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TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS

One of the most Successful in the History of Labor—President Flett's Address

The twentieth annual session of the Trades and Labor Congress will be but history when you read this; nevertheless, it will be history for the advancement of the labor movement.

The Toronto deputation left on Saturday night, and proceeded on their way with song and story and refreshments to enliven the trip.

These delegates from the West who accepted the invitation of "the Indians" will not forget their trip for many days. Everything which the heart could desire was placed at their disposal, and the fun was kept going the whole night through.

Upon arrival at Montreal, the delegates were met by the Reception Committee and a brass band, and marched to the hotel.

Sunday was spent by the Toronto boys in seeing the sights of the city. One sight there was which made the Hamilton delegation rather envious. Montreal has a mountain which eclipses the Ambitious City's hill by many yards.

The boys at home and the boys abroad are two quite different propositions, and while I am at it, it might also be said that Montreal and Toronto are two very different propositions, so far as Sunday amusements are concerned. It would, no doubt, horrify Toronto good citizens to know that a ball game was being played in their precincts.

The Congress opened on Monday morning, with the usual ceremonies of welcome upon the part of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council and Mayor Laport, replied to by President Flett.

The Delegates.

The delegates from the various councils and local unions are as follows:—

John H. Richard, American Federation of Labor; J. H. Kressler, Berlin; E. Quirnbach, Berlin; Fred Eastman, Brantford; Archie Hickman, Joe Blanchard, Grand Mere; W. G. Seiffert, Galt; Wm. Berry, Thomas Monogue, H. Obermeyer, Hamilton; G. J. Meaden, London; A. Verville, J. F. O'Callaghan, J. C. E. Tardif, Montreal; P. M. Draper, E. Empey, Jos. Hurtubise, Ottawa; Frank Pettielere, J. H. Poitras, E. L'Heureux, Quebec and Levis; G. A. Laubert, Sarnia; Jas. A. Wiley, St. Catharines; E. J. Neve, H. Goldsworthy, P. C. Sharkey, St. John, N.B.; F. J. Todd, Stratford; Jas. Wilson, John Tweed, D. W. Kennedy, Toronto; D. Mitchell, Windsor; Richard Western, Winnipeg; J. B. Mack, Montreal United Hat and Cap Workers' Union; E. Kavanagh, Louis Guerard, Montreal Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters; J. A. Dupuis, T. Fisher, E. Pelletier, Montreal Painters and Decorators; J. J. A. Murphy, Montreal Wholesale Cutters and Trimmers; J. F. Barbeau, Montreal Boot and Shoe Workers, No. 266; Arthur Sauvage, Montreal Journeymen Tailors; B. Rose, United Garment Workers, No. 134; Alfred Ethier, Ship Liners' Union, No. 413; Fred Robert, Patrick Evanzel, S. Mathieu, A. R. Mitchell, Montreal Iron Moulders Union, No. 21; Alfred Lacoste, Montreal Boot and Shoe Workers, No. 281; J. J. A. Murphy, C. S. O. Woodworth, Ottawa Typo. Union, No. 102; Geo. Levesque, J. O. Dugal, Quebec Carpenters and Joiners; J. E. Cob, Quebec Typo. Union, No. 302; D. J. Finch, Sarnia Painters and Decorators, No. 422; Jas. P. Guillen, St. Johns, P.Q. Carpenters and Joiners; Adelard Dionne, St. Johns, C.Q., Building Laborers' Protective Union; C. H. Stephens, St. John, N.B., Cigarmakers', No. 349; D. C. Marsh, Toronto Gilders' Protective Union; R. Haberstock, D. Henderson, Wm. V. Tobin, Toronto Cigarmakers, Frank Begley, Chatham, Maintenance of Ways Employes; Fred Haugh, Thos. O'Dowd, Hamilton Cigarmakers; John Flett, Hamilton Carpenters and Joiners; E. W. A. O'Dell, Hamilton Boot and Shoe Workers; Hugh Robinson, Hamilton Customs Tailors; S. Landers, Hamilton United Garment Workers; Walter Rolls, Hamilton, Ont., Brush and Broom makers; Louis Charbonneau, Montreal Bakers and Confectioners, No. 55; P. A. Boudreau, Montreal Printing Pressmen's Union; F. Payette, Emile Fontaine, Montreal Boot and Shoe Workers, No. 249; O. Proulx, Art. Lamothe, Ed. Berthiaume, J. N. Chaput, J. E. Bayard, N. Arcand, L. Lefebvre, Jos. Paquet, Montreal Carpenters and Joiners, No. 134; John Long, Montreal Carpenters and Joiners, No. 1244; L. N. Page, Montreal Journeymen Barbers; Wm. C. Morris, Montreal Ceramic, Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Layers; T. Bertrand, Montreal Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers; T. Mercier, A. Gariepy, Montreal Cigarmakers, No. 58; John Ryan, Telephone Robert, Lodger Lemerance, Montreal Longshoremen; J. A. Rollier, Gustave Francq, Montreal, Jacques Cartier Typo. Union; A. Hill, Montreal Association of Machinists, Mount Royal Lodge; J. Lee, Toronto Piano and Organ Workers, No. 34; D. A. Carey, Toronto Musical Protective Association; Wm. Ward, Toronto Piano and Organ Workers, No. 34; Wm. J. McKeown, Toronto Bartenders' International; Geo. Sangster, Toronto Journeyman Tailors; Chas. Lavoie, Toronto Tobacco Workers; J. H. Kennedy, Toronto Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers; Jas. Simpson, John Chinn, Toronto Typo. Union, No. 91; Wm. Glockling, Robt. Glockling, Toronto Bookbinders; J. H. Barnett, N. H. Annabel, Toronto Iron Moulders, No. 28; J. H. Pickles, James McDonald, M. Sinclair, W. T. Thompson, John W. Griffin, Toronto Street Railway Employes, Division No. 113; J. McFayden, W. A. Stewart, Toronto Boot and Shoe Workers, No. 233; D. T. Monigomery, A. H. Champion, Toronto Association of Machinists; A. W. Puttee, Winnipeg Typo. Union, No. 191; F. J. York, Windsor Typo. Union, No. 556; Pierre Drolet, Montreal Electrotypers; Edw. R. Fordham, Montreal Glassworkers; Adam Anderson, Montreal Carpenters; M. Keegan, Montreal Theatrical Stage Employes.

The session will continue all week, morning and evening until Saturday. Wednesday afternoon will be devoted to the entertainment of delegates, a trolley ride and a trip down the rapids at Lachine being provided by the city.

After the Credential Committee's report had seated the foregoing delegates, the Executive Committee presented a report dealing with the question of having a permanent solicitor in the person of Mr. J. G. O'Donoghue, and stating that owing to changed conditions they had had Mr. O'Donoghue engaged for the last session. It also recommended that the report of Solicitor O'Donoghue be considered in executive session.

The President named the following committees:—

Committee on Standing Orders and Resolutions—C. S. Boudreau, A. W. Puttee, Alex. Mitchell, J. K. Pickles, Hugh Robinson, J. H. Poitras, Fred. Eastman, E. Quirenbach, Jos. McQuillan, E. Berthiaume, John Chinn, E. J. Neve.

Committee on President's Address—James Wilson, J. A. Rodier, E. Empey, J. A. Wiley, Wm. Heatley, James Smith, A. Mathieu, F. J. Todd, Geo. A. Laubert, Frank Pettielere, J. H. Bennett, Fred Hough.

Ways and Means—E. W. O'Dell, John O'Callaghan, D. A. Carey, D. Mitchell, Jos. Hurtubise, L. Guerard, Wm. Glockling, H. Obermeyer, H. Goldsworthy, Jas. McDonald, J. A. Dupuis, Geo. Levesque.

Committee on Audit—Robt. Glockling, P. A. Beaudreau, S. L. Landers, L. Mathieu, Wm. J. Seyffert, H. Albert, H. H. Cairns, D. W. Kennedy, J. H. Kressler, A. Gariepy, Chas. Meadows, Arch. Hickman.

Committee on Law—John Tweed, Thos. O'Dowd, U. A. Arcand, Geo. Sangster and Gustave Francq.

Upon the opening of the afternoon session of Monday, President Flett presented the following report:—

President's Report.

To the Officers and Delegates to the Twentieth Annual Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada:

Fellow Delegates.—It is a pleasure as well as a privilege, to again greet and welcome you fraternally to this large and most representative gathering of the working people of our country, to take part in its deliberations and wrestle with those problems fraught with such consequences to our movement, the real advancement of the condition of those who toil for a livelihood, and upon whom depend the prosperity and contentment of the nation. It is your duty to devise ways and means to accomplish this much desired end, and from the experiences of the past, recommend such measures as in your best judgment will form a progressive policy upon which all branches of organized labor can unite.

Legislative.

The last session of the Federal Parliament can be truthfully said to have devoted the major portion of its time to the interests of corporations. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway again occupied the attention of that body. Not satisfied with their agreement, they demanded further concessions, and got them, despite a resolution introduced by the Opposition, that the Government of this country should build and control the road in the interest of the people—a direct move along the lines of direct ownership, and which I regret to say received the usual party vote—some of the alleged reformers and friends of labor, voting against the measure, so wedded to their idol of party that hitherto professed principles were thrown to the winds in their anxiety to serve their political friends. Hybrid politicians of this type make the election of direct labor representatives very difficult, owing to the misgivings of those who might feel inclined to support our real friends when nominated for representatives.

The Union Label Bill was introduced by Mr. Ralph Smith, in the early part of the session. After it had been introduced a new and extraordinary ruling was given by the Speaker, that a resolution should be passed by the House before the introduction of the bill. This having been complied with, still the bill was not advanced, although the Government promised to set a day for consideration. They failed to keep their word, and the bill never received the consideration due it, although sought for by a most important part of the community.

Another important measure in the interest of the common people was introduced by Sir William Mulock, the Minister of Labor—a bill to consolidate and amend the Act respecting Alien Labor. One of the provisions in this Act dealt with the importation of aliens on false representation, and was intended to apply to cases such as the Italians brought to Montreal by Labor Agent Antonio Cordasco, and other like frauds perpetrated upon immigrants by the emissaries and agents of the Manufacturers' and Employers' Associations, which have become notorious of late. The means employed by these parties were fraudulent and cruel in the extreme. The exigencies of the case, in this particular at least, demanded a law that would bring swift and condign punishment down on the offenders. This bill was not brought down until late in the session, and met its death at the hands of the Senate.

I think it but common justice, however, to state that I am convinced of the sincerity of purpose of Sir William Mulock in this matter, and his sympathy with labor in his work as Minister of Labor. One swallow does not make a summer, neither does one Minister constitute a Government. We have received assurances from some of these gentlemen that they have been totally ignorant of the conditions and character of our men in public life.

The toilers of our country have a right to expect that their interests should receive some attention at the hands of our legislators, yet it must be said that so far as labor was concerned, the last session was barren of results.

The Government has declared that the fair wage clause does not apply to those industries bonused or assisted by them. The manufacturing interests are protected by an increase in the tariff, while labor is placed upon the free list; not only so, but a bonus or bounty is offered of seven shillings per head by the Government for labor to come to this country to compete against working people here—a condition of affairs that is not calculated to inspire confidence in a policy that protects the few, while the many are taxed high and have to enter in the struggle against the low-priced labor from continental Europe.

In the House of Commons at Ottawa this session Mr. W. F. Maclean, member for East York, proposed some exceedingly important legislation.

1. To bring express companies under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission, that their regulations regarding carriage of goods and rates may be modified in the public interest when necessary.

2. To deprive the Chairman of the Railway Commission of his right to overrule the opinion of his two colleagues on questions involving points of law.

3. To give independent telephone companies access to all railway stations on payment of the actual damage sustained in consequence of their entry upon the railway company's premises.

4. To apply the Michigan law of graded passenger rates to Canadian railways.

In other words, he wanted a law placed upon the statute books giving the people power to prohibit express companies charging exorbitant rates for carrying goods.

He wanted to take from Hon. A. G. Blair the power he now has of giving three votes to the Railway Commission as against one vote allowed each of the other commissioners.

He wanted to compel railway companies to allow independent telephone companies to place telephones in railway stations by paying reasonable charges.

He wanted to compel railway companies to charge Canadian people the same rate to travel as they do on railways charge people from the United States.

Yet every one of these propositions was voted down by large majorities in the House of Commons.

I desire to again repeat here what was stated in my address to the Congress last year, and it comes with renewed emphasis, "The necessity of having more labor representatives in the House of Commons was never more manifest than during the present session." I would, therefore, urge upon the trades unionists and the friends of labor everywhere to call meetings and support by their votes such candidates as will pledge themselves to support our interests in the House of Commons and the Provincial Legislatures, and that the Congress map out a plan of campaign that will be of material assistance in bringing about the exercise of greater influence in Canadian politics.

The success of our fellow-unionists in New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain and Ireland, should stimulate us to renewed efforts to bring about a thoroughly representative group of labor in the House. If our friends would only do this for one election the success would be assured.

This convention should make some provision for keeping the members of our unions informed as to the attitude

(Continued on page 4)

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GRAEME-HUNTER EXPOSED

Those Who Know Him Best Tell of His Dirty Work in the Old Land

Mr. Thos. Wilson, secretary of the Edinburgh, Leith and District United Trades and Labor Council, writes to Secretary Kennedy, of the Toronto Council, as follows:

Your communications on the emigration from here to Canada have been placed before this council. The publicity given to them in the press has had the effect of deterring some from joining the hundreds who have recently left here for Canada. You offer to forward monthly reports; if these be original, we have no doubt they would be published here in the press as news items. The same publicity would not, however, be given to news contained in Canadian newspapers. It is apparent that there is need for reliable information, as Canada is being boomed here for all that it is worth. Literature of a highly colored character is being scattered broadcast, and it is not surprising that, as the number of unemployed here is abnormally large, and prospects far from bright, there are large numbers easily tempted to try their luck in another country. In all our papers our shipping agents are daily advertising reduced rates to the United States and Canada, and it is more than probable that during the coming winter free lectures will be again given, extolling the advantages of Canada. Since the publicity given to your letters, I have had numerous enquiries made by prospective emigrants, and some of them at least have resolved to stay at home.

I enclose copy of letter from the Tailors' secretary here about Graeme Hunter. He has stated the case very moderately; much more might have been said without being guilty of exaggeration. I am unaware of Graeme Hunter ever being engaged in clean work, and the very fact of him being engaged in the Canadian business should be sufficient to convince Scotch trades unionists that crooked methods have to be adopted. We trust to again hear from you soon.

Letter from secretary of Tailors' Union, Edinburgh, to convener of Edinburgh Trades Council Local Committee:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th inst. in which you ask for information regarding Graeme Hunter. Perhaps a short history of his connection with our dispute will serve your purpose best. As you are aware, he was engaged by the Edinburgh employers to find men to take the places of those on strike. He rented large premises in Register street, where the sleeping accommodation and workshops were in one building. His method of obtaining men was to advertise in the Glasgow papers asking tailors desiring employment to meet him or his agent at a hotel. They were kept till it was time to travel to Edinburgh by the last train at night. On their arrival here they were driven in cabs to the above mentioned premises. How they were treated the following will show. Several of our members visited the place for the purpose of obtaining information. On their arrival they were met by Graeme Hunter and asked if they wished employment. On their replying in the affirmative, they were handed a pair of slippers and told to take off their boots, which were locked up. A liberal dose of whiskey was then served out, after which they went to bed. In the morning, on awakening, they received another liberal supply of whiskey, and work for the day was supposed to commence. At this stage our members left, but their experience is a safe indication of the manner in which the place was conducted. I myself have been present at Glasgow and Edinburgh stations on the departure and arrival of these men, and can testify to their demoralized appearance. Indeed, the fact that they travelled only during the night is sufficient evidence that Graeme Hunter was afraid to let them be seen in daylight. There are dozens of thoroughly respectable people in Edinburgh who can testify, and, if necessary, prove, that during the whole time these men were employed by Graeme Hunter, a large proportion were continually in a state of drunkenness. As may be readily imagined, an attempt such as this to fill the places of our members was a complete failure, and some three or four months before the close of the dispute the employers dispensed with his services.

The foregoing statement of facts serves to show the utterly unscrupulous methods adopted by Graeme Hunter in carrying on his work. It must be remembered that his employes, in this instance, were almost entirely drawn from a class of which there are only too many in our large towns—men who, from whatever cause, have fallen in the social scale, and are unable to extricate themselves, and it goes without saying that such treatment as the above could only have one result—greater demoralization than ever. There is, at any rate in my opinion, something diabolical in the nature of the individual, who, to further his own ends, thus deliberately trades upon the misfortune and weakness of his fellows, and I welcome this opportunity of exposing him to our Canadian friends. I am, yours faithfully,

David Wilson, Secretary.

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Soon the voice of the politicians will be heard in the land; we will hear how prosperous we are, and all babies will kiss alike to them.

Will somebody advise us, for record in the halls of fame, "lest we forget," the name of the proposer of the tax on bachelors. It was thought the highest development of political idiocy had been reached when an American senator brought in a bill to provide the legal number of prunes required in a boarding house pie. The fool-killer's services are required at Ottawa.

I have been assured that a young healthy child, well nursed, is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked or broiled. I grant this food will be somewhat dear, and therefore very proper for landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children.—Dean Swift, "A Modest Proposal" (1729).

TRADES COUNCIL

Spends Another Night Discussing the Fight of the Butchers Against Mr. Flavelle and the Evening News.

The District Trades Council held its regular weekly meeting on Thursday evening, September 15th, in Richmond hall.

The Council decided to forward a letter to the Manufacturers' Association meeting at Montreal. The draft letter was presented by Mr. Douglass and dealt with the position of the workers in their inability to secure their share of what they produce. The communication deals with the inequality of taxation and the practicable impossibility of those who build the houses ever owning them. The Council expresses a desire to meet a committee of the manufacturers to discuss and reason out the present unjust condition of things in the economic field. The letter also deplores the unreasonable attitude of the manufacturers in their opposition to the organization of workingmen, formed to better their condition.

The executive report contained a recommendation endorsing compulsory arbitration in preference to war and instructed its delegates to Montreal to introduce the same at the congress.

The butchers' boycott upon the News will be considered by a special committee. Letters from Glasgow, Scotland, saying that the information furnished by the Council had had the effect of stopping members from coming here under false pretenses. It included the process by which Graeme Hunter operated, showing that he would stoop to any dirty methods in order to accomplish his ends and put a few dollars in his pocket.

The Woodworkers's section asked in their report that the delegates to the Congress seek to have the Government carry out its promises and label all prison made goods. The present contract expires in December and the Government promised to label the products at the expiration of the present contract.

The dispute between the Council and the Butchers on one side and the Typos on the other was referred to a special committee after another lengthy debate.

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K. J. DUNSTAN,
Local Manager.

Toronto, Sept. 15th, 1904.