

Labor Items of Interest From the Capital City

FIRE FIGHTERS' NOTES.

We note the Toronto fire fighters resent the suggestion that a fire commissioner be appointed to administer the fire department. They claim there are enough competent men in the department to conduct the brigade. Looking at the situation from this distance, the men are right or something is radically wrong with Toronto's fire department.

The pension fund is also causing some thinking on the part of the members of the Toronto fire department which will bear watching from Ottawa. Montreal has also had its ups and downs in this respect.

Our sister local, Federal Union 15, has just secured they have our very best wishes and support in their endeavor to establish the 44-hour week.

More one sees of the Labor movement in Ottawa and the scattered pieces of meeting, the more one is convinced that a Labor Temple is badly needed for concentrated action in the Capital City.

The Ontario Government's housing scheme came up for discussion at our regular meetings and was very favorably looked upon, although details were lacking.

Jack Cameron's appointment to the commission in the interest of Labor was endorsed, who, it hoped, will address the members on the subject at some future date.

Our secretary was the recipient of many congratulations on the splendid write-up he received in the last issue of the C.L.P., although his aspirations were known to many of the members.

An interesting address was delivered by Chief Graham dealing with the evolution of the Ottawa Fire Department from the year 1847, to the Women's Historical Society. Ottawa, we believe, holds the regular honor of having for its first chief one who was born on the job. Our present Chief was born in the fire hall on Bessier street on the first Dominion Day, 1867.

"CIVIC EMPLOYEES."
By Progress.

Alderman Ford has taken a keen interest in the "Superannuation Scheme for Civic Employees." We learn that he has promised to give the boys "an outline of the scheme which he has in mind." This will take place next Tuesday night at Peterkin's Hall. We are told that a few of his supporters on this scheme have also promised to be in attendance. We know that the officers of No. 15 are expecting that every man will be there. The only person that will be excused are the members of the "Civics."

There are some of No. 15 members who could be of service especially the "old heads." Alderman Ford deserves all the backing that we can "render him. Let us secure for ourselves something that will be worth reaping."

"It is our opportunity."
We think that the following axiom is very timely:
In things essential—Unity.
In things doubtful—Liberty.
In all things—Courtesy.

Next Tuesday night, if we follow the above, we shall have no doubt in our minds that good results will be obtained.

We are told that Ottawa started the 8 hour per day campaign. Yet Toronto civic employees took up this question and are today enjoying the scheme. They started in February, and we started in January. Although Ottawa is small in comparison to Toronto it seems that the civic employees in Ottawa are also very small in the eyes of some of the civic fathers.

It is time that this question should be settled. We hear more every day regarding the shelving of this question by our civic fathers. Be early at the next meeting and see the new tables.

The single-horse teamsters will receive a reply very soon now. We learn that it has been reviewed before the proper authorities, and we think that something very encouraging will come their way. We all feel that they deserve a boost.

We are very much surprised at the "literary talent" that we have in No. 15. The Faith of a Belgian, by Capt. Daney, has been read by ever sixty members. They all seem to enjoy the whole story. It seems also that it fascinates them as much as any episode picture does in the movies.

The civic employees who have not received their news last Saturday desire to register a kick against your Circulation Department. They want the paper regular, or else none. About ten members have made their grievances known. We hope to forward an old em-

BOOKBINDERS' LOCAL.

The first part of the meeting on Wednesday evening last, was devoted to organization purposes, and to that end, all bookbinders and bindery women in Ottawa were invited to be present at the open session. The hall was taxed to capacity, and many were unable to find seating accommodation. Gallantry was very much in evidence, the male members of the audience giving up their seats when any ladies found themselves unprovided for. Everything went as merrily as the proverbial marriage bell, and we are pleased to record that as a result, the local has made a substantial increase in its membership.

We had the good fortune to have with us, Mr. John Cameron, who explained the meaning and purposes of the trade union movement in such a clear and lucid manner (as few speakers could have done), that won for him "Golden opinions from all sorts of people." Following Mr. Cameron, Bro. Joe. Koderique, addressed the meeting in French, and that his remarks were to the point and appreciated. Following Mr. Cameron, Bro. Joe. Koderique, addressed the meeting in French, and that his remarks were to the point and appreciated.

The following new credentials of the laborers were received. This local will be represented by Delegates Johnson and Rivet, and the Plumbers and Steamfitters by Bro. Wm. Fogarty.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.
Arrangements have been made for regular meetings of the Building Trades Council first and third Mondays of each month, at the Carpenters' Hall.

The Builders' Exchange has been notified through Secretary Jackson that the executive are now prepared to hold a conference dealing with the suggested changes to become operative May first.

Among the other endorsements was the settled agreement with the employing painters of the local of that craft by the Building Trades Council.

The difference of the plumbers on the Hill, re the placing of non-union wares, was under review, but nothing of a definite nature decided upon.

An interview with the Hon. F. Carvell is being arranged, when the proposals of the various crafts will be presented.

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RETAIL CLERKS.
Only committee work has been possible during the past week with



The fire department of Slowville before they became organized. First day night the unrolling of the fire hoses of Ottawa. The crew of this engine, photographed from life, is led by Archambault, driver from the 'Burg, with Engineer Tim Brennan from No. 4. The officer with the 'come on' is Lieut. Sam Blackler hurrying the crew before unionized.

The charter and supplies have arrived, and at the meeting on Saturday night the unrolling of the charter, Local 488, will take place, as well as the election of officers. Affiliation has also been applied for with the Trades Council and the three delegates selected. With but few exceptions, all the bakery drivers are now lined up and in a short time the housewife will be able to secure union made bread from union drivers, and the emblem signifying same will be in evidence.

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MANITOBA M. P. ON WEALTH DISTRIBUTION.

Before a crowded audience at the Forum, Ottawa, the address was delivered by Mr. F. L. Davis, M.P. for Neepawa, Man., on the subject of "The Distribution of Wealth."

The speaker was aware of the debatable nature of the subject of his address and treated it accordingly, while furnishing briefly a few figures, in his opinion, by which the distribution of wealth could be governed more equitably than it is under the present system of economics.

He explained that much of the unrest and discontentment at present prevailing arises principally with regard to the ownership of land, and the distribution of the wage fund.

Most Remedies Defects.
With regard to the land, through the history of time, private ownership of land had always existed, and it had been found advantageous in some respects to the individual and the community or it would not have existed. He would say, however, that there are some defects, which must be remedied, especially, if, as must be expected, there is to be a commercial and industrial depression during the next few years, arising from the crisis through which the world has just passed, and out of which the British Empire has emerged successfully due to the solidity of our institutions.

Mr. Davis spoke favorably of Henry George's principle of the single tax and voiced the opinion that municipal and state ownership of certain lands should be adopted. By this means, the undue inflation of the value of land would be controlled, and the wage-earner could

BOLSHIVERS.
There's one thing I'm thankful for," said Mrs. Crossin. "My John is never going to be one of them Bolshivers." "How do you know?" "Well, of course, I'm not sure how people go about it to bolshiver. But I understand it's largely done by spreading flames, and I don't believe there's a man on earth that hates the idea of getting up and starting a fire worse than John."—Washington Star.

COBALT MINERS PETITION FOR 8-HOUR DAY LEGISLATION.

Legislation for an eight-hour day with a half holiday on Saturday for all the wage workers in the Province" is the purport of the petition which the Cobalt Miners' Union is putting before the Ontario Legislature at the present session. In a circular sent out to all labor bodies, returned soldiers' organizations, municipal councils, boards of trade, and public and social bodies in the Province of Ontario they urge:

"The war has served to bring home to the nations involved how much depends on the services rendered by the workers to the life of each nation and of the world in general, and it is freely admitted on all sides that there can be no return to pre-war conditions. At the World Peace Congress now in progress improvements in labor conditions received first consideration."

"From the standpoint of allying discontent now in evidence and apt to become much more pronounced, from the standpoint of providing more harmonious conditions for returned soldiers, and from every human and social viewpoint, can we in confidence urge our brief. Moreover, from the standpoint of production, statistics show that not less than more work is done in an eight-hour day than in a ten-hour day."

THIN ICE.
She whirled upon her silvery skates. The plaudits of all commanding. But she tripped in one of her figure eights. And lost her amateur standing.

BREWERY WORKERS SETTLE DIFFERENCES.
The Brewery Workers' strike at Winnipeg was amicably settled, and all the men have returned to work as usual. The agreement was effected at meetings held between the representatives of the employers and the men. The men under contract will not be affected under the new terms, but about 25 per cent. of the members who are not under any such obligation will receive an increase of \$2 per week, bringing their pay up to a \$21 per week basis.

FEDERAL BILL AGAINST DELAYED BY-ELECTIONS.
Labor has frequently gone on record against delays in the filling of vacant seats in Parliaments, Federal and Provincial.

A bill designed to prevent constituencies from being held vacant for a continued period will be presented to the Federal House shortly by S. W. Jacobs, of Montreal. If adopted, the bill will require the Government to hold a by-election within sixty days after a constituency becomes vacant.

WHERE WILL THE REVENUE COME FROM?

To meet the regular expenses of administration, to pay war service gratuities to demobilized soldiers, to provide pensions for disabled soldiers and for the dependents of those who have lost their lives, as well as to carry out the program of public works which is being undertaken to relieve unemployment, it is estimated that the Dominion Government will require to raise this year a revenue of about

400 MILLION DOLLARS

Last year the Dominion Government revenue was 260 million dollars and was derived from the following sources:

Canadian Customs Tariff	116 millions
Special War Tariff	45 millions
Excise Tax	26 millions
Business Profits Tax	21 millions
Income Tax and other Sources	52 millions
Total	260 millions

How is the shortage of 140 millions to be made up?

At the very moment when Canada is struggling with this problem the Western Grain Growers come forward with insistent demands for:

- (1) "An immediate and substantial all-round reduction of the customs tariff."
- (2) Free trade with Great Britain inside of five years.
- (3) Reciprocity now, and free trade later, with the United States.

These demands are apparently made in the hope and belief that, if they are granted, those making them will be relieved of a large part of what they call the "Burden of Taxation" which the tariff imposes upon them. That expectation can only be realized if the revenue raised by means of the tariff is substantially reduced. They may argue that under a lower tariff the volume of goods imported will increase, and consequently there will be no decrease in the revenue. But mark this—they want the duty removed entirely from implements, lumber, cement, oil and other articles of which they are large consumers. If the revenue is to be maintained under such a rearrangement of the tariff schedules, other classes of the people must pay what the Grain Growers will escape.

Passing to the next point, how would the Grain Growers provide for the probable shortage of 140 million dollars this year? They ask the Dominion Government to impose the following taxes:—A direct tax on unimproved lands, increased taxation on personal incomes, increased inheritance taxes and increased taxation on corporations.

Vacant land now pays taxes to the Municipalities and, in some Provinces, additional taxes to the Provincial Government. Income taxes are now paid by individuals to the Municipalities and also to the Dominion Government. Inheritance taxes are now imposed by all the Provinces, ranging in Ontario, for example, from one to twenty per cent. Corporations are now taxed as persons by Municipal Governments, Provincial Governments and the Dominion Government, and also pay special taxes to every Province for the privilege of being corporations.

Last year the tariff collected sixty-one per cent. of the total Dominion Government Revenue. Does anyone believe that the forms of taxation advocated by the Grain Growers can be increased sufficiently this year to obtain the revenue which would be lost by tariff reduction, and also the additional 140 million dollars required, without crippling industry, stifling business and throwing thousands of workers out of employment?

The United States has all the forms of taxation advocated by the Grain Growers, but still finds it necessary to maintain its customs tariff.

If the Grain Growers are to escape almost all taxation, including the great increase caused by the war, what will happen to the people who will be driven out of business through having to pay not only their own taxes but also those of the Grain Growers? Will they try to grow grain? It is more likely that they will go to the United States to get work, as other Canadians went fifty years ago, and leave a population, chiefly farmers, ever growing smaller, to bear all the taxes, ever growing greater.

Again we ask where is the extra revenue coming from?

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