

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

ENTER THE CLERICALS.

TO the organized workers from coast to coast the intimation carried in these columns that a Federal union charter had been granted the civil servants at the Capital by the Trades Congress executive, must be welcome news, quite in line with the onward democratic march adding to the list all classes of the community employed, it being an added link in the chain of workers to solidarity through the International Trade Union movement.

The formation of this Federal union can in no way be treated in the nature of a surprise, the one and only referendum taken on such movement showing more than two thousand civil servants who had decided that such a democratic step was opportune. No better precedent may be presented than the British workers similarly placed, who have at this time an enrolled force of more than twelve thousand, and take their position in the conferences of the trade union movement as co-partners. The coalition and organization of the overseas civil service was responsible for placing in the discard many localized formations which had formerly rendered service but realized as ineffectual.

The localized associations which this Federal union will eventually supersede, particularly in its protective work, have been of a high order, officered with talent and self denial. They have been in fact and substance the schools for study to community interest and, if unconsciously, the preparatory way for the entry of the service into the field of labor organized. A useful and necessary work was and is still theirs, and a continuance to function in a social way should be persevered in a position of importance toward the higher ideals. The securing of the whole service into the ranks of the Federal union should also be undertaken, with an optimism that now the correct channel has been reached the difficulties and apathy formerly encountered will have been materially reduced.

The old idea of the clerical worker being in a different category from those actually employed at the machines is dispelled. A full realization of same is best reached by the close association which the trade union movement affords, bringing home to the entrants that the same clay is the make-up of the different branches entering into our industrial life, whether the pen or the pick be the mode of our contribution of service.

Associations of an intended protective or announcement character, outside of the trade union movement, are in a position of insecure isolation and entirely contrary to the fundamentals of sound protection. They are in many instances responsible for giving a false sense of security which state, if not realized until too late to prevent disaster, is brought home with an undesirable ending as abrupt as one's imagination may conceive.

It was the ultimate end that this branch of workers had to reach from whatever angle the situation may be viewed, either the self protection side or otherwise. The better ideal was probably uppermost of those who took up the initiative to be in the correct channel of the trade union movement joining in the common equity march with no royal road theirs, to be a force or factor in the continuous warfare waged especially against those lacking trade organization protection. More stirring times are ahead of the civil servants than may be imagined by the surface gazers, and the need for all assistance is plainly apparent. The making for a reserve force through labor affiliation will be appreciated in the near future and the wisdom for a Federal union discerned.

WANTED!
30,000 HARVESTERS
\$15.00 to Winnipeg
Plus Half a Cent per mile beyond.
Return, Half a Cent per mile to Winnipeg, plus \$20.00.
Special accommodation for Women. New, comfortable, colonial cars of latest design. Through Service. Bus Lunches.
EXCURSION DATES from OTTAWA
AUGUST 9th and 16th
Leave Ottawa (Union Station) 9.30 p.m.
NO CHANGE OF COACHES.
For tickets and information apply nearest Canadian National or Grand Trunk Agent, or write General Passenger Department, C.N.R., Toronto.

Canadian National Railways

O.B.U. Responsible for Division in Ranks of Labor

"The O.B.U. has done nothing but collect dues, pay executives and split the laboring classes in Canada," declared R. C. McCutcheon, international vice-president of the boiler-makers' union, when he addressed a meeting in the C.P.R. freight sheds, Winnipeg, last week. He urged support of the international organization on the ground that it had accomplished a great deal for labor, notably in the recent award of the American Railway Board.

"Favorable or unfavorable, the grant made by the American Labor Board in one of the largest ever paid out to workers as the result of the constitutional application of economic power," said Mr. McCutcheon. "It was not the work of any executive, nor the result of speeches by any leaders. It was the outcome of the combined degree of more than a million and a half men expressed to the board through the best possible channels. It grooves a way for the workers can be in getting their demands accepted to when they are united," said the speaker.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

OUR WEEKLY BRITISH LETTER.

LONDON, ENGL., July 24.

Continued from page 1.

The Trades Union Congress, which met at Paris on September 5, indicated a proposal to set up in place of the parliamentary committee a general council to co-ordinate industrial movements, promote the common interests of trade unions on questions, and where disputes are threatened, to use its influence to promote settlement.

The general council, it is proposed, shall consist of 30 members, elected to represent 17 groups. Each of the large unions is presenting independent resolutions, including one by the National Amalgamated Union of Labor to provide a minimum income for all by the nationalization of 20 per cent of all incomes in a central pool, and its equal distribution in the form of a minimum subsistence allowance to every man, woman and child, irrespective of earning capacity, and without qualification of age.

The nationalization of the figure trade is another resolution which will come forward. The high cost of living is also to be considered, as well as 44-hour week.

Labour Unity Threatened.

The exhortation of Labor into the political domain, combined with doubt about the wisdom of a ballot on direct action, has not improved the position of the leaders with the men. In fact, the united national action of Labor has been strained beyond the elastic limit. The Miners' Federation has been hard put to it to preserve unity and a solid front in its wages demand, and it has only been the return to action of the National Amalgamated Union, that has preserved the national character of the miners' programme.

The action of the Typographical Association, disavowed the strike, is a case in point, where the northern branches have acted independently, and the executive of the Typographical Association, in order to assert its authority, will no doubt have to carry out disciplinary action. The Manchester and Liverpool branches have undoubtedly taken up an unbecoming attitude, and in direct action, and damage the negotiating powers of the national body. In fact, Manchester and Liverpool seem to be the centre for disaffection, as was evidenced by the railway and gas workers' disregard of the agreement reached by their own executives.

Legal Aspects of a Ballot.

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The House of Commons that the Premier was ready to negotiate with any representative section of Ireland along Dominion Home Rule lines, with safeguards for Ulster. The question of the legality of any steps which the parliament may make to give effect to the miners' direct action resolution, regarding Ireland, passed at the Trades Union Congress has been broached in many quarters, the legal point being whether trade union funds can be used for a ballot on a political issue. The Labor leader with any representative section of Ireland along Dominion Home Rule lines, with safeguards for Ulster. The question of the legality of any steps which the parliament may make to give effect to the miners' direct action resolution, regarding Ireland, passed at the Trades Union Congress has been broached in many quarters, the legal point being whether trade union funds can be used for a ballot on a political issue.

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MONKEY WITH O.B.U. AND REAP REWARD

Winnipeg Trades Council's Organizer Issues Warning.

"If the workers monkey with the O.B.U. they will pay dearly and time will more than make up for more plans to them," said W. H. Hoop, who is in charge of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council's organizing campaign, in the course of an interview last week.

Asked what the programme of the O.B.U. was, Mr. Hoop said:

"Inside despatches are beginning to find their way into Canada concerning the much heralded big convention of the O.B.U. held in Chicago, June 29 and 30. It was given out in Winnipeg that there were 43 delegates, representing some 40,000 members. Our information is that there were some 38 delegates, a number of I.W.W.'s not being seated as delegates. The meeting was called to order by one R. M. Kephart.

"He stated in his address that there are over 2,000 in the U.S.A. who are members of the O.B.U. He also stated that the purpose of the O.B.U. was not to promote strikes, but to force the officers of the various unions to call strikes.

"The O.B.U. were then to profit by the turmoil as a result.

"The Canadian constitution of the O.B.U. was adopted with the exception of section two, which forbids any member to hold membership in any other organization. The sense of the meeting was that, in order to bring about the disruption of the various unions, it would be advisable to permit members of the O.B.U. to continue their membership in the trades unions; also it would place them in a better position to stir up trouble in the local unions.

"This would square with Port Arthur shipyard strike. After three years the International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America was called through O.B.U. propaganda on May 15, and continued till June 8, when the men returned to work at Port Arthur without organization and as individuals.

"The O. B. U. have something to be proud of. Smash, smash, smash! is their policy, even though it will take some years to repair the damage. In Winnipeg the O. B. U. is being estranged. In the building trades the O. B. U. is doing its utmost to get the men pushed out into the bush. Winnipeg is sure going to pay for monkeying with the O. B. U. direct action policy; it will not be felt at its worst for some time, but when organization is needed it won't be there. The people are fooled into believing it is merely a matter of a few months, but it is not one union. That is a mere detail, the 'all-in-one' means get ready to go over the top at the word of command.

"It means the negation of political action as it is understood. What ever may be said for trades unionism, it has proved to be the most powerful institution of a century, the greatest crisis of Britain's history, Britain's premier had to turn to this institution to solve the nation's problems, and trade unionism has been the only institution through an instrument destined to train the workers for the administration of things, this bunch of fanatics would destroy for a myth, an idea, the by pushing the hands of the clock around you hasten time. It is truly deplorable, but the principle involved is so important that it must be fought, and a fight it will be.

"If the workers monkey with the O. B. U. they will pay dearly and time will more than make up for more plans to them."

CHILDREN "GO IT ALONE."

An army of more than 1,000,000 children between 14 and 16 years of age marches out of the schools each year to become wage earners, says the United States Children's Bureau.

Only a few children, it is stated, receive any aid from their parents in finding suitable positions, because parents do not know that opportunities are open to boys and girls, how to go about finding them or what is the best thing for a child to do. More than one-third of these children go into "blind alley" jobs that require no skill and offer no opportunity for advancement.

Many do not know how to get a job, and some find work which they are physically unfitted, sometimes to the permanent injury of their health.

The bureau says these conditions suggest the need for some organization on the part of the state, in connection with the schools, to tell the children what and where the jobs are and what ability and training are required to fill them.

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