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HEED THE MANDATE OF THE PEOPLE.

The Labor candidates who were elected to the city council and School Board, appealed for the voters' support on a very definite program or platform which received, from all sources, a large amount of publicity, favorable and otherwise. It is reasonable to assume therefore that when out of ten men who were elected as Mayor, Aldermen and School Trustees, seven were supporters of the Labor platform, the people of Edmonton, in a very decisive manner, gave their approval to the program of the Labor candidates.

The Legislature will soon be in session and Edmonton in common with other cities of the province will have an opportunity to petition for the charter amendments which the city council has reason to believe are desired by the citizens. No previous city council has had so clear a mandate from the voters as to what is desired in the way of changes in city government, as was given to the council of 1920. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Aldermen will not hesitate to carry out the citizens' desires in that respect. The successful School Board candidates are also committed to a definite policy, the carrying out of which will retain the confidence of the voters who so decisively made their wishes known by endorsing the Labor candidates.

Labor's land policy, the abolition of the property qualification, municipal ownership of public utilities, promotion from the ranks, the election by the people of all boards spending the city's money, the abolition of the improvement tax, should all have immediate consideration from the city council with a view to carrying out the people's expressed desires. Recognition of the Teachers' Alliance, the adoption of the teachers' minimum, proper medical inspection, permanent school buildings, larger grants from the governments, should not fail to receive the consideration of the 1920 School Board.

WILL NOT BE UNREASONABLE.

We hesitate at any time to infer that the demands of unions for higher wages or shorter hours may be unreasonable. But we are of the opinion that certain demands may be unwise in the light of circumstances which may exist.

The Edmonton city council of 1920 is one that will be disposed to treat in a fair and just manner with civic employees or unions of civic employees. In a short time a number of civic unions will approach the council in the matter of agreements for the coming year. It is reasonable to expect that there should be an adjustment along the line of an increase in wages that will be commensurate with the ever-increasing cost of living, and the Free Press has no fear that the question will be approached by the council with any other motive. We are also of the opinion that no local union whose members are employed by the city, will take an undue advantage of the fact that Labor was successful in electing a number of men to the council who are prepared to do the right thing by the city's work-people. We are certain that any inferences to the effect that the civic employees would make unreasonable demands on the city, are false and without any foundation of fact.

If the Free Press believed that any union of city employees were contemplating a move that was calculated to embarrass a city government who was willing to do the square thing, we would not hesitate, even at the risk of being misunderstood, to denounce any such unwise procedure.

VIOLENCE VS. VIOLENCE.

President Wilson made a statement some time ago that has been very widely quoted. It was to the effect that in order to silence objectors against wrong it was necessary to remove the wrong. But it seems that the action of the governmental authorities in the "land of the free" is based on the reverse of Mr. Wilson's apt remark. As an instance of this it might be pointed out that when the Seattle Union Record ventured to suggest that violence was not a cure for violence, that paper's premises were raided and three of its editors were placed under arrest.

The persecution of members of the I.W.W. in the country to the south is strengthening that movement more effectually than a battalion of soap-box orators could do in years. The New York Nation puts the whole question very concisely by remarking that: "We are witnessing everywhere a recrudescence of the rage against the I.W.W. which led to the many arrests and convictions and some deportations last summer. Yet the I.W.W. appears to continue to flourish despite the prosecutions, and the fact remains that arresting and jailing thousands of its members will not end the growth of the organization. There is but one remedy for that—the doing away with the conditions notably in the Northwest, which breed the I.W.W." The same sentiment has been repeatedly voiced by the A.F. of L. with regard to the activities of the Industrial Workers of the World. "While we have I.W.W. employers," said Frank Morrison, a short time ago, "we can expect to have I.W.W. workers."

In spite of the fact that violence is bound to breed violence, President Wilson's famous "force without stint" war phrase is only too evidently being applied to domestic troubles in the Republic. We quote again from the widely-read New York Nation: "The most lawless continue to be judges and district attorneys and law officers generally, and the gentle way they go about making good Americans in their raids is well illustrated by the following description of a raid upon the Russian People's House, taken from the most conservative of our New York dailies: 'A number of those in the building were badly beaten by the police during the raid, their heads wrapped in bandages testifying to the rough manner in which they had been handled. . . . Doors were taken off, desks were ripped open, and even the few carpets were torn up.' There was no resistance, but the place 'looked as if a tornado had struck it'; 'blood was everywhere on the walls.'"

Instead of removing the wrong that exists in industrial America, the authorities would seem to be taking every means to incite the objectors against wrong to violence so that further violence might be used and further crimes perpetrated. It is not easy to contemplate the final outcome of the present method of dealing with the unrest that exists in the country to the south.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

If long hours are necessary to prosperity why are the poorest workers those who have the longest workday?

The Free Press will be issued one day earlier than usual for the next two weeks. Our Alberta Federation convention number will be in the homes on New Year's Day.

The Teachers' Alliance is sure to encounter opposition to its demands from some quarters, but we would doubt the value of the organization if it did not arouse the antagonism of the stand-patters.

The spectacle of a Government preaching economy while it spends thousands upon thousands of dollars proving that someone signed a letter "yours for the revolution," would be funny if it wasn't ridiculous.

An article in the New York Nation reveals a rule of tyranny in the Steel Trust towns that could hardly be credited if affidavits telling the whole brutal story were not produced. The days of "Bloody Mary" lose nothing in comparison with the terrible acts of the Steel Trust hirelings in Pennsylvania.

MUCH BUSINESS BEFORE TRADES COUNCIL MEETING

(Continued from Page One)

"liberty bonds" will be acquired for sale in aid of the defense fund.

Proposed Building Trades Convention.
James Winning, secretary of the building trades unions in Winnipeg, in a letter presented an interesting outline of a proposed convention of all unions of that ilk in the prairie provinces, the convention to be held in Regina in February. The communication was looked upon with favor by the council and was laid over for future action.

P. J. Monaghan who was dismissed from the fire department during the past summer, wrote to the council, in part, as follows: I understand it has been inferred that I reflected disparagingly on the Fire Fighters union. I had no intention that such inference should be made, and I hereby apologize for any statement I made, that would lead to the belief that a reflection was intended. Had I appealed to the Fire-Fighters' union, matters would have been different.

The application for affiliation of the railway clerks and freight handlers was reported on favorably by the Organization Committee and accepted by the council.

Business Agents' Office Proposed.
The executive committee reported on the matter of a business agents' office in the labor hall, to the effect that hall No. 4 be set apart for such a purpose for day-time hours only at a rental of \$1.50 per month, phone arrangements to be separately as required. A rate for rentals of other rooms was also reported, as follows: Unions holding one meeting a month, \$3; two meetings a month, \$5. Special meetings, \$1 each.

Unions with a membership of fifteen or less, \$1 per month for one meeting, with special meeting terms for any other meetings they may wish to hold. Unions holding weekly meetings, \$10 per month. These items of the executive report were adopted.

The secretary intimated that he had issued a circular to all unions, requesting that they send in their current schedule of wages, so that the city fair wage clause might be properly amended to conform to new conditions. Delegate Cotterell referred to the fact that painters in the employ of the street railway department had not been receiving the pay provided for by the schedule of the painters' union, which was 70 cents an hour. He said means were being taken to have this remedied.

Election of delegates to the Federation of Labor Convention in Calgary, on January 5th, were opened for final consideration. Delegate G. H. Geary withdrew from the field, and Delegates E. E. Roper and John H. Bramham were made the accredited representatives of the council, with J. J. McCormack as an alternative.

Borden's condensed milk and Tuckett's cigars were posted as unfair. It was reported that Liberty yeast was now a fair product.

UNITED MINE WORKERS HAVE LARGEST GOOD STANDING MEMBERSHIP

The good standing membership of the United Mine Workers was 524,646 for the month of October. As there is always a certain per cent of membership that is released from the payment of dues because of sickness, lack of employment or other causes recognized by the union, the United Mine Workers' Journal estimates that the total membership for October was 550,000.

"No other labor union in the world ever has had so large a membership as that of the United Mine Workers for October," says the miners' journal. The largest other membership was 428,781, during August, 1918, when there were approximately 60,000 organized miners in the military service.

BANK ROBBERS "TAKING" STOCK IN CO-OP. SOCIETY

The co-operative movement is now becoming so popular and there is such a great demand for stock in the Central States Co-operative Wholesale Society that even bank robbers are "taking" stock in it.

On November 20th, the bank of Sandoval, Ill., was robbed and stock certificate No. 58, amount \$200, belonging to Local Union No. 621, U.M.W. of A., Sandoval, was taken from their safety deposit box.

An effort may be made to dispose of this stock certificate, but a notice has been sent out to advise members of the Society that it is now of no value, having been canceled, and a new certificate issued to the proper owners.

NEW YORK ACTORS FIGHTING TO OBTAIN "SUNDAY OFF" LAW

The Actors' Equity Association at New York has appointed a committee to go to Albany to fight any efforts to obtain legislation legalizing Sunday performances.

The Theatrical Managers' Association, it was charged, is operating a lobby at Albany for the purpose of having such performances authorized. Francis Wilson, president of the Equity, declared that the actor was not looking for his Sunday off on religious grounds, but because he is entitled to it as anyone else.

The union label commands the respect and protection of the courts and state.

NOT A MOMENT IS TO BE LOST IN MAKING YOUR XMAS SELECTION

However, although the time is short, Gift Suggestions are abundantly plentiful in every section of the store, making your shopping here a real pleasure. Special displays are now being made of Christmas Merchandise at prices as all-inclusive in range as gift articles are in variety.

Useful Gifts for the Home that will be Greatly Appreciated

A pleasing gift for the Home will be a lasting remembrance of the giver. We mention here just a few suggestions which may be helpful to you when choosing. These will be found in the Home Furnishing Section, 3rd Floor.

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