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MUCH BUSINESS BEFORE TRADES COUNCIL MEETING

Delegates Roper and Bramham Will Represent Council at Calgary Convention.

The inadequacy of scaffold inspection in this city and throughout the province was again the subject of an interesting discussion at the meeting of the Trades Council on Monday last. Delegate Cotterell of the painters' union, made a strong plea for proper attention to this matter on the part of the provincial government. He pointed out that it was not only in the city, but throughout the province, that danger to workmen lurked in connection with inadequate scaffolding. He had been in the city for a number of years and never yet had he seen a scaffold constructed that ensured perfect safety to the workmen forced to work on them. He considered that it was up to the provincial government to see to the efficient working out of the law in regard to this matter.

Delegate Geary suggested that the matter should be brought to the attention of the provincial federation of labor at its session in January, and that the position of the city commissioners on the subject would be interesting, as well. Delegate Roper urged that resolutions from interested unions should also be sent in to the federation requesting that body to have the Building Trades Protection act amended to provide that such inspection should not be left to the cities to enforce. The secretary was also instructed to communicate with the city council in connection with a more rigid supervision of scaffolding in this city.

Sanitary Conditions for Workmen.
Delegate Francis took occasion to point out the inadequacy of sanitary arrangements for workmen on new buildings, contending that it was absolutely wrong to have such conditions continue as had existed in the past. This, too, will be given further attention by interested unions.

Alex. D. Campbell, of the Amalgamated Postal Workers, wrote asking what action was being taken by council regarding the affiliation of the two unions among these workers. Both are affiliated with the council. Delegate H. Clark moved that delegates from these two unions appear at the council meetings to give what information they could in regard to the situation. A circular letter from the National Trades Union League of America, asking the council to affiliate with it, was read. The object of the league is the complete organization of women in the industrial field. On motion of Delegates Clarke and Roper, the request was acceded to.

In response to the request of the council, the secretary of the Winnipeg defense fund for the strikers on trial in that city sent a confidential statement of the receipts and expenditures, which any delegate to the Edmonton council may see if he calls at the office of Secretary McCormack. A supply of

(Continued on page 8).

SENATOR CUMMINS DON'T LIKE CANADIAN "CAN'T STRIKE" LAW

U. S. Senator Cummins is not impressed with the Canadian utilities until the grievance of these workers is investigated by a government board.

Senator Cummins is urging the passage of legislation that would outlaw strikes on railroads and has declared in favor of extending this theory to all basic industries in America.

The Canadian plan is being advocated also, and Senator Cummins made this estimate of the suggestion:

"I am bound to say that my examination of the history of the legislation and of its administration has not been reassuring."

This verdict is in line with the position of Organized Labor, which has condemned the Canadian law, and also opposes Senator Cummins' plan.

LARGEST INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE OWNED BY UNION LABOR

The brick manufacturing plant of the International Brick Co. at El Paso, Texas, is the largest industrial enterprise owned and operated by union labor in the United States. The plant was built more than five years ago at a cost of \$400,000. The plant has a daily output of 400 tons of clay products, which include brick, hollow building tile and drainage tile. It gives employment to 120 men and its annual payroll amounts to about \$78,000. The industry has earned profits for the union.

The International Brick Co. is composed of representatives of the International Bricklayers, Plasterers and Masons' Union of America. A few years ago the members of this union conceived the idea of investing some of their surplus funds in a brick plant and El Paso was selected as the ideal location.

GOVERNMENT MAY BAN SKILLED LABOR AND MECHANICS

The Dominion government has under consideration the banning of mechanics and skilled labor from Canada during the winter months. It is believed that all this class of labor may temporarily be excluded on the ground that the supply now is fully equal to the demand considering the suspended activities of the season and the problems of unemployment that now have to be grappled with. No announcement has been made as yet as to just what will be done about the matter.

PLUMBERS WILL AFFILIATE WITH ALTA. FED. LABOR

Election of Officers and of Three Members to G.T. System Fed. At Next Meeting.

At the last meeting of Local No. 685, Plumbers and Steamfitters, it was decided to affiliate with the Alberta Federation of Labor, and the question of sending a delegate to the Federation Convention on January 5th will be settled at the next meeting of the Local, which will be held on December 26th.

Also the Local will be asked to elect three members to the Grand Trunk System Federation at the next meeting and the election of officers will also come before the meeting. All members are requested to be present at the meeting promptly at seven-thirty.

Members who were absent from last meeting will have their names called and the Local will decide if they are to be excused.

CANADA'S ARCTIC RESOURCES MAY PROVE VALUABLE

Government Commission Appointed To Make Study of Canadian Arctic Resources.

It is announced from Ottawa that a Government Commission has been appointed and is soon to meet to make a study of the resources of the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of Canada, as the result of recommendations made by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Canadian Arctic explorer, who returned a little over a year ago from a five-year voyage of discovery financed by the Dominion. It would seem that we are now about to reap some of the benefits of our undertaking and its attendant expenditure. Stefansson reports conditions favorable to the raising of immense herds of reindeer, sufficient to make Canada the meat reserve of the continent. The Commission may find a way of establishing reindeer herds up there and getting the meat down to the centres of population.

It is not generally known here that for many years English manufacturers have been turning out gloves of finest quality from the skin of the Russian reindeer, an industry which, of course, was suspended during the war. If Canada had great herds of reindeer in the north, these would not only be a source of wealth for the meat they would supply but might bring even greater wealth for their skins, which are of greater value than any other kind for glove-making purposes, and which are at present in overwhelming demand. Mr. Stefansson also reported large deposits of coal and copper in the North. He predicted on his return last year that these coal lands may some day be of great value, and said they were present on nearly every island he touched. These discoveries have at present time a special significance for us, and the appointment of the Government Commission is most timely.

OHIO EMPLOYERS NEGOTIATE THROUGH THE TRADE UNIONS

Ohio is comparatively free from strikes because of the relations that exist between employers and Organized Labor, trade unionists told Dr. W. O. Thompson, president of the Ohio state university.

The educator is a member of the president's industrial conference now in session at Washington, and he has been consulting with employers and wage workers on questions that are being considered by the conference.

Trade unionists showed that this state has between 250,000 and 300,000 members of Organized Labor, nearly all of whom are in contractual relations with their employers.

While many of these employers have not publicly declared in favor of collective bargaining, the fact remains that they conduct wage and working conditions negotiations through the trade unions.

The union label disarms opposition and conquers prejudice.

I.A. OF M. WILL OPEN OFFICES IN CANADA SOON

J. A. McClelland, Can. International Vice-President Will Have Charge of Office at Montreal.

An inauguration of the International Association of Machinists that will affect Canadian lodges wonderfully, is the opening of offices in Canada. Bro. Somerville in speaking before the meeting of Local No. 817, I.A. of M. last Friday, said that it would not be very long before the Machinists had their own Canadian council and that the General Executive Board at Washington would act on the recommendations of this council.

This is something that has long been hoped for and many were the advocates of this method of conducting Canadian affairs, who fought shy of the O.B.U. in the hope that eventually their hopes and advice would be realized. The many Canadian questions that are continuously presenting themselves to the General Executive Board may now be dealt with more expeditiously on this side of the line.

Bro. J. A. McClelland, Canadian International Vice-President, is personally in charge of the office and the work of organization will be directed from this office, in addition to all the matters peculiar to Canadian Labor affairs. It is the intention of the office to have the printing and distribution of all stationary necessary for the conducting of the business of the organization done in Canada.

At present Bro. McClelland is located in Montreal, Room 104 Coronation Building, owing to the congestion in office accommodation in Ottawa. It may be mentioned that this matter of a Canadian office was put before the General Executive Board at Washington, last October by Vice-President McClelland and General Organizers Somerville and Harper. The usefulness of such an office will be dependent on just what the Canadian lodges make it and no more.

WINNIPEG PROPOSES NEW SYSTEM OF CIVIC ELECTION

A new system of election is proposed in Winnipeg. The new bill provides forty aldermen, they to elect the mayor and an executive body of controllers from among their number subject to recall on notice by the council. This council is to be divided on a basis of voting strength among the seven wards, one for each fifteen hundred names on the old voters' list and fraction thereof.

The bill also provides a literary test, each voter must be able to read a section from the city charter in English and write his name. Labor may oppose this feature, as it will disfranchise thousands of electors whose analysis of the returns shows voted with labor.

STEEL OFFICIALS VOTE CONTINUATION OF STEEL STRIKE

At a conference at Washington, D.C., of twenty-four officials of unions connected with the steel industry, a continuation of the nation-wide steel workers' strike was favored. It is stated there were only two dissenting votes, most of the union leaders maintaining that victory in the controversy was in sight.

Leaders are going ahead with a plan for an active field campaign which they said will be carried on for at least four years if necessary.

BROTHERHOOD OF FIREMEN ELECT OFFICERS FOR YEAR

At the recent conference of the legislative committee of the Brotherhood of Railway Firemen and Enginemen held at Ottawa, the following officers were elected: Chairman, W. L. Best, Ottawa; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Pratt, Toronto; Board of Directors, S. W. Nickle, Winnipeg; W. G. Graham, Lindsay, and A. J. Killingsworth, St. Thomas.

SUGAR GOUGERS GIVEN FREE HAND IN UNITED STATES

United States Attorney General Palmer announces that the government will not attempt to control the distribution and sale of sugar after December 31. This means that sugar dealers will have a free hand and that undoubtedly the price of this commodity will soar.

The attorney general says the government will prosecute dealers who demand "an unjust or unreasonable profit." As the U.S. government has permitted coal owners to charge profits that range from 15 to 800 per cent, according to Secretary of the Treasury Glass, and from 15 to 2,000 per cent, according to former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, it would be interesting to know what constitutes "an unjust or unreasonable profit."

NEWS OF THE LOCAL UNIONS

CIVIC SERVICE UNION No. 52.

Whether the splendid report of the Social Committee by the Chairman of that committee was responsible for the excellent fraternal spirit that was manifested at the last meeting of the Union or not, we must acknowledge that the spirit of good will was dominant. Bro. McCool gave his report with his usual characteristic completeness, the only doubt that we have is whether his eulogies exceeded the degree of services rendered. We are convinced that any office that he holds has a capable, open-minded officer, one who invites and delights in criticism, knowing the full value of a critical survey of the project in hand. His proposals for the next social function should receive your careful consideration and active support.

Your delegate to the Convention of the A.F. of L. at Calgary has an opportunity of securing a more general knowledge of the Labor movement than is to be gained elsewhere.

The Committee investigating the Co-operative movement, in its progress report, gives you the assurance that the association's development is founded on a concrete base. The report of the association up to the present time is an example of the sterling value of the men of those who are elected to transact its business and inevitably prefaces its complete success.

We hope the indisposition of Bro. Stentil will be of short duration.

"Ten pigeons dead! My prize-winning stock of homers destroyed!" Such was the agonizing thought that flashed through the mind of a "brother" when he visited his pigeon cote a few days ago, for there lay ten of his birds, the victims of a vicious weasel. Hearing a disturbance in the chicken house he, upon immediate investigation, found the ermine in the act of slaughter. "Bring me my gun," he shouted to his wife and not knowing what to do, in his excitement threw his hat at the furry robber. The weasel took refuge behind the hat and the gun was fired point blank at it. The hat was destroyed, it being distributed with fragments of the refuge on the walls of the house. The marks on the walls will remain as a warning to all marauders of the fate that will be theirs if they dare to destroy either pigeons or poultry.

FIRE FIGHTERS

Local 209, Fire Fighters, are busy drafting a new agreement with the city, for 1920. There is no drastic change contemplated by the Fire Fighters to what is embodied in the present agreement.

The Fire Laddies at No. 5 Hall have a splendid skating rink alongside the hall, and they extend a hearty invitation to all young people to try it out. They also issue a challenge to any Fire Hall in the department, or an aggregation of halls to a game of curling; rocks will be supplied by the boys at No. 5.

Brother Shee, who is the skip, and a past master at the "Honoring Game" will make arrangements with all parties, on being notified of their intentions of taking up the challenge.

The Fire Fighters second annual dance is to be held in the Separate School Hall on the 29th inst.; all are in hopes that it will be a repetition of last year's dance, which was a great success.

An old Fire Fighter in the person of Brother C. H. Alvord returned last Friday from overseas. He was attached to the Flying Corps in which branch he has seen considerable service. He was fortunate enough to come out alive, having an accident, falling from a height of 3,500 feet, which necessitated his confinement to hospital for over one year. Brother Alvord is a Charter member of this local, and before going "over there" ran out of No. 6 Hall.

O.N.R. MACHINISTS.

Local No. 817, I.A. of M. held its regular meeting on Friday, December 12th. The meeting was well attended and a great deal of business was put through. Although an interesting evening was spent and no little excitement was created during the election of officers for the 1920 term; not necessarily by the number of candidates for offices, but in finding suitable men for the jobs, so that all the work would not be put on the shoulders of the few. Everybody wanted the "other fellow to do it."

Bro. Stewart Jones was initiated into the organization and put to work right away scrutinizing during election of officers.

Bro. Somerville, General Organizer, spoke before the meeting on the subject of the opening of I.A. of M. offices in Canada, something that has long

ROBERTSON HOLDS CONFERENCE WITH MINING OFFICIALS

Pres. Mining Department O.B.U. Denies Knowledge of Predicted Strike for January 1st.

Senator Gideon Robertson, minister of labor, who is now in Calgary, states that every effort would be made to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the coal problem in Alberta, and that he hoped to be able to announce such a settlement soon.

A conference was held at the offices of the Western Coal Operators in Calgary, Wednesday, at which Senator Robertson and Fuel Commissioner Armstrong and practically all the western coal operators and many representatives of the United Mine Workers of America attended. The viewpoints of the operators and the miners regarding a new scale of wages were put forward in a full manner, as was also the efforts of the O.B.U. agitators to disrupt the industry.

President Beard of the mining department of the O.B.U. has denied any knowledge of the possibility of a strike being called by the miners of the O.B.U. to take effect January 1st. The mine operators have refused to recognize the O.B.U. organization.

REAL STRENGTH O.B.U. ELEMENT WILL BE TESTED

When Operators Grant Increase and Agreement Brought Before Miners for Ratification.

The real strength of the O.B.U. element, which claims to be in control of the province, will be brought to the test if the operators grant the 14 per cent increase recently granted to the miners in the United States and the new agreement is brought before the miners of District 18 for ratification.

No reply has as yet been received by Messrs. Ballantyne and Dalrymple, the official representatives of the U.M.W.A., as to the attitude of the mine operators on their request for a new agreement on the 14 per cent increase basis. The international representatives are certain that the miners will place their endorsement on the agreement, and by so doing will definitely declare themselves affiliated with the old U.M.W.A. The agreement will likely be signed for one year, and will be the first agreement to be signed since the strike of last spring and summer, when the O.E.U. caused a split in the ranks of the miners.

CHICAGO ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION HAS AFFILIATED

The Chicago Actors' Equity Association has affiliated with the local Federation of labor. Prominent players constitute the delegation to the central body.

been hoped for in this country.

The "Machinists' Blue Book," published by the I.A. of M. Publishing Co., N.Y., is not generally known yet, but several subscriptions were taken at the meeting Friday. This Blue Book is the result of the compilation of the best ideas of the membership along the lines of general shop practices, shop talks, short cuts, and quick methods of the trade and will no doubt be good. It is a book 6 1/2 inches in size, contains 500 to 600 pages and is to cost \$3 to the members. But here is an inducement: The much talked of "Liberty Motor" of the U.S. government is a thing worth studying, so our Publishing Co. is sending free a complete set of drawings of this engine to those who subscribe before January 1st, by depositing \$1 only.

Bro. Lydon, of Winnipeg, was nominated by this lodge for Section Chairman; Bro. Hawker of our own lodge for Section Member. The following is the result of the elections: President, Bro. Andrew Shanks; Vice-President, Bro. Samuel McGaughey; Recording Secretary, Bro. W. J. Mathew; Financial Secretary, Bro. H. Crook; Treasurer, Bro. C. A. McKim; Trustees, 18 months, Bro. C. Arthur Cairns; 6 months, Bro. Robert White; Inside Sentinel, Bro. Harry Kense; Conductor, Bro. Stewart Jones; Trades and Labor Council Delegates, Bro. Findlay, Cairns, and C. Smith; Shop Committee, Bro. Cairns, Davis and Smith; Federation Committee, Bro. Hawker, Findlay and Woods; Sick and Visiting Committee, Bro. Cook, McGaughey and H. Neat.

A committee was appointed on motion of Bro. Cairns to go into the matter of an "evening of joy" on January 9th, the night of the installation of officers. Bros. J. Findlay and E. Cook were appointed.

STREET RAILWAY MEN SEEK FULL PAY FROM COMPENSATION BOARD

Edmonton Street Railwaymen's Union, has asked the city commissioners to take up the matter of securing for employees full pay from the Workmen's Compensation Board for sickness or injury caused by accidents over which they had no control. The commissioners are taking up the question with the attorney general, the premier, the minister of municipalities and the Compensation Board.

SYDNEY, N.S. MAN IS CAN. VICE-PRES. OF STEEL WORKERS

Election of Ernest Curtis Gives Canadian Members Recognition Long Looked Forward To.

The election of Ernest Curtis of Sydney, Nova Scotia, for Canadian International Vice-President of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, gives the Canadian members of that organization the recognition they have looked forward to since the time they first affiliated with the A.A.

His election is the result of the count made by the A.A. International Election Board of the votes cast by the membership in the election of a vice-president for the Canadian district, which was provided for by the Louisville convention, which was held last May.

Mr. Curtis is of fine personal appearance and has a pleasing form of address and that he will receive the hearty support of his Canadian constituency, goes without saying. Their co-ordinated efforts should soon put the Canadian district in the proud position of leading all other districts in the International.

ALBERTA ALLIANCE SHOW THEY ARE AHEAD OF TIMES

Democratic Urge Pushing Organized Labor to Seek Co-operation is Also Compelling Teachers.

The demand that is being made by the Alberta Teachers' Alliance for some share in the control of the work to which they are giving their lives will no doubt be received with favor, both by school boards, and also by the educational department. School boards are in a sense the employer—the teacher the employee. The board approaches most matters from the point of view of taxes and finance, and at times perhaps from the view of the children, but seldom if ever from the angle from which the teacher sees things. Education itself, the conduct of the school, and a living salary, are the teacher's problems. There ought to be, and we believe must be, a point of contact established between teachers and school boards.

With this in view the Alberta Alliance propose that a teachers' committee shall act in an advisory capacity with the school board. In the case of a country school, the teacher will of course constitute the committee, and will attend the board meetings. Apart from the democratic principle involved in this proposal, the boards will be able to have expert advice from the teachers on educational matters, and this co-operation between the teaching profession and school boards should be of value.

We believe that the teachers should go further with their demand for a share in control of educational affairs. Why not have a provincial committee to advise the minister of Education? In the changes that are necessary in educational aims, in curricula, and in matters of professional teaching, the teacher who knows the problems as no one else can know them ought to be consulted.

In taking the step leading to co-operation between teacher and school board, the Alberta Alliance show that they are abreast of the times. The democratic urge that is pushing into politics, and pushing Organized Labor to seek co-operative control of industry, is also compelling the teachers to seek joint control with trustees of the great and important work of education. We will observe the progress of the Alliance in this regard with interest, and wish the teachers every success.—Western Independent.

The court of appeals of the District of Columbia has set aside a law passed by congress to regulate rents in the nation's capital. The act confiscates property declared the court, which insisted that the constitution is not superseded by a declaration of war and that ample provision can be made for the nation's defense without disregarding the constitution.

RUSSELL TELLS REASONS FOR GENERAL STRIKE

Justice Metcalfe Rules That Premiers Have No Business in Settlement of Strikes.

R. B. Russell, one of the Winnipeg strike leaders on trial charged with seditious conspiracy, took the witness stand in his own defense Wednesday. He said that low wages, refusal of the employers to recognize trades unions and order-in-council prohibiting strikes, were the reasons for unrest among the workmen in 1917 and 1918, leading up to the general strike in 1919.

He stated that there had been no conspiracy to overturn the government of Canada; that he had never advocated force or unlawful means for an illegal purpose; that the general strike called on May 15 had just been resorted to in order to support the metal trades workers in their fight for the principle of collective bargaining.

Mr. Russell stated that the general strike was arranged under the impression that the mere threat of it would make the employers give way; and that on the first day of the strike, labor having shown its solidarity, the strike committee approached the city council with offers to release men for the operation of certain industries in order to keep hardship to the minimum, which offers were "jumped at." He stated the issue of permit cards for the protection of the workers released had the sanction of the city council's representatives and that it was the citizen's committee that had introduced the bolshevik coloring by asserting that these permit cards represented soviet control of the city and the city's industries.

In referring to the government railway board he said that the government representative, Hon. Arthur Meighen, minister of interior, in answer to a refusal of the railway shippers to accept the award of the board in 1918, said that the workers would be put in khaki and forced to work.

A feature of the night session was an important declaration by Mr. Justice Metcalfe regarding the duty of premiers in connection with the settlement of strikes, once efforts at averting them had failed. The matter was raised by the counsel for the defence, and his lordship ruled as follows:

"Premiers and others have no business in the settlement of a strike once it has started. A strike is a matter between the employer and his workmen. If they are right they should win. If they are wrong and break the law of the province, all a premier has to do is to punish for the breach of the law."

The point was raised as a result of a statement which Russell said Mayor Gray had told him had been made by Premier T. C. Norris. This statement was to the effect that the premier had refused to do anything toward settling the strike until the permit cards had been withdrawn by the strike committee.

The examination of the witness was in the hands of J. Edward Bird, K.C., Vancouver, while the counsel for the crown was A. J. Andrews, K.C.

LOS ANGELES PAPER TELLS WHY JAPS ARE NOW OPPOSED

When Organized Labor was demanding exclusion of the Japanese 20 years ago, many newspapers and organizations that now demand exclusion were "deaf, dumb, blind and paralyzed," says the Citizen, owned by the Los Angeles trade union movement.

"But there's a reason," continues the labor paper. "When the slant-eyed Orientals first commenced to swarm to this state they were willing to work for low wages. Now they are entering all lines of business and seriously interfering with the profits of men who do not work with their hands. Hence the howl. They were so blessing when they cut wages; they are a curse since they cut profits."

SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA ESTABLISHES SOVIET RULE

Once again Cape Breton has established the Soviet rule. This time, it is the Sydney Trades and Labor Council who are at the head of it, so says Nova Scotia's biggest hypocritical newspaper, the Halifax Herald. Because the Sydney Trades and Labor Council stands for the organization of the city police, they have overthrown constituted authority and established Soviet rule.—Workers' Weekly.

STREET RAILWAY LINE MEN GET WAGE INCREASE

After a four-days' strike organized line men employed by the Cincinnati street car company have raised wages \$1 a day, secured double time for Sunday and night work, pay for six holidays off during the year, and double time when called out after regular hours on special work.