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Industrial Commission Receives Suggestions

Members of Organized Labor and Representatives of Employers Appear and Submit Opinions and Ideas as to Cause of Social Unrest and Possible Solution of Problems Confronting the Nation

With ideas and suggestions as to causes of and a solution to industrial unrest prevailing throughout the country, the Royal Industrial Commission spent a busy and profitable day in Edmonton on Tuesday and has moved on toward the east. Edmonton offered good representation of both employers and employees. Compared with reports of previous sittings it appears that Edmonton Labor and representatives of industries have as clear and comprehensive grasp of the situation as any community yet heard from.

Labor's Views
A. Farnilo, Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, was the first witness at the morning session. He was told the commission that industrial unrest was not an evil in itself, since it was only by a wholesome discontent with what was wrong that right conditions could be established. A general cooperation between employers and employees would be the first step toward the eradication of evils. Large numbers of unemployed were to be expected during the transition period, but a strong effort must be made to provide work for them.

Mr. Farnilo urged a 44-hour week as another step toward remedying conditions. Some of the employers had shown a narrow vision in this respect, and efforts to secure a one-day rest in seven from the recent legislature had failed. The hotels, for instance, had not been willing to come into line.

Coal Industry
The general condition of the coal industry in Alberta was referred to by the witness. The scope of the commission recently appointed should be widened, he thought, and all conditions in the mining industry should be investigated by the main.

The main grievances of the miners said Mr. Farnilo, were against their housing conditions and certain conditions in regard to the supply of cars in the mines. The bunk-house must be eliminated, and proper hospital accommodation must be provided. As to wages, the industry had no right to exist if it could not pay a living wage. Miners were in favor of the nationalization of the coal industry, he declared, as a means of establishing better conditions. State control of health, even to the extent of putting medical men on government guarantee, was also favored.

Higher Work Standard
Mr. Farnilo admitted that the tendency today was for the workmen to become slothful and to work for money instead of doing the best that was in him. A higher standard of work was desirable, but the tendency to eliminate apprentices was having harmful effects. Half-educated workmen were produced by the present system. Labor was too casual now, and should be made more permanent.

Industrial unrest was not so much a local as a basic condition, said Mr. Farnilo. Workmen were generally dissatisfied, and there were now probably between 700 and 1,000 men unemployed in and around Edmonton.

The industrial disputes act had not been a success, claimed Mr. Farnilo, but a greater measure of co-operation between employer and employee would bring about a fairer way of settling labor troubles.

Another Labor View
J. W. Findlay, also of the Trades and Labor Council, favored government ownership of the essential industries such as the mines and meat-packing plants. He also advocated nationalized life insurance, a national educational system along economic lines, the nationalization of the medical profession, and a national minimum of living conditions. At present there was an antagonistic attitude on the part of employers and the owning classes were exploiting the workers.

Edmonton was known as one of the scabbiest cities in Canada declared Mr. Findlay, who instanced a number of shops where union labor had been locked out.

Provision for the insurance of workmen against sickness and for the insurance of workers' dependents was urged as one of the remedies of the present unrest.

Favors Prohibition
National prohibition was needed in the interests of the laboring classes, said Mr. Findlay, and he considered it absolutely necessary. The last strike in Edmonton had been uncontrolled for lack of such a measure. Asked as to what he would prohibit, Mr. Findlay said "anything over 2 per cent."

Mr. Findlay also thought that the parliament of Canada should be made up only of members engaged in the essential industries. Nine-tenths of the

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UNION BEGINS WITH STRONG MEMBERSHIP

Taxi-Drivers Organized With a Charter Roll of Ninety-four

Ninety-four members signed the roll as charter members of the new Taxi-Drivers' Organization, and it is confidently expected that the membership will materially increase in a few weeks. The meeting for the organization of the new union was held last week and was a very enthusiastic one. Men desiring to take part in the taximeter's gathering at the Labor hall were turned away on account of lack of room. All teamsters, truck drivers, chauffeurs, taxi-drivers, teamsters' helpers and stable men who are desirous of affiliating with the union should get in touch with Mr. Farnilo, phone 4018 or 7227.

ACTION ENDORSED BY TOM MOORE

In conversation with members of the Trades and Labor Council Executive, President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada stated that he had absolutely no fault to find with the action of the Trades Council of this city in unseating delegates, who advocated secession. Mr. Moore stated frankly that there was no room in the Organized Labor movement for those who would seek to tear down from within the structure which had taken so many years of sacrifice to erect. Any Trades Council, said Mr. Moore, that took it upon themselves to clean house at the Edmonton Central body had done, would have the active support of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

ONE YEAR'S STRIKES THROUGH CANADA

Value of Direct Negotiation Between Employer and Employee is Demonstrated

The Labor Gazette, issued by the Dominion Government prints interesting Canadian strike statistics for the year 1918. There were 191 strikes reported and of these 113, or 57.6 per cent, were won by the workers. But 41 strikes, or 20.9 per cent, were won by the employers, and 10.7 per cent, ended in compromise and the same percentage had an indefinite ending.

The value of direct negotiation between employer and employee is shown by the statement that 108 strikes, or 52 per cent, were settled by this method. Conciliation and mediation were successful in 34 strikes, or 17 per cent, while 21 cases, or about 10 per cent, were settled by arbitration.

Only four disputes were settled by boards of conciliation under the industrial disputes investigation act. This act is known as the Lemieux act.

O.B.U. BULLETIN DEVOTED TO PURPOSES FOREIGN TO OBJECTS

It is rather interesting to find the propaganda sheet of the O.B.U. taken up very much with criticisms of men who are by their enthusiasm and activities responsible for the rapid and solid development of the trade union movement in Edmonton, and have brought it to the advanced position it now occupies, not only in the city, but among the Trades Union cities of the Dominion. The official paper of the One Big Union movement in this locality devotes much space to the criticism of men in local unions here who have the respect and confidence of their locals, yet these same locals are expected to pay by assessment their quota of the campaign fund that will pay for the abuses heaped upon their respected members.

It is not by any means clean and progressive propaganda that is being circulated in the O.B.U. Bulletin, when personalities are so much a feature of the paper.

SHEET METAL MEN NOW ORGANIZED

Efforts of Organizer J. H. Kennedy have been fruitful in getting together under the Sheet Metal Workers' banner, the employees of the McClary Manufacturing Co., at London, Ont. With this additional membership, the local at London is expected to prosper and become one of the leading unions of the city.

From present appearances the most important thing the German delegates to the conference will be called on to answer is whether their fountain pens are filled.

GOVERNMENT IS URGED TO ENACT NEEDED REFORMS

Objectionable Orders-in-Council Continue in Force Despite Protests

CONGRESS ON THE JOB No Action Yet Taken On the Demand of Eight-Hour Day

On the 25th of September, 1918, an Order-in-Council was passed making illegal the holding of meetings of some fourteen specially named societies, and in addition any other society which contravened certain regulations defined in Section B, Order-in-Council 2384.

On the same date Order-in-Council No. 2381 was passed restricting the publication of books, newspapers, etc., printed in any enemy language and also giving power to restrict the circulation of any literature classed as objectionable matter.

Since the passing of these two Orders-in-Council the Congress Executive have persistently protested to the government and demanded their repeal. Many cases of unjust prosecutions resulting in fines and imprisonment have been brought to our attention, and as far as we have been able, assistance has been rendered to secure the elimination of sentences imposed under these Orders-in-Council, each time limiting their scope.

On the 2nd of April, 1919, an Order-in-Council No. 702 was passed which was gazetted this week, providing for the absolute repeal of Order-in-Council No. 2384, thus removing all restrictions on the right of free assembly. On the same date Order-in-Council No. 703 was passed which removes many of the restrictions relative to enemy publications and objectionable matter. In this amended Order-in-Council, enemy language is restricted to mean German, Bulgarian, Turkish or Hungarian languages. Objectionable matter is dealt with by stating that for the purpose of censorship a copy of every publication in any language other than English or French, published in Canada or imported or brought into Canada, shall be delivered to the chief press censor and that any such publications so delivered which are found to contain objectionable matter within the scope of the definition of this term contained in the consolidated orders respecting censorship may be appropriately dealt with under the regulations established by the orders.

We are informed that the practical provisions of these amendments are briefly that any publication printed and distributed in Canada, in English or French, is practically free from interference except through the ordinary course of the law as existing previous to the passing of the Order-in-Council 2381. Any publication, in English or French, coming into Canada must come within the government definition of non-objectionable matter and if in other than the English or French languages must first be submitted for approval to the chief press censor.

In this connection, we are informed that, with one or two exceptions, Kerr's Works will be taken off the list of banned literature. With the signing of peace, in the immediate future, we will look forward to the entire repeal of all these restrictions, believing that the criminal code, as existing in 1914, has been since the signing of the armistice, and will be for the future, sufficient protection against literature which should not be circulated.

LABOR REPRESENTATION

In accordance with demands made to the government in January, 1918, and endorsed at the Quebec convention, representation has been demanded, and in many cases granted, to representatives

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ALL LOCAL UNIONS TO GIVE ATTENTION

So that every week regularly we may get a line on the activities of every Local Union, we would earnestly request that local secretaries or a correspondent in every local furnish us with news of happenings every week for publication in the Trades and Labor Council Paper, The Edmonton Free Press. We desire to feature Local Labor News, and that we may be accurately informed, Locals are asked to furnish this matter and hand it in to Secretary Farnilo. Please give this matter prompt attention and oblige.

Please give home address and phone, if any, of person from whom this news is to be received. Cut this out and present at Union-meetings.

PRESS COMMITTEE,
Trades and Labor Council.

GOOD REPORTS HEARD FROM RAILWAY MEN

Much Progress is Being Made Locally and Throughout the Dominion

F. Havercroft, Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and Freight Handlers Northern Lodge No. 648, submits the following report as to the activities of his live organization:

"I enclose list of members of above lodge as requested in a recent issue of Edmonton Free Press. I am glad to say our local lodge is now making good progress. Our membership has been more than doubled in the past few weeks. We have now over forty members locally with prospects of many more in the near future. The same progress is being made all over Canada and the U.S.A. Ours is now one of the largest trades unions on the American continent representing a total of over 150,000 members. I think we have a very bright future before us."

BUSY MEETING OF T. AND L. COUNCIL

Unseated Delegates Appear and Request Retention of Seats Vacated

The unseated delegates to the Trades and Labor Council appeared at the meeting last Monday night, in force. On the opening of the meeting President McCreath asked all who were not delegates to retire from the hall. Some did but the majority remained in the meeting. The president then asked the regular delegates for their opinions as to whether the unseated delegates should be permitted to remain. This precipitated a discussion in which several of the unseated delegates were permitted to take part. Mr. Paine, of Dawson Local U.M.W.A. stated that as the One Big Union was not formed as yet it could not be said that the unseated delegates owed allegiance to any other body than the A.F. of L.

It was pointed out by Delegate Findlay that the delegates had voted themselves out of the council by advocating secession from the recognized labor movement. President McCreath said that if the executive had done wrong they were quite willing to abide by the decision of the Trades and Labor Congress or the American Federation of Labor. He asked the unseated delegates to be fair and take their protest up in a constitutional manner. A letter from the Brotherhood of Carpenters was read, in which the action of the delegates of that union was upheld. The letter was filed on motion.

The question of the standing of Vice-President Perkins was raised and it was moved by Delegate Clark that the offices of vice-president and sergeant-at-arms remain vacant until time has been given for appeal to the A.F. of L. or the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The motion was carried unanimously.

Secretary Farnilo, reporting for the organization committee, stated that the commoners and bakers of the city had formed local unions—the teamsters with 94 and the bakers with 21 charter members. The Police-men, Letter Carriers' and Old Fort Lodge of Machinists had affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council. The fair-wage agreements recently completed with the city were read by the secretary for the information of the delegates.

NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDING

Delegate Walker, of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, stated that negotiations between his union and the employers were proceeding very favorably. The delegate stated that the strike vote recently taken was unanimously in favor of ceasing work if the demands of the employees were not dealt with in a fair manner.

LOCAL GARMENT WORKERS GET RAISE

Recent negotiations between the employers and the local Garment Workers' Union resulted in a substantial increase in the rates of pay for the workers and the establishment of a 44-hour week.

ALLIANCE OF FOUR TRADES IN FRANCE

The National Council of the General Confederation of Labor, in France has decided to establish a Labor Alliance, which comes into existence this week. It unites the Unions of railwaymen, dockers, builders, and the engineering trades. This organization will aim at obtaining the nationalization of railways and the taking over and control of national production by the working classes.

Extreme Radicals Begin to See Error of Position

Constructive Trades' Unionists Position Vindicated by Smellie. Preparedness to Accept Industrial Commission as a Means of Obtaining Nationalization of Mines, Railroads and Other Transportation Facilities

The press dispatches that have recently arrived portraying the action taken by the loyal trade unionists as represented by Clynes Webb, Smillie, and others, in Great Britain, proves as was stated in a previous issue of this paper, that the Labor men of this continent could not travel at a faster rate of speed towards the new era than our brother Trade Unionists in Great Britain.

Whilst it is no doubt a hard jolt for some of our "exceedingly advanced friends" to find Bob Smillie, advocating the nationalization of mines, railroads, means of transportation, and that the state and workmen, should jointly control and administer. This is a very alarming condition of affairs. Smillie the ideal of the extremist element, those who believe that progress can only be made by destroying, and Smillie to be advocating progress by state control, the present state at that.

We are of the opinion that the representatives of labor in Britain are on the right track, we have held these opinions for some time, we believe that Great Britain, along with this continent is due for shorter hours of labor and a little better wages, when they have secured the 48-hour week in Britain, this country will be happy working a 44-hour week. And so like our fellow British Trade Unionists we stand for orderly method of bringing about change and reform in the social conditions of the nation.

Conscious that our cause is just, we, under the banner of the American Federation of Labor will seek to have immediately established the following reforms, as have been outlined by Labor before the Industrial commission.

TWIN CITY COAL MINERS STRIKE

Company Asks Miners to Accept 20 Per Cent. Reduction in Wages

Employees of the Twin City Coal Mine Company are on strike as a result of a request by the company that they accept a 20 per cent reduction of wages for the summer. Lack of production is the basis of the trouble as sufficient orders are not being received for the full wage scale to be maintained. For this reason the company could not see its way to keep the wage scale up to that paid at Drumheller and the workers were asked to accept the reduction. The miners went on strike and notices have been posted by them warning labor to keep away.

WINNIPEG UNIONS TO TAKE STRIKE VOTE

All unions affiliated with the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council have been instructed to take a strike vote immediately. The result is to be submitted to the Council at its meeting next Tuesday. The vote is to be taken as a "sympathetic strike" vote with the unions now out, the principal of which are the building and metal trades. About seventy-five or eighty unions are affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council, representing between 25,000 and 27,000 men.

LOCAL MACHINIST GETS DAMAGE CLAIM

Chas. Hunt, member of Local No. 817 I.A. of M., who had the misfortune to lose one of his eyes while working as a machinist for the C.N.R., made a settlement of out of court for \$2,500. Abbot & McLaughlin handled the case for Mr. Hunt.

SEEKING A SOLUTION TO LABOR PROBLEMS

The Toronto Carpet Manufacturing Co., Ltd. and subsidiary Co., the Barry more Cloth Co., Ltd. recently announced a program of putting aside a nucleus of \$10,000 in a pension scheme. Also the companies are making a donation of the recently formed mutual benefit association for a cash reserve, and an allowance of \$100 toward the funeral expense of any employee dying in their service. Details of the pension scheme have not yet been worked out.

JOINT CONTROL SCHEME

Vancouver milk distributors, bosses and workers, have organized an "Industrial Council of Milk Distributors" with equal representation of employers and employees, for the purpose of discussing and adjusting matters relating to mutual welfare. Meetings of the council are held monthly. A committee has drawn up a constitution.

Edmonds, Wash. unions have organized a co-operative association and opened a grocery and meat business. Capitalization is \$10,000.

TYPOS UNANIMOUS AGAINST THE ONE BIG UNION IDEA

Progress Reported in Negotiations For a New Wage Schedule

ON PRE-WAR BASIS

Printers Vote 100 Per Cent Strong Against Proposed Strike on June 1st

By A. J. Healey

The regular meeting of the Edmonton Typographical Union, No. 504, was held on Saturday last in the Trades Hall, President McCreath being in the chair and with a splendid attendance of members.

The actions of the executive committee during the past month were endorsed.

Calgary union wrote asking the members of this union not to accept work in the office or operate the machinery of the defunct "Canadian" newspaper in this city until such time as the wage claims of the printers of that firm are settled in full. The Calgary boys are not asking in vain.

A letter from the executive of the One Big Union at Vancouver, asking for funds from this body, was ordered filed.

One of our returned soldier apprentices, Hugh Speight, an original Forty-Niner, who was just out of his time when he enlisted, is at present knocking off the rest with a short probationary course and has deposited his application for admission to this union as a journeyman. The application was referred to the apprentice committee for their report as to his competency.

The Financial Secretary's monthly statement showed the funds in a healthy condition.

The Secretary reported that the result of the ballot on the One Big Union proposition resulted 100 per cent. strong against the proposition.

The proposed strike to enforce a six-hour day, also issued by the executive of the One Big Union, was defeated by 100 per cent.

Ballots were distributed re proposed Federation of Printing Trades Unions of this city, viz, Printers, Pressmen, Stereotypers, and Bookbinders, and this was endorsed by a majority of four to one.

The convention call for the Western Canada Conference of Typographical Unions to be held in the City of Winnipeg this month was received. On motion it was decided to send two delegates, although this union is entitled to three. Messrs. McCreath, Wright, Knott, Healey, Britton and Francis were nominated, the ballot eventually selecting Messrs. McCreath and Knott. These delegates were instructed to support an amendment to the constitution calling for the pooling of railroad fares.

The newspaper scale committee reported progress with the two daily newspapers and said they had met with a friendly and conciliatory spirit. This was accepted and they were given power to call a special meeting of the union when they deemed expedient in the matter.

The job scale committee reported that they had been able to make but little progress with their agreement and submitted a counter proposition handed to them by the job employers. This committee was given power to call a special committee of the union when they deemed it desirable and the proposal of the job employers was so far from a desirable standard that it was consigned to the waste paper basket.

This union is looking forward to an amicable agreement on the proposed scales, but up to the present the job printers have not come near enough to a suitable standard of negotiation that will result in the desired settlement. This union has been working during the whole period of the war under an agreement that was low even for the preceding peace times and with the cost of living having done endless aviation stunts the members of this body have certainly had pressing financial problems during the past four years and at the present moment all are agreed that these difficulties, so far as they are concerned, have got to be solved.

Edmonds, Wash. unions have organized a co-operative association and opened a grocery and meat business. Capitalization is \$10,000.