

## POCKET DIARIES

For 1920

are now in stock, in styles of ruling and binding to suit all requirements.

**A. H. ESCH & CO. LTD.**

Jasper Ave. at 104th St.  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
Phone 4834 and 1514

**D. A. KIRKLAND**  
The Quality Jeweler

Ladies' Gold Filled  
15 Jewel

**Wrist Watches**

REGULAR \$20.00

Special

**\$13.75**

**Alberta Lumber Co., Ltd.**

Dealer in

**LUMBER**

and

**BUILDING MATERIALS**

Corner Jasper Ave. and 93rd St.  
Phone 2138

**January Clearance Sale**

Sweeping Reductions

on

**SUITS, COATS,**

**DRESSES, SKIRTS,**

**WAISTS AND FURS**

Most Extraordinary Values.

Sale Starts January 2

See Windows

**Forbes-Taylor Co.**  
10514-18 Jasper Ave.

**VICTORY BONDS**

BOUGHT AND SOLD

Listed stocks dealt in on all the principal exchanges

**W. ROSS ALGER & CO.**

Edmonton, Alberta

**NEW DISCOVERY;  
CANADA IS NOW  
ON WORLD MAP**

Our Canadian neighbors are intelligently busy. Saskatchewan reports building a school house a day since 1905. The story of the little red school house has never been told in immortal lines. Our poets and writers must be waiting for Canada to get through with her building. The more we learn about the Dominion of Canada the greater is our belief that the country to the north of us is destined to progress side by side with the United States, one might say, as an economic unit. Politically we may be far apart, but economically our interests seem to be one. Witness the trouble which we are making Canada with our coal strike. Some of the eastern provinces are hard hit by the shortage. Canada seems to have an abundance of material, potential power, and the world is her market. What she needs most is more people.—(E.C.)

It is stated that 6,400 United States government employees will be automatically retired on the passage of the Sterling-Lehbach retirement bill, now pending in congress, and which is urged by organized government employees. These employees have formed a committee in the interest of this legislation.

## EDMONTON FREE PRESS

Edited, Controlled and Published by  
**THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL**

Issued at Edmonton, Alberta, Every Saturday

Phone 5595 **ELMER E. ROPER, Editor** 101 Purvis Block

VOL. 1, No. 39.

JANUARY 3, 1920

### THE CONVENTION.

The Convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor which opens in Calgary on Monday next, is a gathering of the deliberations of which are of vital interest not only to trades unionists but to the whole of the population of this province. The Federation is primarily a legislative body. The greater part of the time of its yearly gatherings is taken up with the consideration of proposed legislation that is calculated to raise the status of the workers, organized and unorganized, and to regulate industry in a manner that will provide a more comfortable living for the producers of wealth.

The Federation in the past has been influential in having had placed on the statute books of this province, measures that if properly administered would be of distinct benefit to the workers of Alberta. The convention will no doubt make a vigorous protest regarding the non-enforcement of the Factories Act. This piece of legislation has been practically useless since its inauguration, through the lack of proper administration. The act also requires drastic revision which the Federation will no doubt press for at the coming session of the legislature. The Building Trades Protection Act is another measure of safety for the workers that has lacked enforcement, with the result that with the revival of building activities a number of serious and, in one case at least, fatal accidents have occurred through unsafe scaffolding being provided for those engaged in the building trades. The Federation should demand that the Provincial Government shoulder its responsibility by enforcing the legislation provided for the protection of workmen whose loss of life or limb is a loss to the whole community.

The Alberta Workmen's Compensation Act is a comparatively valuable piece of legislation and is being very efficiently administered by an independent commission, a member of which is J. A. Kinney, a former president of the Federation. There is, however, considerable room for improvement in the act and the convention will give consideration to proposed amendments. As indicated in the report of the President and Secretary, the Compensation Act should be made broader in its scope and the scale of compensation needs immediate revision upwards. The report of the President and Secretary, which is published in full in this issue, makes reference to a number of other important measures that will be considered by the convention.

The Federation is the mouthpiece of the workers of this province. It can fairly be said to represent the views of organized and unorganized labor. The latter being inarticulate through lack of organization, yet receives benefit from and enjoys in a large measure the achievements of the organized. Thus we may truthfully say that the deliberations of an assembly such as the Alberta Federation of Labor Convention are of vital importance to all the workers of the province. Resolutions of every nature, dealing with all the complex problems of the present age will be received and given consideration by the convention. The workers' attitude on great questions will be decided upon, and each and every delegate should, and we believe will, realize the responsibility that rests upon him as a representative of the membership body of the Alberta Labor Movement.

Thus the conclusions of the convention will be the result of careful consideration and matured judgment, and as a result the Federation will be influential in raising the status of the worker and do its part in bringing about a change in the existing order that will result in the betterment of society as a whole.

### A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

By the time this issue of the Free Press reaches its readers the new year will have been born. To all the readers of this paper, and to those who should be readers, we extend our heartiest wishes for a year filled with happiness.

The year just passed has been one of extreme trial for the trade union movement in Canada. Enemies from within and without have in every possible manner attempted to overthrow the structure, the product of a century of sacrifice and toil, that alone has been efficacious in raising the status of the worker. The past year was chosen for the attempted coup d'etat of a disgruntled minority in the movement who had been resorting to every means to gain control of the workers' organizations. That they were not successful is a wonderful tribute to the judgment, wisdom and sanity of the great majority of Canadian trade unionists. The propaganda of the destructionists was so insidious, their methods so unscrupulous and their appeal so misleading that it was calculated to deceive the organized workers with their intense desire for solidification and greater unity of purpose.

On the outside big business has lost no opportunity to train its heavy artillery on the forces of Organized Labor. Using, in many cases, an attack on the extremists as a feint, the upholders of industrial Bourbonism have carried on a war against trade unionism that has been as bitter as it has been relentless. Thus on every hand the great workers' movement has been called upon to repel attacks of every description during 1919. But like a giant oak on the hillside whose roots have been driven deeper by each succeeding storm, the trade union movement has stood solidly before the onslaughts of its enemies. And on the threshold of another year stands ready to uphold the cause of the wealth producers of this great Dominion. It is impossible to forecast what the new year will bring, but it is possible to see in the future, a glorious opportunity for service on the part of the Organized Labor Movement, and one does not need to be a prophet, nor yet the son of a prophet, to predict that those who will in the new year do their part in building up a greater movement, will enjoy a year of happiness and satisfaction that comes from having served in the cause of justice and humanity.

### A PRESUMPTUOUS ACT.

Just before Christmas, representatives of the Edmonton School Board journeyed to Calgary, and at a gathering of school trustees in that city, advocated the rejection of the proposed salary schedules submitted to the various boards by the Alberta Teachers' Alliance.

The minimum proposed by the Alliance, \$1200 per year, is most reasonable in view of the abnormally high and ever-increasing cost of living. It is a wage that in any other line of endeavor is considered as very low indeed, and it is ridiculous to expect that the proper type of person will be attracted to the teaching profession if any lower scale is adopted.

But apart from that phase of the question is the arrogant flouting of the voters' clearly expressed desires, in the dying moments of the old year. In the recent elections three of the four trustees elected were returned on a clearly defined platform of which the acceptance of the \$1200 minimum was the outstanding feature. For the representatives of the old board to openly move the rejection of the proposed scale a few days prior to the new board taking office, was without doubt the most arrogantly presumptuous act possible to conceive. Edmonton voters will not soon forget a procedure of that nature.

### EDMONTON IN 1921.

Delegates from Edmonton to the Alberta Federation of Labor Convention in Calgary will invite the Provincial body to hold its next gathering in this city. A letter is also going forward from Mayor Clarke containing the desire that Edmonton might have the pleasure of entertaining the convention in 1921.

The 1917 convention was held in Edmonton, and Lethbridge and Medicine Hat were the convention cities for 1918 and 1919. The 1920 gathering being in Calgary, it is reasonable to expect that Edmonton should get the convention in turn. With its spacious headquarters in the very centre of the down-town district, a few steps from all the

## COBURG, ONTARIO, WILL LEVY POLL TAX ON WOMEN

The town council at Coburg, Ontario, is perhaps the first in Ontario to pass a resolution for the levying of the poll tax on women over 21 not otherwise assessed and who are now eligible to vote. The provincial legislature gives local councils the right to fix their own poll tax on men, with restriction that it shall not exceed 85.

## SENATE PASSES BILL WITH "CANT STRIKE" PROVISION

Cummins Railroad Bill Provision  
Makes Strike Punishable By  
Fine and Imprisonment.

By a vote of 46 to 30 the United States senate passed the Cummins railroad bill, with its "can't strike" provision, thereby abandoning the American ideal that workers can not be held to their employment under threat of imprisonment and fine.

The labor sections of the Cummins bill provide that where differences can not be adjusted between managers and employees, through a system of boards the matter will be passed upon by the transportation board, whose verdict shall be final. A strike is made punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both. The transportation board is nominated by the president and its members, according to advocates of the bill, will be men of high ideals and disinterestedness.

The American Federation of Labor, together with the railroad brotherhoods have waged a continuous fight against the anti-strike feature of the Cummins bill. Prior to the vote, Senator La Follette offered a substitute to postpone railroad legislation for two years. This plan was favored by the A. F. of L., railroad brotherhoods, and many farmers' organizations that urged a test of governmental operations of railroads be made under normal conditions. This motion was defeated.

## WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES GET GOOD INCREASE

On January 1st, thirty-two thousand employees of the Western Union Telegraph and Telephone company will receive salary increases amounting to \$3,000,000, it has been announced at New York. Employees who have been in the service more than one year will receive a 15 per cent increase and those who have been in the service more than six months, but less than one year will receive a ten per cent increase. Only employees earning less than \$250 a month are affected.

best hotels, Edmonton Labor is in a position to suitably provide for the convention sessions. On behalf of the Trades and Labor Council of this city and the local unions affiliated with that body, the Edmonton Free Press extends a hearty invitation to the Alberta Federation to make this city its meeting place in 1921.

### EDITOR'S NOTES.

There is nothing to be deplored about a spirit of unrest if unrest is the expression of dissatisfaction with unjust conditions.

The Labor movement is essentially of an altruistic nature. One for all and all for each is certainly not a selfish principle.

Trade unionism is the means by which the workers' common aims and desires are given expression. The unorganized are necessarily inarticulate.

All workers have suffered through the greatly increased cost of living, but it must be admitted that unorganized workpeople have felt the pinch hardest.

A puzzle for the editor: How far can we go in criticism of an oppressive, autocratic government, and a system of society that creates millionaires and paupers, without getting two years, or more, for the privilege of expressing our views and the views of those we represent?

Much of the opposition to Organized Labor is based on a mistaken conception of Labor's ideals. There is no desire to tear down, but there is a desire to build up, and to attain for every individual the opportunity for a better life.

To give credit where credit is due, the destructionists would never have had the opportunity to attempt the overthrow of trade unionism in this country, if they had not been willing at all times to accept office in unions and central bodies. The lesson is clear. The "let George do it" policy is dangerous at any time or place.

The convention of next week will be closely watched. The disgruntled labor minority will join with the stand-pat industrial autocrats in endeavoring to discredit the real workers' provincial organization. We have every confidence, however, that the convention will mark a great forward step on the part of the Labor movement in this province.

It is somewhat amusing to have so-called unionists complaining because the U.M.W.A. has secured the closed shop in Alberta. But if the miners can secure improved working conditions they need have little sympathy with the regrets of a disgruntled set of defeated schemers whose desire is to keep the workers down to the point of starvation that they may become embittered sufficiently to rise in bloody revolution. Such is the gospel, pure and undiluted, of the S. P. of C. It is natural that they should squeal when their plans are defeated.

Here is a suggested explanation as to why the Union Government was somewhat unsuccessful in the recent Canadian by-elections. Mr. Bonar Law professes to believe that the by-election results in Britain do not indicate any real dissatisfaction with the coalition government. Those who voted for Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law last December, and who now vote for a Liberal or a Labor candidate do so just because they think that the Coalition majority is too unwieldy, and they are rendering a service to Mr. Lloyd George by reducing that majority. Surely an ingenious explanation is that of the ex-Canadian, and one that might be used in a pinch by his former countrymen in accounting for recent and forthcoming defeats.

## ONE BIG UNION RECEIVES REBUFF AT LOVATT, ALTA.

Pres. Beard of Mining Dept. of  
O.B.U. Given Tie Pass  
Out of Camp.

O.B.U. propagandists received a rebuff when they made an attempt to gain a foothold among the miners at Lovatt, Alta., Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Judging from reports that have just reached the city from that place, the ringleaders of the O.B.U. must have received the surprise of their lives when a delegation from the U.M.W.A. assisted them out of the camp via the tie route. The details of the affair are as follows:

Some members of the O.B.U., it is said, have recently made their way into the Lovatt camp under false pretences and have been warily spreading their doctrines among the men. This was by way of preparation for a pre-arranged visit from President Beard and some of his colleagues, who arrived at the mines on mid-day of the 24th.

The first move by the agitators was to interview J. B. Mulholland, president of the local branch of the United Mine Workers, demanding that he call a meeting of the men for the next day. Beard's desire was, he explained, to tell the men how they were being misled and enslaved by the operators and by the U.M.W.A., with whom an agreement had been made by the operators of district No. 18.

President Mulholland gave a flat refusal to the request, whereupon the O.B.U. propagandists proceeded to the village poolroom and themselves posted a notice calling a meeting for one o'clock the next day. This they did without seeking the permission or approval of anybody.

Some of the miners on reading the notice at once started to ask questions, and the result was that quick action was taken in regard to the uninvited visitors in camp. The notice was torn down and thrown somewhat forcibly into Beard's face, and that unlucky emissary of the O.B.U. was next seized by a husky veteran of the war and propelled through the doorway into the outhouse, where he promised to leave camp at once if his life were spared. This promise he made good by disappearing up the railroad track at the first opportunity, and he has not been seen in the Lovatt camp since. His colleagues and sympathizers followed suit during the evening.

Christmas Day was spent by the miners in forgetting out all those who were known to be in sympathy with the O.B.U. and inviting them to leave the camp. Several such rolled up their blankets and left forthwith for the bush.

Lovatt has thus cleaned house to good effect and given notice to all concerned that it does not want the O.B.U. The miners are reported to have been in

## Year-end Clearance Girls' and Misses' Winter Coats

Formerly Priced at \$25.00 & \$27.50  
Selling at the Very Low Price of \$14.75

This is without doubt the most sensational news of the season. The Coats are all new styles and the materials extra good. Shoulders and sleeves are lined and some have fur trimming on collars. They are mostly in the popular belted effects, in colors of Burgundy, Green and dark mixtures. Every coat in the collection has been cut in price with the object of clearing every one on Monday. Sizes for girls, 10 to 14 years; sizes for misses, 14 to 18 years. Regular values to \$27.50. **\$14.75**  
Rush Price.

SECOND FLOOR

## Warm, Heavy Winter Coatings 54 Inches in Width

Greatly Reduced in Price. Regular to \$4.95

Here's a rare chance to secure a length of Heavy Winter Coating at a price which may never come again. Included in the lot selected for clearance are:

50 Yards BLACK ARABIA COATING, 54 inches wide.  
100 Yards HEAVY TWEED COATING in several good mixtures; 54 inches wide.  
200 Yards DIAGONAL COATINGS, 54 inches wide, **\$2.98**  
Regular values to \$4.95. Price.

SECOND FLOOR

## A Stock-Reducing Offering of Heavy Wool Blankets

Regular \$23.50. Clearing at \$15.00 Pair

The end of the year finds us with a big reserve stock of White Wool Blankets on hand, and our orders are to lower them considerably. It means a great sacrifice to us, as Blankets will be worth still more next season, but the space is needed for incoming merchandise.

THESE WHITE WOOL BLANKETS are made from carefully selected Canadian wool, heavy quality and finished with pink or blue borders. Weight 8 lbs. Size 68x86 inches. Regular **\$15.00**  
\$23.50. Clearing at.

(Limit of 2 Pairs to Each Customer. No Phone Orders)

SECOND FLOOR.

## HUDSON'S BAY CO.

deadly earnest in the matter and by their prompt action frustrated an effort to sow seeds of trouble in a camp that has already suffered to the extent of \$60,000 from the labor agitations of the past year.

We wonder if that little old 10 per cent of the miners of Alberta that the O.B.U. propagandists so graciously concede to the U.M.W.A. are all located at the Lovatt mines.

## NEW YORK RETAIL CLERKS CONDUCTING ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN

A trade union organizing campaign that includes the entire city of New York is being conducted by the international union of retail clerks. Thousands of clerks are enrolling in the movement to improve working conditions.

**EAT  
Som-Mor  
Biscuit  
TODAY**

Canada Food Board License No. II-482

## Setting the Pace in Suit Values

The man who seeks quality, service and value in a Suit will appreciate a visit to our store—laden with quality apparel. His judgment cannot fail him because nothing but dependable Suits are offered and insured by our unequalled guarantee of satisfaction. Of particular interest in this feature event are the striking values we are presenting at **\$45.00**

and at \$35.00, \$40.00, \$50.00, \$60.00.

**Stanley & Jackson**

10117 JASPER AVENUE