

Labor News From Coast to Coast

Labor Forces an Election

Australian labor has been able to force a federal election in Australia. The actions of the government in the seamen's dispute caused so much condemnation that the labor forces demanded an election. The only issue that the government could go to the country on was an anti-labor issue and this has been their opportunity. Labor, however, is confident that it can win on any issue and is enthusiastically on the job. Labor controls five of the six states.

Strikers' Attitude Is Unchanged

Wellington, New Zealand.—Discussing the abortive conference between representatives of the shipowners and the striking seamen at which he presided, Premier J. G. Coates stated that the attitude of the men was absolutely unalterable. Their principal demands placed before the conference were the immediate release of all imprisoned seamen, strikers to sign new articles for the homeward voyage, to be given "V.G." discharge and their wages to accrue under the existing articles for the time in which they have been unemployed, no fine or other penalty to be imposed upon the seamen in connection with any strike incidents, compensation for all men who were and are imprisoned at the rate of a pound a day, payment in full for board and lodging ashore, and the refunding of all legal expenses incurred in connection with the strike.

The men refused to renew articles of agreement except on the July rates of pay.

Reds Forced Out by Labor Party Policy

London, Eng.—The first fruits of the decision of the recent conference of the British Labor party at Liverpool to exclude communists from membership in the party is seen in one of the municipalities in Northamptonshire where in a municipal election the local Labor party has withdrawn the name of T. Pendred, the nominee of the boot and shoe operatives' union, because Pendred is an avowed communist.

L.P. Asks Closer Contact with Dominions

Liverpool, Eng.—Less than five weeks ago the trades union congress passed a resolution with a majority of three millions, declaring complete opposition to imperialism. The Labor party conference, though it is composed in the main of the same people who were represented at the trades union congress, passed a resolution deciding its policy of imperialism.

It asked for closed personal contact between the British and dominion governments, representation of opposition as well as government opinion at imperial conferences, a survey of empire resources with a view to their scientific development, and state purchase in bulk of dominion produce for British markets.

These resolutions of imperialism, show how the right wing is dominating political labor, though the left wing dominated the trades union congress.

The rally of the Labor party against Communist policies is chiefly due to the personal efforts of Ramsay MacDonald himself who has lashed out in his best style against his enemies.

Home Secretary Joynson-Hicks has publicly given his blessing to the organization which has been formed to prepare against a possible general strike next May when coal subsidy ends. The home secretary also discloses the fact that the government have made their own arrangements to meet a possible crisis.

Trade Unions an Italian Govt. Dept.

Rome, Italy.—All industrial work men compulsory members of one big union, governmentally organized and directed, and all employers necessarily members of a super-corporation under governmental tutelage—this system inaugurated by a pact between the Italian Federation of Industry and the Fascist trades unions was announced recently.

Railway Clerks Join Union

The annual report of the Railway Clerks' Association of Great Britain states that eighty-six more branches have become affiliated to Labor Parties and Trades Councils, representing an increase of 87 per cent and bringing the total number of branches so affiliated to 248.

Steel Plant Busy

Sydney, N. S.—Announcement is made by Harry J. Kelly, general manager of the British Empire Steel Corporation steel plant, that the Sydney plant will be in continuous operation running practically at capacity until February first. There will also be expanded operations at Trenton, Pictou county.

Paid \$150,363 in Mothers' Allowances

A sum of \$150,363 was expended in mothers' allowances during the month of September, 4,194 mothers throughout the Province with 12,850 dependent children in their care participated.

The number of children in each family ranges from two to eleven.

Of the beneficiaries: 3,394 are widows; 521 are wives of incapacitated husbands; 168 are deserted mothers where the period of desertion is five years and upwards; 111 are foster mothers to orphans.

Swiss Trade Union Movement

A report recently issued by the Swiss National Centre points out that the Centre had a membership of 151,502 on December 31st, 1924, as compared with 151,401 at the end of 1923, so that it is evident that the decline in the membership which has been going on since 1920 has now come to a standstill. The number of male members has risen from 135,603 to 138,280, and the number of female members has fallen from 15,798 to 13,272. The income from the Centre during the year was about 8 million francs, and the expenditure over six and a half millions. 617 wage movements were conducted during the year, 67 of these ended in strikes involving 6,714 persons and three in lock-outs. Forty-one per cent of the actions were successful, forty per cent partially successful and thirteen per cent failures.

British Fear Strikes

London, Eng.—Threats of disastrous strikes, Red agitation and general labor unrest have produced within violent reaction amongst a great section of the British public and have led to the rapid formation of an organization similar in many ways to the original Italian Fascist.

It is known as the "O.M.S." or Organization for Maintenance of Supplies, and is backed by a group of noted men, including generals, admirals of the fleet, statesmen and politicians of the Tory stamp who fear the country is approaching a decisive clash between labor and capital.

U.M.W. of A. Postpone Convention

Indianapolis, Ind.—A referendum vote on question of postponing the biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America until January, 1927, has resulted in almost unanimous approval. It was explained at headquarters of the organization that the principal business of the convention would be the formulation of a new wage scale agreement to supplant the one entered into with the operators at Jacksonville, Florida, in 1924, and which expires in 1927. The holding of a convention in 1926, the next regular year, is deemed unnecessary by union officials.

Socialists Turn Down New Italian Accord

Rome.—The General Confederation of Labor, a Socialist organization, recently adopted a resolution refusing to recognize the accord announced between the General Confederation of Industry and the Confederation of Fascist Labor Unions, hailed as the most revolutionary step in the treatment of labor problems in Italy in this generation.

The Socialist labor organization today voted that the accord should not be recognized as affecting its members. It also accepted the resignation of Lodovico D'Azeglio, its general secretary. In his place its appointed a confidential committee of five members to carry on the Confederation's work.

English Building Trades Sees Trouble

London.—Trouble is threatened in the building trade throughout the country over the question of the ratification of the proposed new national agreement governing wages and working conditions in the trade.

The dispute originated when the employers intimated that they were prepared to ratify the agreement if the bricklayers and plasterers' unions would become parties thereto. These unions however have withdrawn from the operatives' federation.

Irish Public Works Contracts to Aliens

Dublin, Ire.—German economic and industrial control seems to be steadily taking the place of British political control in the Irish Free State. The process is one of peaceful penetration. It was aroused, in many quarters, bitter criticism.

Two of the largest industrial enterprises decided upon by Government policy have been entrusted to the keeping of German contractors. The first of these is the Shannon hydro-electric project. The second is the large Barrow drainage scheme. In both schemes, the entire work from the beginning has been in the hands of foreigners. In each case Swiss, Swedish and German engineers were entrusted by the government with the initial investigations.

Cost of Dole Is Heavy

London, Eng.—The Daily Mail, which for some time has been agitating against the payment of doles to unemployed persons as proving a hindrance to emigration from Great Britain to the dominions, asserts that the British taxpayer is paying £190 in doles for every shilling he contributes under the migration agreement with Australia.

It is recalled that Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, premier of Ontario, during his recent visit to Great Britain, referred to the payment of the dole as a hindrance to emigration, and that others have taken a similar view of the situation.

Many of the authorities take pains to advertise convictions for abuses of the dole system although it is doubtful if this acts to any great extent as a deterrent.

Mine Mules Passing

Hazleton, Pa.—Many mules in the Lehigh coal field are likely to find themselves out of jobs when work is resumed at the anthracite mines. While the collieries are idle a number of big operators, with permission of the United Mine Workers, are extending the use of electric power in their slopes, with the result that fewer mules will be needed than heretofore after a settlement is reached with the union.

Italy's Living Costs Steady Increase

Rome.—Cost of living in Italy has been on the increase constantly since 1914 and is still mounting, recently published statistics show. Taking 100 as an index figure in 1914, the cost of living has reached 498.22, including bread, spaghetti, rice, beef, bacon, milk, potatoes and olive oil, shows an average rate compared with the index figure of 432.95 in December 1923; 492.29 in December, 1924, and 498.22 in June, 1925.

Punish Leaders of Postal Strike

Paris, France.—The recent two-hour telephone and telegraph strike was a revolutionary coup d'etat in the opinion of Commerce Minister Chaumet, who declared no Government could tolerate such an act without betraying the nation.

M. Chaumet announced the leaders of the movement would be punished severely. At a Cabinet meeting he told the other members of the Government that such a usurpation of the public authority is intolerable. The entire Cabinet agreed, for, as he explained:

"If the servants of the state, at the bidding of an occult organization, interrupt telegraphic and telephonic communication, they prevent the Government from corresponding with its representative in the provinces and abroad, not to speak of the prejudice to the business interests of the nation."

Jubilee of Belgian Labor Party

Recently the Belgian Labor Party celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding. In the morning of 15th of August the Minister of Education opened an exhibition in the Trade Union Club and later on a memorial tablet was affixed on the house in which the Belgian Labor Party was founded. In the afternoon of the same day there was a procession so arranged as to present the history of the movement.

Vandervelde, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Bertrand, another Cabinet Minister, and Amseel, Minister of Transport, all made speeches; there were also present at the jubilee numerous guests from abroad. L. Jousiaux represented the international trade union movement in his capacity as vice-president of the I.P.T.U.

Want Dole Used to Send Men Overseas

London, Eng.—Over 100 ex-service men from the east end of London, after having visited the Canadian and Australian pavilions at the British Empire Exhibition, passed a resolution urging the British government to spend a portion of the dole for the establishing of unemployed men in positions in the overseas dominions.

Pledged to Wipe Out Child Employment

Atlantic City, N. J.—American Federation of Labor advocates of the national child labor amendment may take a leaf out of the prohibition book in their fight to wipe out employment of children in United States industry.

Vice-President Matthew Woll brought into the convention during the course of a debate on the subject specially arranged, a suggestion that Labor follow the course pursued by the drys when they secured enactment of the Webb-Kenyon law which prohibited shipments of liquor from wet States into dry States.

Woll proposed that labor endeavor to secure enactment of a law to prohibit shipment of child labor products into States which by their own laws prohibit employment of children. He further suggested that labor seek to secure State laws to back up the National law, as was done by the dry states before the national prohibition amendment was ratified.

President William Green pledged the Federation to continue the fight for the child labor amendment until it is ratified.

Will Vote on Labor Law

Phoenix, Ariz.—A special election will be held in the state to amend the state constitution to permit operation of the workmen's compensation act.



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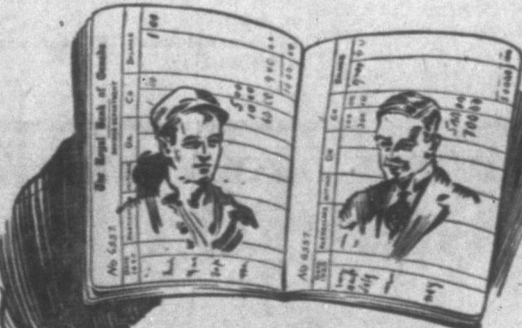
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