Labor News From Coast to Coast.

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

Weekly News Letter.

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Ottawa Agreement Embodies Industrial Council

A week's rest [illegible] labor[illegible] and steam engineers, who [illegible] is generally [illegible] permitted to work nine hours [illegible] necessary.

[illegible] lent agreement. [illegible] That we agree to eliminate overtime as far as possible, except in the case of accident or for the saving of life or property.

"5. That we agree to the principle of weekly pay, employers to be allowed two days in which to make up their pay roll.

"6. No member of the unions in the employ of any recognized contractor shall be allowed to work after hours for any other contractor or for any private party.

"7. The members of the unions parties to this agreement propose to do all they can to promote efficiency by working to the interests of their employers, by giving a fair day's work for the wages paid.

"8. We agree to the formation of an Industrial Council, consisting of five representatives from the Building Trades Council and five representatives from the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Building and Construction Industries, with an independent chairman to be agreed upon by both parties.

"9. In case of any dispute between the parties to this agreement, it is understood that before a strike is resorted to, the dispute in question shall be laid before the Industrial Council, this Council to be called within 48 hours after being notified by either party.

"10. This agreement is subject to the individual agreement of the various unions.

"11. The employers agree to the principle of closed shop.

"12. The parties to this agreement recognize only the following holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Schedule.

"Masons and bricklayers, marble and tile setters, 75c per hour; stonecutters, 75c per hour; carpenters, 60c per hour; painters, 50c per hour; plasterers, 70c per hour; electrical workers, 60c per hour; cement finishers, 60c per hour; plumbers and steamfitters, 65c per hour to Dec. 31, 1919; laborers, 45c to 50c per hour; steam shovel workers, 95c per hour; steam hoist workers, 65c per hour; steam mixer workers, 60c per hour.

"Signed on behalf of the Building Trades Council of Ottawa by J. Cameron, president; J. O. Jackson, secretary; Pat Green, business agent C. and T.; M. Ryan, N. W. Beaven, A. J. Bellman, R. J. Desjardins.

"Signed on behalf of the Ottawa Branch of the Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries by G. A. Crain, H. J. Graham, J. Douglas, S. H. Smith, John R. Murphy, T. McLaughlin, W. McInealy, W. Doran."

WORK FOR THE SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

Canada's future policy in regard to shipbuilding was disclosed to Parliament by Mr. Ballantyne. It is briefly that with the present world scarcity of shipping the Government proposes letting contracts for construction sufficient to keep Canadian yards busy for 1919 and for the greater part of 1920. After that date the Government shall be guided by the conditions which present themselves.

The Minister of Marine justified the Government's present programme for three main reasons:

1. The great famine in ocean tonnage.
2. The need of ships for the building up of an export trade, and
3. The necessity of cargo vessels to work in co-operation with the Canadian National railways.

At the present time, the Minister said, there are 45 vessels under construction in 20 Canadian yards. Their net tonnage would total 264,050; their value was $52,691.45. Over 40,000 men were engaged in building them and 25 would be completed this year.

Representatives of shipbuilding companies at various points in Canada, from Port Arthur eastwards, and of the Shipbuilding and Marine Federation, the shipyards employes' organisation, who have been in conference at Ottawa for several days, have divided into committees, each of which will visit the yards and confer with the management and the men. One committee will go to Toronto and Port Colborne, one to Collingwood, Midland and Port Arthur, and a further joint conference will likely follow. The men are asking a 44-hour week and wage increases through the Federation, of which J. Marsh, of Niagara Falls, Ont., is secretary.

WINNIPEG AGITATION AGAINST ALIENS.

Energetic protests against the large number of alien enemies in the West, and especially against the Government's policy of permitting Austrian and German agitators unrestrained liberty of action, were sounded at a largely attended mass meeting at Winnipeg. While the meeting was called by returned soldiers, hundreds of business men and women were present as well as veterans.

One soldier said in some parts of the West the alien enemies were so numerous that the English language was never spoken. He said the 24,000 in the vicinity of Winnipeg had to be fed by the Government. A resolution denouncing the Government's pacific policy on the treatment of the enemy aliens was passed by a showing of hands and cheers.

COBALT MINERS TO CONTINUE BENEFITS.

The sickness, accident and funeral benefit system of the Cobalt Miners' Union will be continued as before, but at an increased rate of dues, according to the result of the voting which took place on this question. The figures were not made public, but it was announced that the voting favored the continuance of the policy by five to one. The new rates, which will go into force immediately, call for a payment of $1.50 per month for each member, as against $14 annually, as heretofore.

SASKATOON LOCAL WITH NO DELUSIONS.

Mr. G. Dealtry, press secretary of the Saskatoon Local of the I. A. T. S. E. and M. P. M. O., in his report to the official journal, shows the local's opinion on the Calgary Conference in no uncertain tone. On this matter he presents the following:

By the way, was your local one of the Canadian locals to send a delegate to the recent Calgary convention? And did it cost a lot of money? And when your delegate got there did they hand him a jolt by passing a bunch of red Bolshevik dope that had no more to do with trade unionism than roast pork has to do with a Jewish banquet? We were among those present, thank you, but we did not stay, oh, no. Instead we received Brother Lowther's report and promptly passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That this local hereby declare themselves as entirely out of sympathy with the Inter-Provincial Conference held at Calgary, and this local hereby dissociates itself from all resolutions passed at said conference.

However, we shall try again at Ottawa and see if we have any better luck.

REGINA PRESENTATION TO INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

The Royal Commission appointed to investigate causes of industrial unrest throughout the country, presided over by Chief Justice Mathers of Manitoba, at the Regina sessions, heard evidence of individual unrest by the witnesses representing the employers, who were examined. Before the commission had adjourned for lunch at noon five witnesses presented themselves and were examined. Three statements bearing on general industrial conditions were submitted. Some suggestions for remedying conditions were offered and these included nationalization of the lands and production for use instead of for profit. Those who appeared before the commission were J. Sambrook, Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, for working men; W. Wilson, representing the Builders' Exchange; Daniel MacDonald, representing the Machinists' Union in the Trades and Labor Council; Mrs. R. Asale, representing the Women's Labor League, and T. M. Motley, provincial labor commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan. W. Wilson and R. J. Leckey appeared representing the Builders' Exchange. Building strikes have been recently in progress here and the carpenters are still out. They explained the conditions extent with regard to the building trades. Mr. Wilson strongly upheld the plan for compulsory meditation.

KINGSTON PLANT MAY SHORTLY OPERATE.

The situation regarding the strike of the Canadian Locomotive Company employes at Kingston, Ont., remains unchanged. The plant is absolutely closed and the clerical staff has been dispersed. Negotiations have not yet taken place in an endeavor to reach a settlement, but it is said that an adjustment may shortly take place, with prospects of settlement of the differences.

TIME TO GET BUSY AND SOLVE THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.

—King in Chicago Tribune.

FROM COAST TO COAST

GLACE BAY STRIKE OF MINE CLERKS.

Two vice-presidents of the Trades and Labor Congress, David Rees, special organizer of the U.M.W. of A., and Robert Baxter, vice-president of the A.M.W., are using their best endeavors to bring about a settlement of the strike of the union clerks working at the mines, but so far they have been unsuccessful.

As a result of the strike, great inconvenience is caused the merchants and citizens generally, there being no clerks to receive coal orders. Scores of people are without coal, and on account of the coal shortage the schools may be forced to close down.

SYDNEY CLERKS ASK FOR BOARD.

That they ask the Department of Labor at Ottawa for a Board of Conciliation under the Industrial Disputes Act before proceeding with the proposition for a strike was the decision reached at a meeting of the union clerks employed by the Dominion Steel Company. The clerks also took a strike vote, result of which is being withheld for the present. Telegrams asking for the appointment of the board have been sent to the Minister of Labor.

CALGARY METAL TRADES WIN OUT.

The metal trades workers are at work again at Calgary, after being out for one week. They returned after the employers agreed to put into force the 44-hour week. The wage schedules are to be settled by June 1 and will date from May 1.

OTTAWA BUILDING TRADES' INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL.

The Building Trades Council of Ottawa have decided as their representatives on the Industrial Council on the following: J. Cameron, J. O. Jackson, Pat Greene, C. W. Lewis, and N. Beaven.

CORNWALL PAPERMAKERS STRIKE.

Papermakers of the Toronto Paper Mills, Co., located at Cornwall, Ont., were refused an increased rate of wages and walked out, causing a shut-down of the machines. Outside of the textile factories this is the only industry of this place.

WELLAND CARPENTERS' AGREEMENT.

Local 969, Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Welland, Ont., have signed an agreement providing for a 70 cent. per hour rate, 44 hour week. The agreement is made to continue in operation until May 1, 1920.

MONTREAL TYPOS AND ONE BIG UNION.

Staying right in line, the following resolution was passed at regular meeting of the Montreal Typographical Union No. 176:

"Typographical Union No. 176 renews its allegiance to the American Federation of Labor, and is of the opinion that every International Union should have a Canadian Executive Board; and that Local No. 176 is opposed to the "One Big Union," and that copy of this resolution be sent to the American Federation of Labor, the International Typographical Union, the One Big Union promoters, the local newspapers, the Montreal Labor World, and other papers throughout Canada." Carried unanimously.

Typographical Union No. 145 of Montreal has also adopted unanimously a resolution against the "One Big Union" movement.

COBALT MINERS VOTE ON BENEFIT POLICY.

Voting took place at Cobalt by the members of the local Miners' Union on the question of sick, accident and death benefits. Hitherto the members have been assessed one dollar monthly and an extra levy of 50 cents every three months, and it is now proposed to raise the rate to $18 per annum, payable in monthly instalments. In a circular issued the officials point out that about 15 per cent. of the membership was on the casualty list in the recent epidemic, that there were 25 funerals and that $4,800 was paid in benefits in the period, October-May. In two years and four months the union has paid out $16,500 in benefits, but is unable to make ends meet on the present rate.

RAILROAD TRAINMEN'S CONVENTION.

The triennial convention of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen opened at Columbus, O., on Wednesday, May 14. W. G. Lee, of Cleveland, national president, said that practically all of the more than 900 delegates and nearly 1,000 members were here for the opening session. The convention will continue 25 days, during which time, Mr. Lee said, at least 15,000 trainmen would attend the meetings. Women of the auxiliary, numbering 1,500 arrived and completed plans for the opening of the Women's Auxiliary Triennial Convention.

MONTREAL DEMANDS ARE ENDORSED.

The District Council of Carpenters of Montreal has endorsed the wage demands of carpenters and woodwork workers employed by the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company. The Council also approves of the demands made by Local 1137, mill workers and workers in sash and door and blind factories.

OTTAWA MACHINISTS STILL ON STRIKE.

The strike of the machinists, patternmakers, and rivetters, which has been in progress since the beginning of the present week, is still on. No effort has been made by the larger concerns to discuss the grievances of their employes with a view to arranging an amicable settlement of the dispute, and until they do, the men are determined to remain in strike. The 8-hour day is one of the basic principles for readjustment, an attitude similar to the rest of the troubled areas of the province.

Public opinion strongly favors the men as they are ready and willing to arbitrate, but unless something definite is done by the employers in the near future, an involving situation may result.

HALIFAX STRIKE MAY BE PROLONGED.

Interference on the part of the civic authorities to stop strike-breakers coming to Halifax has been requested by Ralph Eisner, president of the Trade and Labor Council. The strike situation is looking serious. President Eisner intimates that unless strike-breakers are stopped coming to Halifax, "serious consequences" may follow. He has found that a number of carpenters from outside the city have already taken the places of those on strike and he has appealed to the civic authorities for protection, intimating that unless it is given trouble will follow.

LABOR EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.

Organized workers of Stratford will cater to the annual convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario, the sessions being called for Saturday, May 24. Taking advantage of this convention the Stratford boys are arranging for a mass meeting on the previous meeting of the workers, at which some of the leaders of the labor movement will be the speakers. President Tom Moore, of the Trades Congress, is expected to be in attendance, with credentials from the Ottawa local, of which he is now a full fledged member.

WINNIPEG TYPOS STAND BY CONSTITUTION.

At a special meeting called for the purpose of considering the labor situation in Winnipeg, caused by the strike of building and metal trades workers, and the request of the Trades and Labor Council that all affiliated unions take a vote on a sympathetic strike, International Typographical Union 191 declined to take a strike vote, it being deemed unconstitutional.

ASSINIBOIA CIVIC WORKERS CHARTERED.

Assiniboia is the latest of the municipalities in the Winnipeg district to develop a civic employes' union, and the local Council learned the fact at its meeting on the 7th instant, when a letter was read from the union enclosing a schedule which calls for considerable increases in salaries and wages over present scales, and other changes in working conditions, including double platoon system for the fire brigade. The Council did not consider the demands, but decided to hold a special meeting shortly to go into the matter and will invite the organization to send representatives to discuss the matter fully.

The organization is chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and its title is "The Assiniboia Municipal Employes' Federal Union No. 33." It includes the clerks, firemen, constables and laborers.

WINNIPEG STRIKE.

WINNIPEG, May 16.—Precisely at 11 o'clock this forenoon—the time set by the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council—the general strike was launched and approximately 27,000 unionists left their work.

Street cars were taken to the barns; building elevators stopped running; postal employes went home; all deliveries of milk, bread and other foodstuffs ceased; and about 3,000 clerks, bookkeepers and stenographers employed throughout the city, struck.

Except for a specially organized life-saving crew, all firemen walked out.

The policemen have been ordered by the strike committee to remain on duty although they had voted solidly to strike, it was announced; and some strikers have been delegated by the committe to offer their services in the interest of maintaining order.

HULL FIREFIGHTERS' CONCILIATION BOARD.

The Minister of Labor has appointed Hon. Justice J. S. MacLennan, of Montreal, chairman of the board of conciliation which will investigate the dispute between the city of Hull, Que., and its firemen, and Mr. Pat Greene, representing the firemen.

The appointment is not satisfactory to Mayor Archambault. When told of the appointment he stated: "I protest strongly against the nomination, and will state my reasons at the proper time. I understand in any case that the Minister of Labor is out of town, and I do not understand how the appointment was made."

"I am perfectly satisfied," was Mr. Pat Greene's only comment.

Labor Commissioners at The Calgary Meeting

"The Aims and Objects of the Labor Movement" was a subject that was ably dealt with by Mr. Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and Organizer John W. Bruce at the meeting held in Calgary.

The keynote of the remarks of each was to "watch their steps" in endeavoring to bring about any change in the workers' condition, and not to scrap their present machinery before they had something better.

"We are today on the verge of a serious change," remarked Mr. Bruce, who spoke first. "Men's opinions are travelling fast and conditions are rapidly changing, so much so that the thought of today becomes the practical problem of tomorrow."

The workers were conscious of the enormous waste that had taken place in connection with the late war, both of human lives and destruction of property. The time had now arrived when men had to learn to live heroically in the interests of humanity. The war in Europe was now over, but there was possibly a greater combat now facing them, and that was class war.

Today they were entering upon a new era. Social reconstruction was necessary, what form it was going to take and what it was to accomplish was for the workers to say. And it was not going to be created merely by thinking but by practical co-operation on the part of the worker in carrying it through the transition stage from competitive ownership to social ownership.

When the speaker remarked that today they found men who preached the idea of the One Big Union and who told them it was their only machinery, there was an outburst of applause. "The One Big Union means a whole lot" he was continuing to remark when he was greeted with renewed cheering. "I hope," he said, "that this expressed enthusiasm means that you have thoroughly considered what such an organization means."

"When the majority of the workers are so class conscious that they can absorb the idea of the One Big Union, your industrial form of organization will have reached a perfect state, but you have not reached a perfect state yet and are a very long way from it," he said, and added that the man who threw over the present machinery was either a knave or a fool. They had to learn this, that the state was the highest authority in control. They would have to learn to control the state.

"If you want communistic anarchy you can have it, but you have got to learn you must at least have the power of the whole masses behind you before you can make any real progress."

Mr. Bruce urge that in the lines of progress they should proceed step by step, and not throw overboard organized machinery. "My message to you," he said with emphasis, "is, watch your step and do not be carried away with the enthusiasm of the wild cry of liberty, but to bring about a peaceful transition from one state to another, and thus go on your way to a higher and better type of civilization than we have had in the past."

President Tom Moore, in a forceful manner, dealt with what trade unionism had accomplished in the past. The movement of which he had the honor of representing, he said, did not claim to be the only movement that could solve the problems of humanity, but much had been accomplished and much more would be done in the future.

Since his appointment as president of the Trades and Labor Congress many important things had happened. At that time there was no end of the war in sight. The nations had been steeled into throwing themselves into war work. Then the sudden reversal of conditions took place, and the workers found themselves in a good many cases out of employment. They found that for the purposes of destruction the whole world could be organized, and the question had been asked that if the workers could be so organized for the purpose of destruction, how was it that they could not be in a similar position in times of peace.

Continuing, he said he did not believe that the state owed any man a living, but it did owe him the right to work for a living. He claimed there was nothing perfect, and the organization he represented had not by any means reached a state of perfection, but they were doing their best and those who came forward and said they had the only panacea for all wrongs were but misleading the people.

Referring to the O. B. U., the speaker said that he was optimistic enough to believe that the machinery they already had had not reached its ultimate goal, but that they were simply on the verge of what they could accomplish. After the years of struggle and effort that had been made in bringing it to what it was at the present time, it would be but folly to cast all this adrift merely for an experiment.

The trade union movement in the past had been full of imperfections and mistakes, but it was climbing towards the mountain peak. There was no use looking backward, however, but rather to look forward and profit by the mistakes that had been made.

Mr. Moore then entered into a brief history of the trade union movement, and concluded by saying that compared to its slow, if sure movement, the O. B. U. was like the "rainbow colored pill of the quack that professed a cure overnight."

One of the questioners asked who stood between the Russian and German workers and their rights. Mr. Moore in reply stated that they had sufficient troubles within their own country to claim their attention without worrying about other nations.

The composition of the commission was questioned and Mr. Moore wanted it to be distinctly understood that both he and Mr. Bruce were not at that meeting representing the commission but merely as trade unionists.

"Why is the capitalist press opposed to the One Big Union?" was another question that was put to Mr. Moore. The latter replied that he thought the Press had been remarkably fair to both sides, and pointed out that in the verbatim report of the proceedings of the Western Conference published by the Central Committee a vote of thanks had been passed to the Calgary Press for its unprecedented fairness.

Mr. Bruce was asked if he had been appointed to the commission by "petty capitalists" and that as further west the commission proceeded he would report that he had found a mass of evidence in favor of the O. B. U. Mr. Bruce stated that he had been appointed on the commission by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. He reminded the questioner that the commission was returning from the west to the east, and that they had not found the O. B. U. so much favored in the west as some people believed.

Mr. Moore was asked as to how they were going to get control of the forces of the state and replied by political action. The advocates of the O. B. U. should not lose sight of the fact that at the present time organized labor in the Dominion only represented 250,000 people.

MOOSE JAW FAVORABLE TO JOINT CONTROL.

The joint commission control of industry by which the workers would have a larger share in the operation of all industries was almost generally favored by the witnesses before the Mathers Commission at Moose Jaw. W. E. Stephenson, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, spoke of the various elements which enter into the unrest in labor ranks, first among which was the housing question, both as regards scarcity of houses and the high rents which were being asked. The high cost of living, meaning particularly the necessities of life, took practically everything that the worker made, and he had nothing to protect his family against the future. He declared that the workers were, and had been willing to get together with the employers to settle difficulties. There would have to be something done to meet the situation or the witness thought beyond doubt there would be serious trouble, perhaps revolution.

W. G. Baker, representative of the railway trainmen, declared that there were too many middlemen between the producer and the consumer, and the result was the high cost of living. The workers were alive to this fact, and were dissatisfied.

BRITISH LABOR OPINIONS ON PEACE TREATY.

The opinion of prominent British Labor leaders on the peace treaty are given in a series of short interviews by the Times.

"In no part of the House," says the Times, "was the essential justice of the terms more strongly emphasized than among the miners and other trade unions members sitting on the front Opposition bench, or behind it. Nothing could better illustrate the unity of the nation in the face of the latest German effort to divide it, than the stern tone of men like Stephen Walsh and Clynes.

"Walsh said: 'None can maintain that the terms imposed by the victors upon the vanquished are too severe. If anything they err on the side of clemency.'

"Clynes said: 'The terms are very stringent but less stringent than Germany if successful would have imposed upon us.'

"Watts Morgan, a prominent miners' leader, said: 'I think the terms are all that we could expect them to be. One would like, of course, to get a bigger indemnity, but apparently the amount specified is as much as we could expect to receive under present circumstances.'"

WINNIPEG BUILDING TRADES' DEMANDS AND OFFERS.

	Union Demands.	Employers Offer.	Present Rate.
Bricklayers	$1.00	.90	.80
Carpenters	.80	.75	.60
Painters and Paperhangers	.75	.65	.55
Plasterers	.95	.80	.70
Sheet Metal Workers	.75½	.68½	.53½
Structural Iron Workers	.95	..	.75
Asbestos Workers	.80	.70	.60
Steamfitters	.80	.75	.70
Plumbers	.80	.75	.65
Electricians	.75	..	.55
Mill Hands—			
Class A1	.75	.65	.55
Class A2	.75	.57½	.50
Class B2	..	.52½	.47½
Class C2	.50	.45	.40
Stone Carvers	.97½	.92½	.87½
Stone Journeymen	.85	.80	.75
Stone Planermen	.85	.70	.60
Hoisting Engineers—			
A	.85	.85	.75
B	..	.80	.70
C	..	.70	.60
Firemen	.60	.60	.50
Laborers—			
Builders	.50	..	.40
Common	.40	..	.35