

## A. F. OF L. WRESTLING WITH GIGANTIC PROBLEMS

### FORTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF A. F. OF L. OPENS

Important Declarations Will Be Formulated By Workers' Legislative Body.

If there was doubt in any one's mind as to the American Federation of Labor being a "Yankee" organization, that doubt was definitely dispelled and permanently removed by the utterances of the officers of the organization at the opening of the 40th annual convention now in session at Montreal. The annual report of the Executive Council contains many sections dealing with economic problems in the Dominion of Canada, and it must be clear to every one of us, whether we live south of the imaginary boundary line or north of it, that our interests are so closely interlocked that we could not separate one from the other. Following the parade from the headquarters of the A. F. of L., the Windsor Hotel, on Monday morning the usual ceremonies were proceeded with and addresses of welcome were delivered by President Moore, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Council; Mayor Martin, of Montreal; Hon. Glendon Robertson, Minister of Labor; President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, and others. President Samuel Gompers, the "grand old man," fittingly replied, and extracts of his address appear in another column.

Various reports have been made, and these are in the hands of the different committees, and as yet the real business of the convention has been clearing the decks for action. Towards the end of the week and all next week many knotty problems will be solved or means devised to pave the way to complete social justice for all who toil.

The organized workers in Montreal are endeavoring to make the 40th annual convention a significant one, and various events have been planned.

### MANY CANADIAN WORKERS DESIRE NATIONAL RECOGNITION THROUGH THEIR INTERNATIONAL UNIONS

Annual Report of Dominion Trades Congress to A. F. of L. Shows Growing Prestige of International Trade Union Movement As Expressed Through the Canadian Legislative Body.

Many of the international unions, says the annual report of P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Dominion Trades Congress, to the A. F. of L., have realized the necessity of maintaining Canadian organizations and establishing Canadian districts with executive board members of vice-presidents in charge thereof, and we would respectfully draw to your attention the desirability of each international union carefully considering what steps may be possible to meet the oft-expressed desires of their Canadian membership for national recognition within their international trade unions.

The report shows the ever increasing prestige of the international trade union movement in Canada as expressed through the Trades and Labor Congress, and despite the activities of the ultra radicals and the ultra conservatives, the international trade union membership has been augmented by the addition of some 58,815.

P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer, Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, made the following report for the past year:

In accordance with past custom, the following synopsis of the activities of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada along with a brief review of the development in the trade union movement in this country is herewith submitted. The Trades and Labor Congress officially elect a fraternal delegate to address your convention and through that source a more detailed review of the development of the trade union movement in Canada is given.

Last year I was able to submit figures showing an unprecedented growth in the number of trade union members in this Dominion. Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts which have been made during the past year by reactionaries and

### Canadian Workers Not "Fleeced" By A. F. of L.

Because of charges made in Canada by persons outside the labor movement to the effect that the Canadian labor movement is being "fleeced" through its affiliation with the American labor movement and that much money is sent out of Canada while little is returned, President Gompers instituted an inquiry into the whole question.

The returns cover almost the entire field and show clearly that a far larger sum is returned to Canada for expenditure there by the various international unions than is received from Canadian members in the form of dues and assessments.

Incomplete returns show \$617,324.19 received from Canadian members by international unions in the last year. There was sent into Canada \$533,625.28 for various benefit purposes and \$232,613.39 for salaries to officers and organizers in Canada. The total amount of money sent into Canada for expenditure in Canada was for the year \$535,714.49, \$18,386.21 above the amount received from Canada. The half dozen organizations from which reports have not been received could not materially alter the situation.

The American labor movement is a movement for the advancement of the interests of the workers. While politically the labor movement of Canada is as independent of the American labor movement as the American labor movement is of the Canadian citizenship and the citizenship of the United States, yet the industrial relations between Canadian members and members in the United States has always been a relation affected by the border line. The figures are produced in this instance in order that a charge originating outside of our movement may be effectively answered from within and in order that its falsity may be thoroughly understood by all.

### TOM MOORE URGES A. F. OF L. TO JOIN INT. LABOR OFFICE

Whole World Awaits the U. S. Entry into League of Nations.

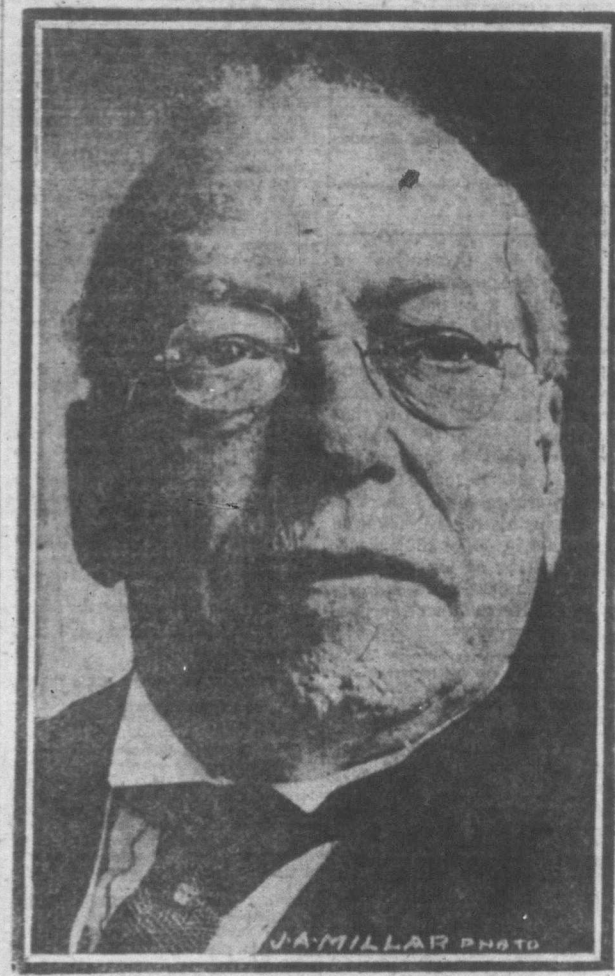
President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, when he arose to welcome the American labor leaders to Canada first told the delegates something about Canada, pointing out that it was larger in territory than the United States. The Dominion Trades Congress appreciated very highly the aid given by the international unions and the federation itself in organizing the workers of Canada. In Canada organization met with opposition, for big interests exist here as well as elsewhere, and there was also the opposition of the enthusiasts in labor ranks, many of whom are more enthusiastic for destruction than for construction.

Reference had been made, said Mr. Moore, to joint efforts of the United States and Canada in war time and in peace time, and he wished to refer to one phase of the international relations. In 1914, the American Federation of Labor, with a vision that was usual, had in contemplation resolved that, when peace came, it would be advisable for the workers of the world to meet and place their views before the Peace Conference, seeing that the workers have to bear the burdens of conflict, and should have something to say about matters to settle conflicts for all time. Resolutions had been passed authorizing the A. F. of L. executive to arrange for a conference, and in 1916 one had been held in England. Owing to the war being more protracted than expected, the matter was postponed in abeyance, but at the signing of the armistice the trade union movement urged the federation to convene in Paris and devise some plan for the future. The conference was held and presided over by President Gompers.

Wants U. S. Help.

"I do not wish to say anything which may be construed as being unfriendly," continued Mr. Moore. "The international labor body is in being, and the workers of the world, it is functioning as well as possible under the circumstances. Canada has become part of the League, and Canada is part of the International Labor Conference thereby. I hope and trust that the work started in 1914 by the International Federation of Labor, followed by the American Federation of Labor, will be a final issue by the federation so that in the near time to come Canada will not be holding the fort for the workers of the American continent, but that representatives to that body will be chosen from the ranks of the American Federation of Labor. We are waiting to welcome, and the whole world is waiting to join in welcoming you in that great international labor body of the world so that the progress of the world can be carried on better than ever before." Mr. Moore was applauded in conclusion.

### LABOR'S GRAND OLD MAN.



Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, now in session at Montreal.

### CANADIAN GOV'T EXTENDS A. F. OF L. HEARTY WELCOME

Minister of Labor Says Aims and Purposes of A. F. of L. Wilfully Misrepresented.

Hon. G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor on behalf of the Dominion Government, welcomed the delegates to the fortieth convention of the American Federation of Labor at Montreal on Monday. In opening his remarks the Minister of Labor recalled that some two and a half years ago the Parliament of Canada had done honor to President Gompers in adjourning both chambers of the Dominion Parliament to the Prime Minister's desk. The Prime Minister had been anxious to be present, but in the closing days of a Parliamentary session had found it impossible to attend, and had sent the following letter:

"To my great regret I find that my public duties will prevent me from being present to greet the members of the American Federation of Labor in Montreal on Monday next. I beg that you will, on behalf of the Government, convey to the president, officers and members of the Federation, a warm and hearty welcome."

"The holding of this great conference on our side of the boundary line emphasizes the interdependence of the two countries, not only in ideals, but in many and various forms of activity."

"While still in the shade of the world-wide conflict from which both countries have so recently emerged and in which their sons fought valiantly side by side, we may recall the spirit of patriotism, self-sacrifice and devotion which animated the ranks of labor in both countries."

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### The E. C. Report

That gigantic problems have confronted the International Trade Union movement on the North American continent during the past year is evident by the report of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor presented to the fortieth annual convention of that organization. The report covers all phases of the industrial and political life of the great producing masses in the United States and Canada. It would be impossible to give in the columns even a proper synopsis of the problems that the International Trade Union movement has faced during the past year, but we have taken a few extracts from the report of interest to all the members of the International Trade Union movement residing in the British Empire.

Reporting on the international labor office the report says:

"The Washington conference by action directed the governing body to set up an international commission to study the question of emigration and immigration. The Executive Council had under consideration a letter from the director of the governing body requesting that the A. F. of L. appoint a representative to serve on that commission. The Executive Council feels itself in a most embarrassing position for two reasons:

1. The Government of the United States has not yet ratified the Treaty of Peace and hence is not a party."

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### RUN GAUNTLET TO ADDRESS WORKERS

150 Gun Men Line Steel Organizer's Path.

Had this statement been made elsewhere other than in the report of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor it would be difficult to believe it. However, the Executive Council is not in the habit of making statements unless they are substantiated with facts, and for that reason we know it is so because the E. C. has said so. However, can you imagine a community in the control of the employers to such an extent that an organizer must pass a line of 150 gun men to reach a meeting of workers. That is what happened in the steel district. Here is what the E. C. in their report on the steel strike says on the matter:

"The Executive Committee cannot conclude this report without paying tribute to the heroic work of the organizers, who conducted their work a great portion of the time at the risk of their lives. Terroristic methods were early injected into the situation by the employers and by municipal and county officials, who sought by every means at their command to make impossible the work of organization. It is worthy of note that during the organization of the steel workers, the first labor mass in being held in the city of Homestead, Pa. Organizers reported that in order to reach the halls for this meeting, it was necessary to pass a line of fully 150 gun men. The right of free speech and free assembly was abrogated by officials in many places."

### TRADE UNIONISTS TO SETTLE MUNITION POLICY.

A meeting to decide whether a special workers' convention will be called to consider the boycott on munitions was held by the Parliamentary Committee of the British Trades Union Congress. At the meeting it was decided to hold a conference of the workers of the munition industry in the United States, and a possible boycott on all commerce with Hungary will be formulated.

### TO ABOLISH CHILD LABOR.

To abolish child labor not merely by prohibiting employment, but by providing suitable education is the aim of the stay-in-school campaign now being carried on or just completed in 29 states in co-operation with the children's bureau of the Department of Labor. The campaign will be followed in the fall by a back-to-school drive in order to round up the children who failed to report at the opening of school. An encouraging feature of the campaign is that six of the states taking part in it are among the ten in which the children between 10 and 15 years of age are regularly engaged in agricultural work. In three of the six states taking part in the stay-in-school campaign, the percentage of illiterates over 10 years of age represents one-fifth of the total population. Moving pictures and slides are being utilized in some places to show the harmful effects of too early work and the advantages of schooling.

### O. B. U. HANDIWORK.

Ousted from District 13, United Mine Workers of America, which comprises Alberta and Eastern Saskatchewan, the leaders of the One Big Union have invaded the silver mines of British Columbia and in the Sierras they have called on 1,000 silver mine workers without notice or without formulating demands on the operators. International officers of the Smelters' Union have been summoned and they will order the men to return to work, pending an investigation. The international policy must be complied with and agreements respected.

### STEEL WORKERS WILL RESPECT ALL AGREEMENTS.

The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers will "never rejoin" the National Committee for organizing iron and steel workers in its campaign to unionize the steel industry. D. J. Davis, assistant president of the Amalgamated, announced recently.

"We are through with this committee for all time," he said, "unless its present officials get out. We do not agree with their method of organizing the workers, and we will honor to co-operate with it."

"We are honor bound to respect our contracts with the independent steel concerns. This committee would have us violate these contracts."

In commenting on the national committee's plan to ask the American Federation of Labor to force the Amalgamated into another campaign, Mr. Davis said "that the federation has no power to take such action."

### PRESIDENT WILSON SCORES CONGRESS.

President Wilson, in a letter to railroad brotherhood leaders, last week, denounced the present Congress for failing to take action to remedy the high cost of living.

"Congress had failed to give serious consideration" to the matter, Wilson said.

"The present Congress has not only prevented the conclusion of peace in Europe, but has failed to present any constructive plan for dealing with the deplorable conditions there, the continuance of which can only reflect upon us," the President charged.

The President's letter was in answer to a letter of the brotherhood leaders protesting against the adjournment of Congress without dealing with the high cost of living and industrial unrest.

### COMPULSORY LABOR MUST BE RESTRICTED AT ANY COST SAYS PRESIDENT OF GREAT AMERICAN FEDERATION

In His Opening Address at the Fortieth Annual Convention of the A. F. of L. President Gompers Explains Meaning of Word International as Applied to Trade Union Movement.

After President Gompers had formally proclaimed the convention open for business, he replied to the address of welcome. "Honored Senator, Honorable Provincial Secretary of Quebec, Mr. Mayor," he commenced, "and you representative men and women of Canada, and all of you who have bid us in cordial generous terms, welcome to Montreal and welcome to Canada. I know that I but feebly interpret the sentiment and the view and the feelings not only of the delegates here assembled but of the workers of the American continent, but that representatives to that body will be chosen from the ranks of the American Federation of Labor. We are waiting to welcome, and the whole world is waiting to join in welcoming you in that great international labor body of the world so that the progress of the world can be carried on better than ever before." Mr. Moore was applauded in conclusion.

### FRENCH LABOR LEADER APPEALS TO BRITISH DOCKERS.

Jouhaux, the virtual head of the C.G.T., of France, consented on May 13 to make a brief statement for the benefit of British comrades, on the struggle on which the French Federation is engaged in defence of the rights of organized labor.

"We learn that at Marseilles and elsewhere British seamen and mechanics have been employed in loading and unloading ships."

"They are going to the same international union as the strikers, and surely they should rather lend us active support. Our movement is in the interest of labor all over the world. If we were defeated the effect would be felt everywhere. In England you would soon perceive the influence of a victory over the French workers."

"Our cause, then, is the international cause, and we are entitled to the moral sympathy and active support of labor everywhere."

to us that it might be well not to come to Canada. It whetted our appetite to come, and we made up our minds that if there were no legal objections we would come to Canada. Mr. Mayor, he commenced, "and you representative men and women of Canada, and all of you who have bid us in cordial generous terms, welcome to Montreal and welcome to Canada. I know that I but feebly interpret the sentiment and the view and the feelings not only of the delegates here assembled but of the workers of the American continent, but that representatives to that body will be chosen from the ranks of the American Federation of Labor. We are waiting to welcome, and the whole world is waiting to join in welcoming you in that great international labor body of the world so that the progress of the world can be carried on better than ever before." Mr. Moore was applauded in conclusion.

"Politically," went on Mr. Gompers, "the organized labor movement of Canada is as independent of the United States as the United States is independent of Canada. The autonomy of the workers and the citizenship of Canada is just as safe from our hands as ours is from theirs. Industrially and economically, we are largely bound to each other. We cannot help ourselves. Even if we wanted we could not be separated. Our interests, the protection of our lives, of our standards, of our welfare are intertwined with the other, and intertwined as the men and women of the United States that industrially our interests are one, and we propose to act as one."

"It may not be generally known, or rather it may not be known absolutely by all, that in the United States we also have our political divisions and subdivisions. The American Federation of Labor has never attempted to interfere in the political affairs of any state within the United States. That province belongs as to jurisdiction to the state federation. It is questionable that what we would not do, or dare to do, in the United States, we would attempt to do in the Dominion of Canada. It is entirely preposterous to take my hat off to the men and women of this Dominion who love it for its worth, and for its history, and for its hopes for the future. I have been through very many parts of this wonderful Dominion, and I doubt that there is any territory on the face of the globe that I know all that will make life worth living in this Dominion. I know its people to a considerable extent, and I know too, that they are verile and strong, and full of self and full of hope, and full of aspirations for the development of Canada and that its people shall hold their places in the front rank of the progressive nations of the world."

"May I say this, that having read authenticated statements made by some who presume to know of conditions and relations of the labor movement between the United States and Canada, and the assertion that the only use for which the working people in the international working

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### Miners Forsook the Substance For The Shadow

Cobalt miners said plight is commented on in the report of the president of the Mining Department of the A. F. of L. at the fortieth annual convention at Montreal, this week. In summarizing the industrial situation at Cobalt the report says:

"As the blatant and unintelligent programme of the One Big Union swept across Canada, these miners of silver were easy victims to its lure. Many of them saw in this burlesque a short cut to better things and the result is that they are now a disorganized community. Even though they acceded to the slogan of the operators for a Canadian union, their first battle under the banner of their 'native' union, met with dismal failure, and many men were discharged. The One Big Union promises to call a general strike some time in the distant future, when all wrongs shall be righted. The workers of the One Big Union have been recovered from their One Big Union delusion. It is an indictment of their reason when they throw away, not only their own means of bettering conditions of work and life, but that of their wives and little children."

### THE UNION LABEL PROBLEM.

All round progress and an increase in membership of 148,933 as against last year, were mentioned in the president's report to the 13th annual convention of the Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L., which met in the Windsor Hotel prior to the opening of the convention of the parent body. A great industrial unrest permeating social life today was referred to, and a raising of the standard of labor, newspapers was attributed largely to the influence of the International Labor Press Association. Trades unions, the president said, are the parent body of the labor press, and are connected with the I. L. P. A.

Credit was given the Women's International Union Label League and Trades Union Auxiliary for their good work in encouraging the purchase of goods bearing the union label.

The difficulties in the way of having the union label legally protected in Canada, and the opposition to the A. F. of L. which exists in certain quarters of the Dominion, were cited as a menace to the Canadian workers' position, and surprise was expressed at the number of union workers and even co-operative societies who buy and handle goods indiscriminately without raising any question of the label.

### Prominent Labor Delegates in Attendance at the Fortieth Annual Convention of the A. F. of L. at Montreal.



To the left and right of the group are individual photographs of Jack Jones, M.P., and John W. Ogden, British delegates. In the group J. T. Foster is holding a straw hat. At his right is P. H. McCarthy, ex-mayor of San Francisco, who is representing the carpenters; J. E. Sullivan, carpenter; Ed. McGivern, plasterer. Between Foster and McCarthy is M. A. Bastien, organizer of the A. F. of L.; Jos. Buty is at his left and J. G. Cunneen at the latter's left.

The Canadian labor movement is as independent in its expression and determination upon political affairs of Canada as is the labor movement of the United States independent of the political attitude of Canadian labor. The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress is the great body which speaks authoritatively for the hopes and aspirations of Canadian labor—Samuel Gompers.