

Spring Footwear

The policy of this store is to conduct its business so that the **CUT RATE SHOE STORE** will continue to be a recognized institution. We claim to sell spring footwear for every member of the family, at Cut Rate Prices. This week we are offering special prices to out-of-town visitors. Why not take advantage of this.

MEN'S SHOES	LADIES' SHOES	CHILD N'S SHOES
At \$3.98, \$4.95, \$6.50 and \$7.95	At \$4.45, \$4.95 and \$5.50 Special Prices on Strap Slippers	We have seven tables with Shoes. Special every one. Carry children's Shoes.

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Seven and one-half miles an hour was the dizzy speed attained by the winning machine in the first automobile race.

LABOR ACTIVITIES OF THE DOMINION

Unemployment is General Throughout Canada, But Situation Improving

According to the most recent issue at hand of "The Labor Gazette" (March) unemployment is reported as found in all cities and towns of the Dominion except Halifax. This was for the month of February. Mild weather aided outdoor employment an decreased demand for coal miners. Railroads were able to handle almost summer tonnage resulting in reduction of train crews. Loggers were fairly busy. In metals, machinery and conveyance group there was a decided improvement. In flour mills, packing plants and abattoirs employment varied. Sugar refineries were actively engaged. Textile group was inclined to quietness with slight demand for skilled help. Ready made clothing and white-wear slight demand for skilled workers; reduction of employment in pulp mills, while woodworking employment was good on the east and west coast. Chemical and drug plants were actively engaged, also paint factories. Steam railways active in transporting returned soldiers but freight crews were lessened. Street railway generally had a good month. Longshore work was quiet. In mining silver mines worked steadily with speeding up in the gold camps. In coal industry unemployment reported from all areas, some mines shutting down and others running half time. Marked activity in the lumber industry. Halifax was the only city to report activity in the building trades. The value of building permits in thirty-five cities increased from \$1,096,974 to \$1,863,462 over the previous month.

Since this report conditions have been improving generally and it is stated that within a few months there will be practically no unemployment in the country.

In 1896 Barnum & Bailey announced that they would exhibit throughout the country a "horseless vehicle."

WAR SAVINGS STAMPS. WHY?

(By Dr. W. H. Alexander)
Chairman of the National W.S.S. Committee for Northern Alberta.

At all post offices, banks, railway offices and in most stores you will find on sale Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps. Thrift Stamps are of the denomination of 25 cents; when purchased, they are pasted on a card until sixteen of them have been accumulated. The full card may then be exchanged for a War Savings Stamp of the face value of five dollars payable in 1924. Thrift Stamps may conveniently be given and taken in change, and it is hoped that this will become a common custom. They are also an excellent way of investing the savings of the little people who soon develop a keen interest in the filling up of their card. The War Savings Stamps are of the denomination of five dollars, and are now in this month of March purchasable at \$4.02. Ten of these on a War Savings Certificate with a total cost of \$40.20 are to all intents and purposes a Dominion of Canada fifty dollar bond. Thrift Stamps for the little amounts converted into War Savings Stamps as the little amounts accumulate, constitute the beginning of a very convenient and secure investment.

There is thus every inducement for the individual's selfish interest in these Stamps, but that is only one side of the appeal. It has become necessary for our nation to finance itself largely; the good old days of running over to Europe to float loans have passed away and will not likely return. We must supply the sinews for our own industrial life. One of the best conceivable ways is by a general and united effort in economy, and the War Savings Stamps and the Thrift Stamps are intended to facilitate that effort.

Then again these Stamps are going to be a stabilizing element in the nation, and that is good in these days when we are a little too prone to shake things up just for the fun of seeing what will happen. Every investor in the Stamps is vitally concerned in the preservation of the integrity and efficiency of the nation in the finances of which he is directly interested as a bondholder; he will think carefully before committing himself to schemes or theories which may completely upset the national credit. This is no reflection upon progress and reform whatever; it is merely a suggestion that a large number of citizens with a direct financial interest in the welfare of the state constitutes a sober and reflective factor in our political life.

Then again in purchasing Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps we are carrying on according to our opportunity the work which our boys began so bravely under battle conditions overseas. They never failed in the most critical moments but pressed all their undertakings to success, and by their achievements they have won not only the world's admiration but our gratitude. How is that gratitude to be shown? Well, by doing everything possible to give the returned man a chance and something more than a chance; he has taken chances enough already. But this cannot be done without money, and you citizens of Canada are asked to provide that money by turning over your savings to the Government in a way that will enable them to do the right thing by the soldier and at the same time make you a fair return (about 5%) on your money.

There has been a failure to understand these Stamps here in Northern Alberta. Some people seem to think it is another "drive" directed towards some charitable object, and that the only dividends they will obtain will be in terms of moral satisfaction. Nothing of the sort. Thrift Stamps and W.S.S. are cash, and cash that is earning interest too. You are helping your country to be sure, but you are doing a good thing for yourself too. Think it over, or better yet, look into it. W.S.S. are also an excellent form of investment for the surplus funds of clubs and societies; these funds at the present time are often lying idle, doing no work and receiving no return. As time passes this will less and less be the case, because the new form of investment is going to be understood and appreciated.

CONFERENCE MAY PROVE OF VALUE

(Continued from Page 1)

be leveled at any organization.

Deserve Credit
Those who organize with the object of pressing their views deserve credit; it is not well, however, to overlook the most important factor of all—the opinion of the silent member—because, unless the conclusions reflect the inherent or potential opinions of the mass, a reaction will be inevitable. I would not suggest that those holding executive positions should be mere automatons registering the somewhat hazy opinions of the mass. Our individuality must be preserved if we are to make progress.

Changes Indicated
Although it overlooked many of the essential factors, the conference could not be considered a waste of time and energy. On the contrary, I believe it had a value. It at least indicated the changing opinion of organized labor, and unless entirely repudiated by the membership (which I trust it will not be) will serve a purpose.

Objectionable Features
When the report of the conference is carefully analyzed it contains many objectionable features which ought to be

rejected. It is unfortunate that what developed to be the main issue—the consideration of the adequacy of our labor organizations to meet the changing economic conditions, and that the result of that discussion which will be submitted to a referendum vote—has so many undesirable strings attached to it. The craft unions came in as a wholehearted condemnation and apparently hadn't a friend left. This was ancient criticism; the Socialists have preached that doctrine since the Chartist movement; their antipathy to the union has hampered the development of labor organizations. In their condemnation they forget what the craft union has accomplished for them in the last fifty years. It has been and is the only stable organization we have had, and will not be obsolete until something better replaces it. The Marxian Socialists of Great Britain and Canada were, until the Russian revolution, anti-trade unionists. Many were compelled to be members, others became members by choice; but generally inactive members, urging all and sundry not to cling to the false hope that the union would bring about the economic emancipation, but that the hope of the mass lay in the capturing the state and transferring the means of production and distribution to the common ownership by the mass becoming class conscious and marching up to the ballot box on election day and electing men who stood for them and their platform and principles.

Change of Tactics
Those of us who disagreed with the theory have been the victims of the vituperative attacks of the silver-tongued gentlemen who made a living by expounding the dismal science. But undismayed we kept on organizing and encouraging the growth of the despised union. Within the last two years these men have become alarmed at the futility of their endeavors in the political field, have crept into the union with the intention evidently of adopting new tactics. Thus history repeats itself. In defending the change of attitude towards the union, they state that they always put a broad interpretation on political action, and that by political action they always meant any form of mass action. A glance at the literature issued by the Marxians will give denial to this assertion. If they had accepted this interpretation of political action, then the Marxians, who were members of our unions, would have been more active and those who were outside of our unions would not have remained in this condition until recently. It may be that they made a better living outside as itinerant lecturers; being materialists that is probably the explanation. However, they are now members of our unions; let us be generous in our criticism. They admit their mistake by throwing in their lot with us. Having committed a serious error of judgment in the past, now that they are with us, we must make an effort to guide them, and prevent them from committing any error of judgment in the future.

Not a New Thing
The cry for industrial unionism is not a new thing in Canada. At the Calgary convention in 1911 such a movement was endorsed by a close vote. The delegates to that convention accepted the vote as an expression of opinion. From there the change has been marked, encouraged by the many sympathetic strikes during the last four years. The congress did not undertake propaganda work with a view of precipitating a change in the system of organization as the result of that vote would suggest, because it meant a nationalist movement. And the Canadian membership represented but one-twentieth of the total membership of the international unions. The international unions at that time had shown no evidence that they desired a change and a vote then would have meant a complete separation if carried. We were all internationalists and realized that the change, if it was to be successful, would have to include the whole of North America.

Educational Campaign
I am still of the same opinion. We cannot isolate ourselves as suggested by the Calgary conference and expect to get anywhere. But we can initiate a far more aggressive educational campaign with the view to having a universal vote on the question, as our neighbors in the south are in a frame of mind to experiment. The natural tendency has been to consolidate our forces. In the last few years a great many industrial organizations have been formed, and I have always regarded organizations by industry as the logical development of the trade union movement. Western Canada has always been partial to this form of organization, mainly for another reason which will play an important part in deciding the referendum.

Misunderstanding Exists
The international executives have never really understood western conditions. They have been out of harmony for years. They have been arbitrary. The administration has been like an Imperialism rather than an Internationalism. It is impossible for me to analyze in detail in this short article the various elements which have helped to bring the labor movement in the west to this critical stage. But we have reached a stage in our history, when those who have the interests of the mass at heart should think and act.

Echo From Russia
The referendum vote which will be submitted on the "One Big Union" is an echo from Russia, and incidentally with a Bolshevik motive. But we must remember when trying to apply the same remedies to our social ills that the Bolshevik did not capture the state by virtue of the industrial organizations. The Bolsheviks fell heir to it and the unions being practically the only organizations that were organized in the revolution, was easily adjusted in the

effort to establish an industrial democracy. If we can judge Russia by the literature of her great authors the materialist philosophy of the Bolshevik cannot find a permanent place in the life of the simple romantic Slav. The Soviet form of administration, if we can judge by the reports, bids fair to become a permanent institution and is worthy of our consideration.

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