

LABOR NEWS

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LABOR NEWS

MADE PLEA FOR A TARIFF BOARD

J. T. Foster Says Employment Situation is

A strong plea was put forward by J. T. Foster, speaking on behalf of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council before the Tariff Committee last week. The tariff had too long been a battle cry of election campaigns and a means of fooling the electors on behalf of one or the other political party, Mr. Foster said. In every case, whichever party won, the working class suffered. The raising of the tariff question at every election made electioneering a factor in business life, and the workers suffered first when business stagnation followed the raising of the tariff question. A scientific tariff board, composed of party politicians would deliver the workers from this danger, while the tariff would be raised by the party campaign method. He suggested an economist at the head of such a board, a merchant and a farmer's representative.

NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF LABOR MEETS IN JANUARY.

At the semi-annual meeting of the other night of the Montreal N. B. Central Labor Council, the organized Central Labor Federation of Labor was read giving notice of Provincial convention to be held in St. John, January 11th next. Since the last convention held last March, the N. B. Workers' Compensation Act has been amended to provide among other things: Full medical, hospital and funeral benefits; the minimum weekly allowance of widows and children from \$20 and \$5 to \$30 and \$7.50 respectively. Also the New Factory Act provided better regulations for the stationary engineers. The programme for convention includes a Minimum Wage Act, Mother's Pension Act, Minimum Wage Act, further amendments to the Factory Act, etc.

COMPULSORY REST FOR FRENCH PRINTERS.

A bill providing for a compulsory day of rest weekly for newspaper workers and printers of France was discussed by the President of the Chamber of Deputies last week and will be discussed in turn. Complete suspension of editorial work, cessation of composing and printing rooms between 8 a.m. Sunday and 7 a.m. Monday is called for by the measure. It would mean the suppression of the evening afternoon and Monday morning editions.

GERMANY PAYS MILLIONS TO REPARATIONS COMMISSION.

Germany has delivered to the Reparations Commission, bonds to the amount of \$9,000,000,000 gold, the value of which is approximately \$2,000,000,000 at the present rate of exchange. This announcement was made in the British House of Commons this week by Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer. The delivery of the bonds is in accordance with the requirements of the peace treaty and the commission proposes to hold them as security for and in acknowledgment of Germany's debt.

SEEK SOLUTION OF IRISH PROBLEM

British Labor Party Issues Manifesto on Question.

The executive committee of the British Labor Party has issued a manifesto signed by Arthur Henderson, William C. Adamson and John R. Clynes, calling upon the Labor Party throughout Great Britain to take more active steps to secure the withdrawal of the armed forces from Ireland, and the election by proportional representation of a constituent assembly, charged with the task of working out whatever constitution the Irish people desire in order to settle their own affairs, provided proper protection is accorded the minorities, and Ireland is prevented from becoming a military or naval menace to Great Britain.

Output in the Boot and Shoe Industry.

The Council of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives of Great Britain has issued an interesting statement on the question of production and increased output. It says: "A great deal of talk is being indulged in at the present time about the absolute need for increased output, and that everyone should put his best efforts forward on account of the world's need for all kinds of articles and materials. The present state of unemployment in this and other countries is a grim commentary upon the position. For ourselves, though we as a trade are suffering at the present time, not from over-production, but from under-consumption and 'bad

Railwaymen To Consider Hanna Order

Whether a strike vote will result from the order issued by President D. B. Hanna of the Canadian National Railway debarbing employees from taking part in politics, will be decided at a conference of representatives of the railway organizations to be held in Toronto next Monday morning. H. E. Barker, chairman of the western joint committee in charge of the matter, in announcing this decision, stated that the western delegates, numbering 12 and representing all western organizations, will leave for Toronto on Friday.

CANADA IN DANGER OF BOLSHEVISM

More Likely Victim Than Any Other Country, Says Tom Moore.

Montreal Daily Star. That Canada is more likely to fall a victim to the world menace of Bolshevism, the possibility of conflict being greater here than in any country outside Russia, was the view expressed by Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, in an interview with The Star, after a speech on "Women in Industry from the standpoint of Trade Unions," Mr. Moore delivered to the Montreal Women's Club on Monday. The reasons Mr. Moore advanced were that the workers had no roots here as yet and had the pioneer mind. The country was new. The employers had to take more chances more capital and more resources. Larger returns and stuck to all they got. With such elements there was a larger liability to chaos. Added to the admittedly larger opportunities mitigate against such a thing, Mr. Moore replied that the newcomer workers had not the standard of living to the high prevailing level, and consequently within a year or so found the cost of living just as much a burden as before. Asked for his views on the strike method of settling disputes and the keeping of agreements, Mr. Moore said the strike was a deplorable method, but one not to be desired. With regard to agreements, he thought that workers who broke them and disregarded the voices of their chosen representatives, showed self-discipline and headed straight for disaster.

LABOR CHAPTER MOST IMPORTANT PART OF PEACE TREATY.

The Labor chapter would become the most important part of the peace treaty, Mr. Y. B. Barnes, a British delegate, predicted to the League of Nations at its meeting last week in Geneva. The object is to stabilize peace, he said, "until there is industrial peace; and there can be no industrial peace until Labor gets its better share of the product of its efforts." Regarding the admission of former enemy states, Mr. Barnes said the Labor element of Great Britain, and he knew the vast majority of the laboring people demanded that all by enemy states be admitted without delay.

ONTARIO PAINTERS MAY ORGANIZE CONFERENCE BOARD.

Throughout the province there are about 25 locals of the International Painters' Decorators and Paperhangers' union, the members of which are being called upon to vote as to the desirability of forming a provincial painters' conference board. The object is to stabilize wages, hours and working conditions. So far Toronto and Hamilton branches have bailed out. Business Agent Matt. Price of Hamilton, who is confident that the other locals will swing into line, says that the painting craft is the lowest paid among the building trades in Ontario. Journeymen at Hamilton get 87 1/2 cents per hour. Carpenters and plumbers average from 85 cents to 90 cents per hour.

ONTARIO LABOR GROUP MEETS

Plans Laid For Coming Session of Legislature.

At a conference at Toronto on Saturday between the Labor representatives in the Ontario Legislature and the provincial executive of the Independent Labor Party, a resolution was passed that in future the independent Labor Party, through its representatives in the Legislature, would formulate its own policies, and introduce such legislation as was consistent with the party's platform and would consider the advisability of electing a House leader of the Labor party, other than a member of the party. The conference did not conclude all its business, and when it meets again the question of a House leader will be dealt with.

Joseph Marks, who gave to the press the results of the conference, which was held in secret, stated that there was no friction between the Labor group and the Farmer up in the Legislature, and he said that the Labor group would carry out its agreement with the U.F.O.

A committee was appointed to wait on the Government with a request for strong measures to relieve unemployment. A resolution was passed to the effect that sympathizers with extreme movements in the Labor party should not occupy official positions within the party. It was decided to urge upon the Ontario Government the inclusion of all deserving mothers and deserted wives within the scope of the Mother's Pension Act.

BELGIAN MINERS TO SHARE IN PROFITS.

Minister of Labor Waters advised a delegation of Belgian miners from the Charleroi district, where a strike has been in progress, that the Government was prepared to consider concessions which were made, satisfactory and that the Government would be prepared to consider the question of participation by the men in the profits of the industry.

LENINE'S ADVICE TO BRITISH LABOR.

Much interest has been aroused in Great Britain by the publication in the English translation of the "The Left Wing of Communism," by Nicholas Le-line. In the course of his work, Mr. Lenine advises British Communists to secure party organization and to help establish a Labor government. He declares that, after this step has been taken, there will be a re-appointment on the part of the workers against the present Labor leaders, with the result that a movement toward Communism will be set in motion.

MEN, NOT THINGS, ARE TRUE GOALS OF CIVILIZATION.

Addressing the American Society of Mechanical Engineers recently, Samuel Gompers, A. F. of L. president, declared amid the applause of his auditors that "men, not things, are the true goal of civilization. The object is to stabilize peace, he said, "until there is industrial peace; and there can be no industrial peace until Labor gets its better share of the product of its efforts."

HAIG SUPPORTS WORKLESS VETERANS.

"Work is the last thing certain classes of our fellow-countrymen will give to ex-service men," declared Field Marshal Haig, addressing the National Farmers' Union in London last week. "They say they have not been through an apprenticeship. Are not five years of war service to count? It is a great shame and disgrace that the trade is suffering from."

IMPOSSIBLE TO CENSOR MOVING PICTURES FOR 8-YEAR OLD CHILD.

"You cannot censor moving pictures to suit 8-year-old children," remarked Hon. Peter Smith, provincial secretary, in a speech at the annual meeting of the Ontario Motion Picture Association in Toronto. He said that the Ontario Motion Picture Association had been asked to censor moving pictures for 8-year-old children. He said that the Ontario Motion Picture Association had been asked to censor moving pictures for 8-year-old children. He said that the Ontario Motion Picture Association had been asked to censor moving pictures for 8-year-old children.

CANADA LAGGING BEHIND

In addressing the Windsor convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada in September the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, Premier of the Dominion of Canada, stated that "the only way to make progress is by working in co-operation with other countries, to the end that we may all march forward together to the lifting up of the status of those who are needy." In this respect let me say that CANADA LEADS THE WAY."

Last week we stated that by order-in-council of November 6 most of the draft conventions of the Washington conference of the International Labor Office had been passed along to the various Provincial Governments for action. One of Canada's competitors in the world's markets has enacted the legislation. We refer to Greece, the first nation to formally notify the League of Nations of ratification of the labor conventions adopted at the Washington conference. The Dominion of Canada has until July, 1921, to enact the necessary legislation carrying into effect the draft conventions of the Washington conference. However, the Government states that it has fulfilled its functions in bringing the matter to the attention of the various Provincial Governments.

Certainly the draft conventions of the Washington conference will not be carried into effect in Canada by the time specified. Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen should use his good offices in calling a conference of all the premiers of the various provinces together, forthwith, and endeavor to have the draft conventions of the Washington conference carried out simultaneously throughout Canada. Failing in this, representation should be made to the British Government to have the British North America Act amended to allow for the carrying into full force and effect, nationally, all the provisions of the labor part of the Treaty of Versailles.

We quite agree with the Premier when he says that Canada should lead the way. Words will not suffice. Action is what is wanted.

SCIENCE IS WELCOMED BY ORGANIZED LABOR

Organized labor welcomes whatever assistance research and science can offer to modern industry, said President Gompers in an address to delegates at a preliminary conference on industrial research.

The trade unionist declared labor does not oppose the greatest production that is possible, but it objects to making production the object of life. "A persistent effort," he said, "has been made to saddle upon labor the odium of opposition to improved methods and machinery in production. What labor has opposed is an effort to exploit them by the use of improvements that are intended as a blessing to mankind. Labor is rightly suspicious of changes that are introduced without explanation and whose effect upon their welfare is not considered."

"Labor is not opposed to increased production or improved methods. Quite the contrary. We recognize there can be no permanent benefit to mankind unless we have a better factory living. But we hold as a fundamental principle that the ultimate of production, but service in a better life for humanity.

"Experience has taught organized labor that to secure party organization and to help establish a Labor government. He declares that, after this step has been taken, there will be a re-appointment on the part of the workers against the present Labor leaders, with the result that a movement toward Communism will be set in motion.

LENINE HOPES TO SOVIETIZE ALL EUROPE.

A despatch from Helsingfors last week states that Lenine, in a speech celebrating the victory of the Soviet forces over the armies of General Wrangle in the Crimea, declared: "This triumph of Bolshevism is the most gigantic ever dreamed of, but the victory is incomplete until every part of Europe has been revolutionized."

NO REDUCTION IN WAGES UNDER AWARD.

Employees of the Fort Smith Smelter Company will have permission to examine the books and accounts of the corporation, and if they wish, to employ auditors to check them up, under a decision of the arbitrator selected by the United States Department of Labor to settle a dispute between the company and its workmen. The decision was made public on Monday.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS CHECKS ISSUED

The first checks under the provisions of the Mothers' Allowance Act were issued last week from the provincial treasury. Checks were sent to Hamilton, Guelph, Galt, London, Owen Sound and Woodstock. It is the initial step in a great undertaking, and will put hundreds of mothers on the pay roll of the province to receive monthly checks. The mothers are in the same position as a civil servant of the province, and exactly on the same plane as any official of the Government. The Mothers' Allowance is not a charity. It is simply the paying of the mothers by the State and municipality to adequately care for her children, in order that they may be reared up for strong citizenship.

Great Reform in Social Life New a Reality.

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Toronto mothers are also to be paid at once their allowances, being on the second list of applications approved by the Mothers' Allowance Commission. The second list includes mothers in Guelph, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Oxford county, Port Arthur, Temiskaming district, including Cobalt and New Liskeard, Windsor, Woodstock, York county and Toronto.

STANDARD WAGE ZONES PROPOSED

National Joint Conference Board Holds Second Meeting.

The second quarterly meeting of the National Joint Conference Board of the Building Industry met last week, with E. McG. Quirk in the chair. Representatives from the Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries were present, and the building trades unions, represented by E. Infield, electricians; Tom Isaard, bricklayers; John Bruce, plumbers; Joe Hunter, painters, and Art Martel, carpenters.

The question of standard wage zones brought out the necessity for more detailed information on the family budget, in addition to the figures already compiled by the Department of Labor. A sub-committee, composed of Messrs. J. P. Anglin and J. Bruce, was appointed to make investigation and secure information.

The shortage of houses in many Canadian centres suitable for working men was felt to be one of the pressing issues which should be brought to the attention of the Government. In addition to the present housing schemes it was felt some plan should be prepared by which the man having a lot, and unable to erect a home, should be able to secure financial assistance. A special committee was appointed by the chairmen consisting of Messrs. J. P. Anglin and J. Bruce, to bring in a full report at the next meeting.

Progress was reported by the committee investigating the question of apprenticeship, and special mention made of the plan worked out in the plumbing trade. The matter of training workmen for the various trades in the building industry was felt to be most necessary.

VIGOROUS GROWTH OF IRON MOULDERS' UNION

7,500 Initiations and 5,946 Re-initiations This Year.

The grand total paid out in sick benefits since our Sick Benefit Fund was established becomes more and more impressive each quarter, says the International Moulder's Journal for November. During the last quarter \$59,228.60 was paid out. This amount being a normal one considering the number of active and honorary beneficial members who are seeking work.

With the close of the third quarter, the grand total of money paid out to members was \$2,752,322.65. The four million mark will soon be reached.

The third quarter indicates that 1,705 members were initiated and 1,299 reinstated for the period covered. This makes a total of 7,500 initiations and 5,946 re-initiations for the first nine months of the year.

During this same period, 331 members were removed from the roll on account of death. The number of initiations and re-initiations are encouraging evidence, indicating that the organization is enjoying a healthy and vigorous growth.

MINERS AND DOMESTICS ARRIVE FROM BRITAIN.

The Megantic of the White Star Dominion line docked at Montreal recently, bringing 1,466 passengers over, including a party of 110 miners from Cornwall, Eng., bound for the mines of Northern Ontario, and another of 50 girls, almost all from Scotland, who are going to Saskatchewan as domestics.

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Continue Fight For 44-Hr. Week

The changed industrial conditions and prospects as in the future and organized labor determined to continue the fight for an eight-hour day and a forty-four hour week. The report from the executive of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council last Thursday reiterated the stand of organized labor for forty-four hour week and urged the unions to continue to work for it.

ONTARIO MINIMUM WAGE BOARD NAMED

Miss Margaret Stevens and H. J. Fester the Labor Members.

Professor J. W. MacMillan, of Victoria University, Toronto, is chairman of the minimum wage board, whose personnel was announced last week by Hon. Walter Rolfe, minister of labor, and the other members of the board are: Mrs. H. J. Fester, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council of Hamilton, Ont., and Miss Margaret Stevens, of the Toronto Garment Workers' Union.

The chairman of the minimum wage board is elected at pleasure. Mr. Stapell and Miss Stevens are appointed for two years, and Mr. Fester and Mrs. Parsons for one year. Prof. MacMillan was chairman of the Manitoba Minimum Wage Board when it was appointed.

The Ontario Wage Board, which was brought into being by legislation passed at the last session of the Ontario legislature, has power of recommending to the Governor in Council the minimum wages of women and girls. The board will act when asked to do so by some group of women workers. Through the board, the members of the board are to serve without remuneration, but the Lieutenant Governor in Council may allow them to receive an allowance for the transaction of business, and the members shall be entitled to reasonable and necessary travelling and living expenses, and allowances for the business of the board.

INTERNATIONALISM OF CAPITAL.

At a conference last week of the International Cotton Committee representatives of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Japan, and Czechoslovakia submitted reports of conditions of the trade in their respective countries, showing that the depression was world-wide and "short time" is being extensively adopted.

FREE PASSAGE FOR BRITISH EX-SERVICE MEN.

Colonel Amery, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, announced that the Government last week passed a bill which would allow free passage by ex-service men for free passage to other parts of the Empire had been extended to the year 1921. Applicants who applied and who were approved that date, could avail themselves of the privilege at any time before December, 1921.

ORGANIZED LABOR WILL NOT CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR REDUCTION OF WAGES

President Tom Moore Warns Montreal Employers That no Country Outside of Russia More Liable to Revolutionary Movements Than Canada.

When Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, stated at the weekly luncheon of the Montreal Canadian Club at the Windsor Hotel Monday, that organized labor in Canada would not submit to any reduction in wages, he was addressing an assembly consisting in great part of business men, and the best considered views of labor. His speech was greeted with marked approval, and frequently aroused applause.

In opening his address, Mr. Moore drew the contrast between the old attitude of the world towards labor, and the modern one. Years ago the name of labor union was the cause of contempt and suspicion, whereas today he was being welcomed by a gathering of business men. He would not attempt to say what was rational or irrational on either side; contemporary opinion was never trustworthy in such a matter, and time alone could show in most cases, it was only after their deaths, that the part played by reformers was recognized by the world. And the world had been left in no doubt as to the part played by reformers. He would rather be unpopular at the expense of my conviction," he said.

Furthermore he did not contend that labor had always been right, and time alone could show in most cases, it was only after their deaths, that the part played by reformers was recognized by the world. And the world had been left in no doubt as to the part played by reformers. He would rather be unpopular at the expense of my conviction," he said.

N. S. MINERS NOT YET SATISFIED

Montreal Agreement Turned Down—Up to Membership.

The Montreal agreement fell by the wayside in the convention of District 26, United Mine Workers of America, at Truro on Friday evening after a full day spent in discussion of it and strike matters. When the motion was finally put, and the votes counted it showed 75 against and 20 for it. A roar of approval shook the Court room. Although expected, those who upheld the pact were severely shocked by the majority. It was thought that the convention was more evenly divided.

The taking of the vote and its result did not mean the defeat of those who favored the Montreal pact. As soon as order was restored, the motion to refer the whole matter to the Executive Committee, together with directions to the officers of the district to visit the locals and give them their personal views, was seconded and discussed for a brief period. On a vote taken shortly before adjournment it carried by 46 to 20.

It means that the Montreal pact will be presented and discussed in all the locals and votes taken as a referendum to settle the matter of acceptance or rejection. Practically it throws the whole subject open again, and the fight for and against is transferred from the convention to the local membership.

President Baxter, Secretary McLachlan and J. C. Watters urged the delegates to accept the agreement, but being sound against the pact. Practically the labor movement is bearing fruit.

Conditions in District 26 have been unsettled for some time. The Montreal pact was a sticking point. Through the good offices of the Executive Committee, a conference was held in Montreal between the officials of the operators and the miners. President Baxter and Secretary McLachlan journeyed to Indianapolis and consulted with the officials of the U.M.W. of A. An agreement was finally made at Truro, the result of which is described above.

Secretary McLachlan is of the opinion, however, that the miners will not accept of a strike. The industrial outlook was not favorable, and furthermore, he does not think the international will give the miners a strike. He said the Dominion Steel Company could stand a strike as they would close down their works and have the necessary repairs and overhauling done. Seventy-five per cent. of the men must vote in favor of strike before one can be called.

INVESTIGATE FAKE CO-OPERATIVES IN CHICAGO.

The Chicago Federation of Labor has appointed a committee to investigate various alleged co-operative societies that are springing up in that vicinity. One of these movements was reported as consisting of three persons who had a store, and the membership having no voice. Lurid literature is depended upon to keep this feature from the public.

Trade unionists insist that the Rochdale system is the only co-operative plan. Under this system the members have a voice, with the holder of a share in the store an equal footing with the holder of 10 or 100 shares. Goods are sold at the prevailing market price, and after the expenses of the store, the surplus is returned to stockholders on the basis of the amount of money spent at the co-operative store.

This system differs from usual business practice, in that the surplus is not divided on the basis of the amount of money spent, but in proportion to the loyalty of stockholders to the co-operative movement.

UNEMPLOYMENT CAUSING ALARM

Situation is Grave But is Not "Alarmingly Serious."

The unemployment situation in Canada is causing much alarm in certain quarters, but according to information available at the Department of Labor, it is grave, while not without its graver aspects, is not one which should cause alarm.

Mr. Bryce Stewart, director of the Dominion Employment Service, in a general review of the situation said this week that he did not consider the situation of labor as one of "alarmingly serious." It is greater and is growing as the year advances in the boot and shoe industry, the clothing industry, and such occupations as piano and furniture making, jewelry and kindred trades. Mr. Stewart also pointed out that the seasonal depression was the main cause of the unemployment, and that the number of unemployed and cause alarm where none was justified.