

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER 'P.R.'

Mr. Ronald Hooper and Other Experts to Explain System to Committee.

OTTAWA.—Proportional representation will be studied by a special Parliamentary Committee of the House of Commons at an early date, with the view to ascertaining the applicability of this system of voting to Federal elections. The committee, which met last week under the chairmanship of Hon. J. A. Caldwell, Minister of Immigration and Colonization, endorsed the suggestion of A. R. McMaster, Brome, that all the members of the House be invited to attend a model election to be staged by the local proportional representation society. This would permit the members to gain an insight into the practical working of the system. J. A. Secomb, Peterborough, East, suggested that a political map of Ontario, indicating the present boundaries of ridings, be studied and compared to the boundaries which would obtain under proportional representation. Levi Thomson, Qu'Appelle, advocated a particular study of the electorate as regards its urban and rural proportions. Ronald Hooper, Ottawa, who directed the recent Winnipeg vote under proportional representation, will be called to explain the principle to the committee. There will also be called an expert to testify against the system. In addition to these experts from Winnipeg and Vancouver, when the system has been tried out, will be asked to attend to tell of their personal experiences in municipal elections.

GIGANTIC PLANS LAID BY 'OPEN-SHOPPERS' IN U.S.

Bureau of Industrial Research Has Made a Survey of the Drive Now Going On.

NEW YORK, New York.—Who is behind the open shop drive in the United States, and where is it going? The Bureau of Industrial Research is publishing a pamphlet on this subject. It discusses the history, sponsors and activities of the movement, considers whether the movement is being promoted by strongly centralized organizations or whether it has arisen spontaneously in many localities; describes the open shop associations like the Associated Industrialists of Seattle, Washington, of Montana and of Paterson, New Jersey. Employers Association of Louisville, Kentucky, and others. It shows what these associations mean by "the American plan," "square deal for all," "Americanism, freedom, prosperity," "product of an open shop," "American plan of employment," etc. And it gives a table showing the geographical extension of the campaign and explains its relations with the private detective agencies whose activities in industry Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has just denounced. In the first chapter of the report the question: "What is the open shop?" is answered in part as follows: "Never before has America seen an open shop drive on a scale so vast as that which characterizes the drive now sweeping the country. Never before has an open shop drive been so heavily financed, so efficiently organized, so skilfully generalised. The present drive flies all the flags of patriotic war-time propaganda. It advances in the

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name of democracy, freedom, human rights, Americanism. "On January 21, 1921, a national conference of state manufacturers' associations was held in Chicago. One of the principal objects of this conference was to forward a national open shop drive. The following letter appears in the proceedings of this convention: "The factory of which I am the head has no difficulties in relation to labor. We have signs in every department reading as follows: "This is an American shop, run on an American plan by Americans."

"As soon as a person reads this sign he knows at once where he stands on the subject of bargaining, closed shop, industrial democracy, and all of the other hot-air topics. "The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has issued a statement in which it is declared that the relations between employers and workers throughout the United States are seriously affected at this moment by a campaign which is being conducted for the open shop policy—the so-called 'American plan.' And the answer is: "These terms are now being frequently used to designate establishments that are definitely anti-union. Obviously, a system of this kind is not an open shop, but a closed shop—closed against members of labor unions."

"By way of completing this brief definition of the open shop, we turn to a manufacturer, Ernest G. Draper, president of the American Crockery Company. In a letter to the Weekly Review, Mr. Draper himself puts the question, What does the campaign for the open shop really signify? And he answers: "We shall continue to think that a break-up of trade unionism would set back the hands of the industrial clock a century, and lead to a procession of evil conditions, such as long hours, unfair wages, child labor, and the like, which we thought had been cured once and for all. This is a free country, however, and our opinions are not sacrosanct just because they are our own. But do not let us permit any man or any group of men to cloud the issue. If there is to be a fight, let it be a fair fight with fair weapons. Otherwise it is an underhand, dirty fight, vicious to the last degree, and ultimately bound to result with disastrous effects upon all employers, whether they are responsible for it or not."

175 HOUSES WILL BE BUILT IN WINNIPEG THIS YEAR.

WINNIPEG.—Approximately 175 new houses will be built in Winnipeg this year, according to estimates of the housing commission and the city building inspector. The housing commission has granted loans for 24 houses amounting to \$102,100, and 30 applications have been received for loans aggregating \$114,000. If the applications are approved the commission will have on hand \$341,344 which is sufficient to build 31 houses at an average cost of \$2,730.

APPEALS FOR HAMMOND DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

OTTAWA.—Local Union No. 412, International Association of Machineists, has sent to the editor of the Canadian Labor Press an appeal from the Hammond Defence Fund Committee. Photographs of four members of organized labor, who were shot in the back during a recent industrial dispute at Hammond, are enclosed.

If any of our readers are interested, we will supply them with the necessary information.

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INDIVIDUAL BARGAINING "WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING"

Individual bargaining has "been weighed and found wanting."

For centuries employers dealt with workers as individuals, while organizations of laborers were declared conspiracies and treated as such by the state.

During all this period, down to but a comparatively few years ago, the power of these employers to apply their individual bargaining theory was unchallenged.

Who is responsible for the change? Why have 5,000,000 wage earners rejected the "free and independent" status favored by employers?

At one time these employers had individual bargaining in their plants. They alone set wages and hours. They dictated working conditions. They were as complete masters of their employees as is Garyism in the steel trust's mills.

If this was an ideal condition, what changed it? Could a few "agitators" or labor "leaders" overthrow a system supported by the state and every other power at the command of the master?

Or did the system collapse because it rested on greed? The history of production and distribution in every country convicts the individual-bargaining employer. He had a free hand in dealing with "free and independent" workers and these employees were driven into unions like wild horses on the prairies, who are forced to form a circle, with heads in and heels out, to protect themselves from the wolves.

When wage earners had no voice in working conditions they were ground down as are the steel trust's 11 and 13-hour serfs in 1921.

If individual bargaining means justice to the workers, why must it be protected by spies, gunmen and the injunction judge? Why does it succumb to trade unionism when workers are permitted free choice?

Workers unite because of necessity. They unite when they find that fairy tales, broken promises, injustice and deceit are poor substitutes for economic need.

The employer who talks of individual bargaining has had his day in court. He had individual bargaining and his employees were compelled to organize.

He feudalized his employees once; now he wants to feudalize them again.

Does he imagine that workers forget when he talks of the "glories" of individual bargaining? "A burnt child dreads the fire."

Trades and Labor Councils

BROCKVILLE.—The Trustees of Brockville commenced their organization Friday night with a view to placing a candidate in the by-election in the Federal riding of Leeds and Brockville, made vacant by the resignation of Sir Thomas White. An election committee was formed by the Trades and Labor Council to bring about the organization of a branch of the Independent Labor party. Prominent Labor men state that it is most likely that a candidate will be entered to represent organized bodies in Brockville and Gananoque, where Labor is strong in the riding. The necessity of creating a fusion with the farmer party in the riding was also considered at the meeting.

TORONTO.—Because of the attitude adopted by Mr. J. V. Conroy, G. W. V. A. Secretary, toward the unemployment meeting in Massey Hall, under the auspices of the District Trades and Labor Council, that body, at its last meeting, decided to

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red to" read the resolution. "We recommend the action of the G.A.T.V. in their willingness to co-operate with organized Labor from time to time, and recommend that trades unionists, who are returned soldiers, support this organization in its endeavors to assist the workers to realize their hopes for a better social and economic order."

William Covert, Business Agent of the Moving Picture Operators' Union, was given the credentials of the Council to the American Federation of Labor convention in Denver, Colorado, in June.

Hon. Walter Rolfe informed the council he would appoint a woman to fill the position vacated by Miss Carlyle, Factory Inspector, as soon as a suitable person could be found.

The council appointed A. W. Masse to represent it on the Budget Committee of the Federation for Community Service.

James Scott, James Stephenson and John Doggett were named delegates from the council to a meeting of the Labor Representative Committee on April 22 to select candidates for Federal constituencies.

The council, upon the request of letter-carriers, endorsed the letter-carriers' strike against a bonus reduction. Officials of the congress will be notified of the attitude of the council.

HAMILTON STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES RENEW PRESENT AGREEMENT.

HAMILTON.—Everything is settled between the Hamilton Street Railway Company and street railway employees, and last year's wage scale will hold good for 1921. A clause, however, has been inserted in the agreement which affords opportunity for either side to ask for a change by giving 30 days' notice. Both sides have signed up and as obtained last year the men will be paid as follows: First six months, 33 cents; second six months, 40 cents; second year, 45 cents; and third year and over, 52 cents per hour.

CITIZENS' LIBERTY LEAGUE FOR MODERATION

- 1—The aims of the League are to secure sane liquor legislation in opposition to prohibition measures.
- 2—It advocates the sale of beer, wines and spirituous liquors BY THE GOVERNMENT.
- 3—It is opposed to a return of the open bar as previously existing in Ontario.
- 4—It advocates a reform of legislation on Sunday observance, insofar as it restrains citizens from innocent recreation and intellectual improvement.
- 5—The League is non-partisan and non-sectarian.
- 6—It opposes the anti-tobacco campaign, which has for its purpose the prohibition of the manufacture, sale and use of tobacco.

MEN'S COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT—Admiral Sir Charles Kingsmill.
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2nd VICE-PRESIDENT—Mr. C. D. R. Street.
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Mrs. Percy Aylin
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Mme. R. de Salaberry
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WOULD ASK U. S. MINERS TO SUPPORT BRITISH STRIKERS

Montreal Trades Council Discusses Question and Finally Refers Matter to Executive.

MONTREAL.—A request from the Plumbers' Union, railway branch, asking the Montreal Trades and Labor Council at its last meeting, to urge the American Federation of Labor to use its influence with the United Mine Workers of America, so as to dissuade its members from mining coal to be used in place of that normally produced by the British miners, now on strike, provoked considerable discussion, and was finally sent to the executive for study, and for action without further report to the Council.

"It was contended by some delegates that labor was international, and that American miners should not 'scab' on their British fellow-workers, while others took the view that the strike was confined to Britain, and that the British miners were not striking against American mine owners.

The Council decided to take no action in the case of J. P. Reid, who was given a three months' jail sentence for the part he played in leading unemployed into restaurants last winter.

An invitation to the Council from the "Workmen's Circle" to take part in the May Day Socialist parade was placed on file.

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