

LABOR NEWS FROM COAST TO COAST

The Associated Federal Employees of Ottawa.

Federal Union No. 66.

THE FAILING CANDLE AND THE RISING SUN.

The passing of an institution, like that of an acquaintance, is a saddening thing. We may have criticized its actions and smiled at its weaknesses, yet we watch almost reverently its dying struggles and bend to catch its last expiring sigh.

In such sad cases lies our old friend the Civil Service Association. "Life, like a spent candle, is passing towards the goal."

A hurried examination of physicians (some forty-three in number) is held. One gives it as his professional opinion that unless a strong stimulant, a "mountain dose" in other words, of \$2.00 per annum is administered, the patient cannot last the year. Others fear that the reaction from this heroic treatment may be fatal. As a last resort, transfusion of blood, under the term "affiliation with Labor," is to be resorted to. If the patient's consent can be obtained. And, we presume, the consent of Labor as well, or is that, like the acceptance of a King's honor, to be taken for granted?

While this consultation is going on, the mind of the patient evidently wanders, dire premonitions of impending and gloomy scenes arise and glories once dreamt of take on the substance of realities accomplished. We hear a faint whisper, "the bonus we won for the Service" and every one round the bedside lives his face in pain.

"We obtained representation for the Service on the Board of Hearing." Follows a dull, heavy silence. "I contribute to that representation!"

"We have just secured permanent appointment for temporary employees." We round the bedside table that the plan followed in this matter has been that outlined over a year ago in the report accompanying the first tentative classification of employees recommended for such permanent appointment were forwarded through the regular channels, long ago and are now before Council for action, but so one has the heart to shatter a dying dream.

"Under the supervision of our President, we have now prepared a case for reconsideration of the salary scales of the clerical service. We are about to present it to the Board of Hearing, at which our President is a member. Those clerks affected may watch the proceedings, should they so desire."

"Where lawyers and sweet Utopia! Quintessence of Democracy! where a galaxy of bright minds decide what is best for all and where the inferior masses have nothing to do with the decision in speechless admiration—"speechless" for fear that the accumulation of "voluntinous evidence" might cause extra labor to the janitor in its removal!

"Griffenhagen and Associates are no more." The dreams grow wilder as, in this life, a ghost before born of his kind is just before the end? Let us indeed hope so and gain therefrom fresh confidence for our efforts to make it a reality.

"Such is the unwary course of nature and even the 'resolution' of the Civil Service Association is not after it. Yes, I think I will stop in at the florist's. 'Gates Ajar' should not be too expensive at this time of year. They are also suggestive in this case, both of a way in as well as of a way out for the late lamented, for over the gates I shall have the words, 'forget-me-nots, I think, the words, 'Federal Union No. 66' and on the threshold the words 'Welcome Home'."

Reorganization Plans. The Committee on reorganization has been working faithfully and all ready has in shape its plans for carrying out reorganization of the Service. We venture to predict that they will meet with the approval and support of all.

These plans are, of course, not perfect. They have certain defects which cannot be overcome. We cannot attach to them a fine old British name like Griffenhagen; they are a domestic, not an imported product, and hence do not possess that fine finish that inspiration, as it were, only to be derived from the keen intellect of foreign specialists. They do not evidence that bold, free-living spirit that unhesitatingly treated of the subject, shown in the well-known cut-in masterpiece, "The Reorganized Printing Bureau—A Study in Still Life."

But for an effort by simple Canadians, unlettered but sincere, neither pert nor expert and hampered by some knowledge of the problem studied, our reorganization plans are, we believe, not so bad. We cannot yet announce them as they form a part of a larger scheme of Civil Service administration.

There is one feature which is provided for, however, namely, interchange and adjustment of staffs among departments, with a view to reducing dissimilarity to the minimum. We believe that with a system of superannuation which will permit of retiring the aged civil servant with a competence, and with this system of adjustment of working force among departments, any "overmanning" there may be in some will disappear, and others will be provided with the means to help them greatly, without necessity for the dismissal of a single competent, industrious civil servant. We hope to reach this ideal, or at least approximate it closely, thereby saving the world from the spectacle of a procession of dismissed civil servants going out of one door, while entrants to the Service crowd in another. Some strange things are done in the name of "efficiency"—especially the impious brand!

That Plebiscite. The members of Federal Union No. 66 are naturally straightforward souls and hence there was considerable satisfaction shown when the Civil Service Association announced the holding of a plebiscite as to affiliation with Labor.

Some wily rascal, however, started thinking (a most reprehensible habit acquired upon joining 66 I suspect) and asked was it not a peculiar thing that the association should ex-

communicate with bell, book, and candle all who had joined our union, and then, having freed his ranks of union sympathizers as far as might be, proposed to vote on affiliation with Labor? And was it not likely under these circumstances that the vote would be against affiliation? And rehearsed plan on the part of the executive of the association to secure an apparent endorsement of their policy of "splendid isolation?"

And again says our thoughtful member, does the scheme, not show that high order of intelligence consistently displayed by the aforementioned executive? If the move to affiliate with Labor is defeated, will the association not lose a large number of those who voted in favor of affiliation? And if Labor affiliation is carried, how will the executive proceed to carry out the wishes of the association? They cannot obtain a charter from the Trades and Labor Congress while Federal Union No. 66 is in existence. They can join only those who voted in favor of affiliation? It seems to be a choice between a serious weakening of their ranks already so sadly depleted, or else dissolution.

Our thoughtful member would seem to have reason on his side. However, we seem the most sensible course, however, for those intending to vote for affiliation to join us now. They should sooner or later do so, if they desire to translate their votes into action.

OTTAWA.

LOCAL MOTHERS' PENSION BOARD MEETING.

The first meeting of the local board of the committee on the Mothers' Allowance Act was held last week when Mrs. Adam Shortt, of the Provincial Board, addressed several hundred women who had been called to the city hall by the Local Council of Women, for the purpose of hearing the act explained. Mrs. Bryce Stewart, of the Welfare Bureau, was elected chairman, and Mrs. S. L. Lelievre, of the Friends of the Poor, vice-chairman; the other members of the local board are Mrs. Chas. H. Thorburn, of the Children's Aid; Mr. F. W. McRea, labor representative; Mr. T. M. Burns of the St. Vincent de Paul Society; and Mr. A. G. Cameron, of the Social Service Committee of the city.

OTTAWA NEWSY BRIEFS.

General Organizer William Varley, of the American Federation of Labor, was in Ottawa last week en route for the Maritime Provinces where he will continue the organization campaign inaugurated some time ago.

On Tuesday next the annual convention of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers will convene at Ottawa. About 100 delegates are expected to attend from all parts of Canada and the United States. The delegates will be welcomed to the city by Controller John Cameron, President Frank Lafortune of the Central Labor body, and Secretary-Treasurer P. M. Draper, of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Mr. A. Larden is this week attending the annual convention of the International Pressmen's Association, held at the Union Pressmen's Home, Rogersville, Tenn.

It is officially announced that the Federated Letter Carriers of Canada has withdrawn from the Civil Service Federation. Since the advent of Local 66, Associated Federal Employees of Ottawa, this action has been anticipated.

TORONTO.

TORONTO NEWSY BRIEFS.

Richard Riely and H. Chatland are new business agents of the Niagara district of the International Machinists, whose membership now numbers 10,000.

The Independent Labor Party are planning a further intensive campaign for their candidates in November Toronto, James Higgins, which will result in canvassing every voter and every house in the riding.

Secretary John Cameron, of the District Carpenters' Council, received a letter from Business Agent Gillanders, who is attending the Carpenters' Convention at Indianapolis, in which he reports that a large amount of work is on the programme to be dealt with and that some 300 delegates are in attendance.

Secretary Falvey, of the Postal Clerks' Association, reports that plans are now under way for an adaptation of the White system to the postal service throughout the Dominion, and that details will be announced within the next few weeks.

Business Agent H. Lewis, of the Machinists, reports that conditions in the trade are in good average shape throughout the city at the present time.

According to Delegates Moss, Derry, Kirwin, Rigby and Gray, who are representing local machinists at the international convention in Rochester, the meeting has gone on record as decisively favoring the public ownership of railways. The international union further reports the payment of death and strike benefits during the past year of over \$1,700,000.

Local 235 I.A.M. is preparing a programme for the winter entertainment season which will include a schedule of dances.

Richard Riely and H. Chatland are now the two business managers of Niagara District International Association of Machinists with its 10,000 members.

On Tuesday evening at the Labor Temple a bronze tablet to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the members of the International Union of Bricklayers in Toronto, who fell in action was unveiled. The names of these men are: R. Anderson, D. Bowen, Edgar A. Birch, Frank Brown, J. Blenkla, J. H. Cooper, Fred Cowper, J. Callahan, J. T. Evenden, George Fereceter.

CONSERVATIVE WING MAKES BIG VICTORY IN THE U. M. W. UNION.

The radical element in the United Mine Workers of America failed in its effort to win a majority of the nominations to national offices in the organization, it was announced at the office of the union at Indianapolis last week. The board of tellers announced that President John L. Lewis, conservative, had been re-nominated by a vote of 326 to 484 over Robert H. Harlan, of Washington, for international president. Vice-president Phillip Murray, of Pennsylvania, defeated Alexander Howard of Kansas, for the nomination of international secretary.

EASTERN CANADA.

GUELPH ALLOWANCE COMMISSION READY. The Mothers' Allowance Commission of Ontario have announced the appointment of the Guelph board who are to deal with any applications in Guelph and vicinity, and instructions have been received by the members to commence work at once. Mr. J. M. Taylor is chairman of the board, and the other members are Mrs. Thos. Goldie, Mrs. A. Anderson, C. W. Dawson and Aid. H. Quarmby.

MONTREAL CIVIC EMPLOYEES TO SEEK INCREASES. It was learned this week at the City Hall that municipal employees both unionized and others, are preparing a scale of wages which they propose to present to the municipal authorities. This is a question which, in view of what the employees consider to be extremely low rates of pay has become acute.

A great many men and women on the civic staff are leaving on this account, it is stated, and a department superintendent admitted recently that he had extreme difficulty in obtaining staff for a new department, which had to be organized with the result that the work had been much delayed, and there was difficulty in getting the quality of assistance required. An instance is quoted of an advertisement now exposed on the walls of the City Hall, calling for a senior stenographer at a salary of \$840 per annum. The proposed scale of wages is to be submitted to the Civil Service Commission and to the Administrative Commission.

WESTERN CANADA.

WINNIPEG LABOR WILL AGAIN CONTEST CIVIC ELECTIONS. Intent on making a fight for the mayoralty and all the aldermanic and school trustee seats, the Winnipeg Branch of the Dominion Labor party took the preliminary step in its election campaign last week, when it instructed the executive to call a convention of the membership for the purpose of nominating candidates.

SEAMEN DECIDE TO ARBITRATE. It was announced today at the offices of the Union of Sailors, Stokers and Cooks of vessels engaged in inland navigation that a referendum among members of the union throughout Canada on the subject of the men's wage demands, had been taken and was in favor of the appointment of a board of conciliation. Members are in favor of a strike if no settlement can be effected by such board.

The men are asking an increase of 25 per cent, and want the month reckoned at 28 days instead of 30 and 31 as at present.

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