadian brothers but as Sam Gompers said when he was withdrawing his force:

"You have defeated the Labor group in its declaration, but we will meet you again in conference, and when we do meet you there, you will be glad to talk collective bargaining.

"I have sung my swan song in this conference. You have by your action legislated us out of the gathering. We have nothing further to say, and it is with a feeling of regret that we are not able to remain longer. Our chief regret is the defeat of every fair proposition on our part. The die is cast. We cannot remain longer."

ENGINEERS WILL OPPOSE ANTI-STRIKE LEGISLATION.

Timothy Shea has given notice to the American Congress that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, of which he is acting president, would not observe pending anti-strike legislation if enacted into law.

Such an attempt to single out railroad employes and deprive them of what he termed the economic right of workers to strike to prevent injustice, must be accepted, he said, in connection with other information which the railroad brotherhood have, as a foregone conclusion that the railroad contemplate a general reduction in wages when the Government surrenders control, and desire such a measure to forestall a strike.

"If these interests or the legislators believe railroad employes will unresistingly submit to any such invasion of their rights as citizens," Mr. Shea continued, "they had better expel that thought from their minds, because I believe I speak for the locomotive firemen and hostlers, at least, when I say that any law which deprives them of the rights of American citizenship would not be observed, not because this class of American citizens are law-breakers, but because such a law would be unwarranted, un-American, and contrary to American institutions."

Mr. Shea said such a law was almost certain to precipitate revolution, and was, in fact, just what extreme radicals and revolutionary agitators desire.

BEN TILLETT ON CONDITIONS IN THE OLD LAND.

Mr. Ben Tillett, Labor member of the British Parliament for Salford, and prominently identified with the Labor movement in Britain for the past forty years, who came to Canada as British fraternal delegate to attend the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress at Hamilton in September, while in Ottawa said that the monopolists and profiteers were responsible for the unrest in England.

A man of sixty, Ben Tillett has the appearance and bearing of a man of forty—a short, stocky man, with thick set shoulders, long, wavy, jet black hair and piercing eyes, the Labor member of Salford seems possessed of keen intellect and endowed with an energy capable of surmounting almost any difficulty. To the Canadian Labor Press Mr. Tillett spoke at some length on Labor conditions as they exist the world over, the present unrest in England and America, the defeat of the Coalition Government in the British Parliament and the distinctive achievement of Labor in Canada in electing a goodly number of candidates to the Ontario Legislature.

Mr. Tillett laid the blame for the unrest in England on the monopolists and profiteers. "Our docks and warehouses," stated Mr. Tillett, "are glutted with food. There has never been such a bulk of commodities congesting our storage capacities before. The valuable supplies which Canada is forwarding to the Mother Country are neutralized in value by the conspiracy of merchants and the powers that be to prevent proper and efficient distribution. This situation is fostering and intensifying the new resentment which is being classified, stupidly classified, as Bolshevism.

"I do not think that element exists at all in England. But the resentment against the robbery and bungling of food supplies is a deep one, and I see great trouble ahead."

Speaking of the defeat of the pilot's amendment in the British Parliament, Mr. Tillett stated that British parliamentarians had not lost track of the fact that the aliens in the Old Country were accountable for the loss of thousands of lives and hundreds of vessels. The war has shown that a man who is once a German is always a German, and the British-born Germans were possibly the greatest enemies Great Britain had throughout the war.

Hun sea-raiders had obtained their information from alien enemy sources in England and it has been established that the submarine warfare was more or less determined on information supplied by Germans residing in Great Britain.

If anything, the war had made the Britisher more British, when before the war he was somewhat cosmopolitan. "All men will agree," Mr. Tillett remarked, "that we paid a high enough price for our country's safety, that we ought to honor that safety that has been purchased at the expense of so many precious lives."

In regard to the success of the Labor party in the Ontario Provincial elections, Mr. Tillett said this enlarged Labor representation was due to the example at home and a rising sense of political power and its value. He described the Labor Party's achievement as one of the most promising signs.

"It will tend not merely to the political advancement of Canada, but to a still greater economic success. After the example of Australia, it is evident that the interests of Canada can be best served by an enlightened working class."

Mr. Tillett also spoke enthusiastically of Canada's future, and he declared that it was his intention to encourage a definite policy of Canadianism, in trade, politics, and other spheres.

Mr. Tillett sails for England early next week.

Mr. Tillett took a prominent part in the New York Longshoremen's strike.

He was a dock worker himself for a number of years in England.

CIGAR FIRMS NON-UNION.

The Cigar Makers' Union states that the firms of Waitt & Bond, Breslin & Campbell and the C. C. A. Cigar Company have moved their factories from Boston to New York and New Jersey and are now making cigars by machinery under non-union conditions. Waitt & Bond manufacture the Blackstone cigar.

NEW YORK LONGSHOREMEN FOR GENERAL STRIKE.

Efforts to end New York's unauthorized harbor tie-up were given another setback Sunday night, when it was announced that longshoremen, said to be members of the twenty-four locals of the International Longshoremen's Union, voted in favor of a general strike in the port of New York, to become effective immediately. They declared that 12,000 dock workers employed on the piers in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Hoboken, Jersey City, and Staten Island would obey the new strike order. They said that heretofore they had been on a "vacation."

On the other hand, T. V. O'Connor, president of the International Union, declared that the unauthorized strike of dock workers, which has been in progress for several weeks, was "breaking up."

Many men are reported to have responded to the whistle Sunday and are working at the piers of the Cunard, White Star and French line. On the other piers in the Chelsea section it was said that a large number of workers would report for duty on Monday.

MONTREAL PLUMBERS AFFECT SETTLEMENT.

An agreement has been reached between the plumbers and steamfitters who were on strike on the big million dollar job of the Drummond Apartments, Montreal, and the contractor who is carrying out the work. The men have received an increase in wages over the rates they were getting previously.

AUSTRALIA FREE OF RADICALS, SAYS COMMISSIONER.

Wiping the labor slate clean of "I. W. W'ism" and "Bovietism," has marked industrial Australia's prosperity before the world, Mark Sheldon, Australian Commissioner in the United States, declared in a statement recently.

Speaking of the past war labor unrest, Mr. Sheldon pointed to the present situation in his country as an example of progress in handling situations similar to those now existing in the United States.

"In view of the general industrial unrest throughout the world," he said, "it will be interesting to examine the status of the labor movement in Australia. The arbitration system has been tested probably more thoroughly in Australia than anywhere else. It is largely the work of labor Governments, and has been particularly effective in settling disputes which otherwise would have culminated in strikes.

"While the Australian system has not always proved a preventative of strikes, it has been entirely satisfactory in settling them when both parties have agreed to submit their disputes to the arbitration court. The recent seamen's strike was only a question of arbitration. The Government demanded that the court should decide the matter in dispute and won.

"The 'One Big Union' movement which has been before Australian labor for months has collapsed completely. The greatest individual union in Australia—the Australian Workers' Union—has turned it down and virtually every craft looks askance at it. This is due to the fact that the rank and file of Australian working men looked upon the union as an instrument to better his conditions in his relations with his employer and not as a means for political power—the avowed purpose of the 'One Big Union' whose lines of procedure are similar to those of the Russian Soviet.

"Nor has the I. W. W. movement been allowed to gain ground. A year and a half ago a law was passed making it illegal for any such organization to exist. Avowed members of the I. W. W. are subject to imprisonment and fine, and if not Australian born may be deported. I consider the I. W. W. as an utterly defeated organization.

"A wholesome corrective against any extremist tendency is the fact that the skilled labor usually has his own house and grounds, obtained from the Government under liberal arrangements. This gives the worker a selfish interest in the maintenance of order and stability.

"To give you an idea of the extent of Australia's natural resources, I need merely to tell you that we are immediately ready for 10,000,000 more of population. This is twice the population we have today."

ONT. CARPENTERS' CONDITIONS GOOD

According to October's Trade Report Issued By Provincial Council.

The trade report of the Ontario Provincial Council, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, for the month of October, 1919, says:

"Trade and conditions in the province are very good. One new local has been instituted with a charter list of about 50 at Cornwall, and prospects are good for a 100 per cent. organization.

Brockville has succeeded in reducing the hours per day from 9 to 8, and St. Catharines has got an increase of 10 cents per hour, making their scale 70 cents per hour.

Several locals have got organization campaigns on, and the success they are attaining shows that the carpenters and millmen in the province are not dead by any means. A total of 271 new members have been made during the month of September by the local unions, also the Cornwall local has been established, which makes a grand total of over 320 reported, and 33 locals not heard from. Kitchener leads the new members with a total of 57 for the month; London, 46, making a total membership of 205; Windsor, 39, which brings their membership up to 273; Owen Sound, which was organized on August 28, reports a membership of 137 and 30 applications waiting for the next meeting, and they hope to reach the 200 mark this month. We are now between the 5,900 and the 6,000 mark, and next month's report should go over that figure.

The Ship local at Midland has gone back a little, but no doubt a little energetic work will pull them back into place. Several of the Mill locals have presented agreements and it is hoped that success will be attained.

At the Trades and Labor Congress Convention, held in Hamilton, a caucus of Millmen was held, and the conditions throughout the Province were discussed. About 23 attended, and after all the delegates present had described the conditions in their respective localities and the present state of organizations, Brother Lakey, the 2nd General Vice-President, addressed the meeting, pointing out the best methods of organizing, also the great care to be used in presenting agreements by the Millmen. He described the method which is to be adopted in the U. S. A. next spring, which would stop the bosses moving their work from one factory to another as soon as any trouble occurs. This has been the practice in the past, and the Mill Locals of Ontario should be careful, before making a final decision, as the furniture trade is very different from the carpenter trade, inasmuch as the furniture bosses can have their material made in other parts of the country, whereas the carpenter bosses have to build in a given place.

He also stated that during the past year 50,000 cabinetmakers and millmen had been organized, and offered to assist the millmen in the province to organize by presenting the union label that applies, a honor medal for the member getting the most members in a given time.

The One Big Union certainly got its death knell at Hamilton. Brother Wilkinson, of the Vancouver Carpenters' Local, gave the history of the O. B. U. from its inception, showing that it was founded on deceit and lies, and stating that it was about dead in the city of Vancouver, which is the headquarters. He stated that the same old bunch of fanatics (the Socialist Party of Canada), who were always against the International Trade Union Movement, and who some years ago passed the celebrated resolution that their members would act as strike-breakers in all strikes called by any Trades Union, because they claimed that the Trades Union was only part of the bulwarks of the capitalistic system, was behind the O. B. U. The members in the west are gradually finding them out and are getting back again into the International. Several of the O. B. U. supporters and sympathizers who were there forgot to support the O. B. U. after hearing its pedigree.

THROUGH EFFORTS OF CONGRESS STRIKE LEADERS RELEASED.

President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, speaking in the Labor Temple, Toronto, recently, took issue with the charge of Rev. William Ivens, Winnipeg strike leader, in which Ivens accused Moore of having ignored a letter sent him by the lawyer defending the Winnipeg strike leaders, who were then in jail. The Labor chieftain emphatically declared that it was through the efforts of the congress that the men had been released on bail. As to the subsequent demand that the prisoners be unconditionally released, Mr. Moore pointed out that it was in the interest of organized Labor as a whole that those men should be given a fair and impartial trial by a jury.

JOBS FOUND FOR ALL WHO APPLIED.

An analysis of the Labor situation in the Province of Ontario during the week ending Oct. 11, made from the reports of the Trades and Labor Branch, shows that the number of men applying to the bureaus for work is slightly in excess of the number of vacancies for men reported. During this week 2,519 men registered, and orders were received for 2,465. The number of men actually placed in positions was 1,906.

By far the biggest demand was for general laborers, orders of this nature numbering 1,007 in the week. The bureaus were able to supply 690 of these men.

Classes of work for which there were more men than openings include commercial occupations, for which 197 men applied during the week. On the other hand, in the building and metal trades there were more orders than men.

In the Women's Departments the largest demand continues to be for household workers, only a small percentage of whom can be secured. Of 213 orders received in the week 66 were filled. The supply of casual workers was more satisfactory, and 308 day workers were placed in 366 positions. The shortage of women and girls for factory work also continues extreme.

CANADIAN SHOPMEN MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.

The executive of the Railroad Shopmen's Union report that they are making good progress in their negotiations with the Canadian Railway War Board. It is expected that an amicable settlement will be made before long and the danger of trouble will have been passed.

THIRTY-ONE TEACHERS' UNIONS SINCE JUNE.

The American Teacher, official magazine of the American Federation of Teachers, says that since the June issue of that publication, 31 unions of public school teachers have been chartered.

The magazine urges teachers not to be afraid just because men like Judge Gary thunder their declarations against organized labor.

"This is too important a business to interrupt by playing at the game of Chinese dragons," says the editor.

WORKERS TO RUN FACTORY.

Co-operative management by employer and employe will be inaugurated as an economic test by Sweet, Orr & Co., manufacturers of overalls, beginning November 1.

The employes, all of whom are women, will elect the forewoman, establish the minimum standard of production and take over all matters of shop management. They will receive the standard wage agreed upon by the United Garment Workers of America and the Union Made Garment Manufacturers' Association; and, in addition, those who have aided in production and assisted in making economies will receive a monthly bonus.

The co-operative plan may be extended to 17 other plants operated by the corporation.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

Opens its Sessions at Washington—Canadian Labor Well Represented.

Secretary P. M. Draper, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, is this week at Washington in attendance as Canadian Labor representative at the International Labor Conference, called in connection with the Peace Treaty. His advisers at Washington are President Tom Moore, vice-President Arthur Martel, of the Trades and Labor Congress, Robert Baxter, of District 26 U.M.W. of America; Dave Rees, of District 18 U.M.W. of America, and Mrs. Kathleen Derry, Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, of Toronto.

Besides these Labor delegates the Dominion Government, the Provincial Governments and the employers have representatives at Washington.

All of the leading nations of the world are represented at this conference and much good is expected to follow.

It is interesting here to note that Mr. P. M. Draper was one of Labor's advisers to Premier Borden at the Peace Conference at Paris early in the year and while the League of Nations contains a Labor charter little of that has as yet been placed on the statute books of Canada.

For the consideration of delegates to the conference a complete file of reports bearing on the laws and customs of the world as they have been applied to the shorter working day, elimination of unemployment, maternity insurance, protection of women and children in industry and other questions, has been prepared by the organizing committee created to formulate plans for the conference. H. B. Butler, of Great Britain, chairman of the committee, issued a statement summarizing the findings of the committee as follows: "The reports bring together for the first time complete Governmental data as to the status in the principal industrial nations of the measures of labor protections specifically named in the treaty for action by the conference. These include the questions of the 48-hour week, unemployment, maternity care, conditions of employment for women and children and the extension and application of the international convention adopted at Berne in 1906."

"The application of the eight-hour day or 48-hour week," the committee's report says, "is the first and most important subject on the agenda for the consideration of the conference.

For the past five years, or since the outbreak of the war, the report shows the tendency toward the shortened work day has been much accelerated among modern industrial nations. There have been more or less superficial differences in form, scope, and method, the report adds, but the downward trend of working hours is general, both through labor legislation and through voluntary agreement.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WORKING WOMEN.

Mrs. Kathleen Derry, of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, of Toronto, is the delegate from the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Working Women sitting at Washington this week. Mrs. Derry is one of the leading women straight trade unionists in Canada and her choice as the Congress delegate is a popular one.

Women from practically all of the leading countries of the world are gathered at Washington at the International Congress of Working Women, the first of its kind ever held and which has as its object an interchange of ideas and experiences on subjects which most intimately affect women—legislation concerning employment, child labor, care of mothers and protection of their sex in hazardous industries.

WINNIPEG FIREMEN ADOPT DOUBLE PLATOON.

The double platoon system will be put into effect in the Winnipeg fire department on November 1.

I. L. P.-U. F. O. GET TOGETHER AT HAMILTON OVER WEEK-END

And Draft Programme of Legislation Agreeable To Both Parties—Coalation Possible.

On Hamilton, last Saturday, was focussed the concentrated gaze of not only political Ontario; but the whole Dominion. It was generally conceded that from the "get-together," called by Walter R. Rollo, member-elect for West Hamilton, president of the Ontario Labor Party, of the elected and defeated candidates at October 20 polls, and the Provincial Labor Party Executive Committee, would result whether the United Farmers of Ontario and Labor would form Ontario's next Government. And this is just what happened. Unanimously the assembly appointed Mr. Rollo and Mayor McBride, Brantford, member-elect for North Brant, a committee to confer with the Farmers' committee of nine to meet in Toronto on Tuesday, October 28, to draft a programme of legislative action agreeable to the United Farmers of Ontario and the Independent Labor Party. The following committee of Farmers, addressed the conference, exhorting the Labor group to appoint a committee: Peter Smith, North Perth; the Rev. Mr. Watson, North Victoria; R. H. Grant, Carleton; all members-elect, and John H. Gleadall, prominent in U.F.O. circles.

The following were present at the conference: Members-elect Walter R. Rollo, Controller G. G. Halcrow, Hamilton; Thomas Toome, Peterboro; J. Swazie, Niagara Falls; Reeve J. B. Johnston, East Simcoe; Karl Holmuth, Waterloo; Mayor McBride, Brantford; Harry Mills, Fort William; Reeve W. A. Crockett, South Wentworth; F. C. Biggs, North Wentworth; Frank Greenlaw, St. Catharines. Ontario Labor Party executive secretary, Joseph T. Marks, Toronto; treasurer, Roy Hughes, Toronto; Dr. Hett, Kitchener; Miss Mary McNab, Hamilton; W. Stephenson, Toronto; J. T. Thompson, London; James Simpson, Toronto; defeated U.F.O.-I.L.P. candidate, and Peter McArthur, Peterboro; George C. Hahmel, Waterloo; David Graves and Walter A. Clark, Brantford, and J. Forester, St. Catharines, were also in attendance. Only the elected and defeated and provincial executive board members had voting privileges during the conference.

The following statement was handed to the press at the close of the conference: "The meeting of elected and defeated candidates of the I. L. P. and U. F. O. and Ontario Labor Party executive decided to co-operate with the United Farmers of Ontario in the formation of Government in the Provincial Legislature and to that end it was decided to appoint two elected I. L. P. members, Mayor McBride, Brantford, and Walter R. Rollo, Hamilton, to confer with a committee of nine appointed by the U.F.O.

"The object of the conference is to draft a programme of legislative action agreeable to the I.L.P. and U.F.O. The programme agreed upon by the joint conference to be submitted to the elected and defeated candidates of the I.L.P. and U.F.O. groups in Toronto on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock for their endorsation, after which the programme will be submitted to a joint meeting of elected I.L.P. and U.F.O. members in the headquarters of the U.F.O., 130 East King street, on Wednesday afternoon, October 29, at 2 o'clock.

The conference waived action in determining the first leader of the Labor group in the Ontario Legislature. But it is generally expected that Walter Rollo will be the man. That appeared to be the consensus of gossip among the bulk of those assembled at the "get-together."

Thus the prospects of Hartley Dewart, K.C., Liberal leader, becoming Premier of Ontario are shattered into smithereens. And from what also the Canadian Labor Press correspondent could gather, Sir Adam Beck's chances of being Premier are very remote.