Industrial Review From Many Sources

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INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL'S POPULARITY

Magnitude of Work Carried On in Britain Not Generally Realized in Canada.

Joint Industrial Councils are growing more popular in Great Britain as time moves onward. Recently a Court of Inquiry upon which were seated representatives of the employers and representatives of the workers' organization, whom in this particular case were workers, met and decided on wage standards, hours of work and general working conditions of all employes engaged in that particular industry, not of one port, as one might suppose, but of every port and every harbor in Great Britain. How many Canadians realize the magnitude of this undertaking? (Reference to this Court of Inquiry is made elsewhere in this issue.) What is true of the dockers is true of many other industries.

In this respect a special conference of the National Federation of General Workers of Great Britain was held recently for the purpose of discussing whether affiliated unions should continue to associate with the Whitley Councils, which is the name generally given to Joint Industrial Councils in Great Britain. At this conference J. R. Clynes, M.P., president of the Federation, according to a report of the proceedings in the Daily Herald, said that there were in the Labor movement people who did not favor any kind of coming together on the part of employers and workers, but they were mostly people with no trade union work to do. Some of the big trade unions preferred their organizations to the machinery of the Joint Industrial Council, and although these large organizations could perhaps afford to set aside the machinery of the Industrial Councils there were three million wage-earners outside these organizations covered by the Joint Industrial Council. The conference discussed the matter and passed a resolution agreeing to the general principle of the councils.

In the majority report of the Royal Commission (Mathers) on Industrial Relations, we find the following:

85. In order to allay suspicion, the employers should not prepare a plan of joint council and submit it in a completed form to the employes to be accepted or rejected. Employes should be invited to cooperate with the employer in formulating the plan. It would thus be the joint product of both, and would consequently be received by the employes without the suspicion that so often attaches to something which emanates from the employer alone.

98. Every council, or by whatever name it may be known, must be the result of the unfettered choice of both the employes and the employer concerned. Any attempt to force a definite plan upon either would be foredoomed to failure. Some machinery should, however, be established to take the initiative and bring the parties together.

At the National Industrial Conference held at Ottawa on September 15 last, a unanimous recommendation was made to the Federal Government in respect to the establishment of Joint Industrial Councils. The report of the committee and the recommendation follows:

"Your committee is of the opinion that there is urgent necessity for greater co-operation between employer and employe. We believe that this co-operation can be furthered by the establishment of Joint Industrial Councils. Your committee does not believe it is wise or expedient to recommend any set plan for such councils.

"We therefore recommend that a bureau should be established by the Department of Labor of the Federal Government to gather data and furnish information whenever requested by employers and employes or organizations of employers or employes that whenever it is desired to voluntarily establish such councils the fullest assistance should be given by the bureau."

While the question of Joint Industrial Councils has been placed before the Dominion Government some months ago, as yet we have to learn of any serious attempt to put the ideas into practice—J. A. P. H.

Did you know that the Salvation Army maintains a "Missing Friends' Bureau" which serves to find persons in any part of the world? Over 1,000 missing persons are located by the bureau every year.

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Think of the Lame and of the Blind,
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Hold your head up!
Try again!
If you fail to see the light,
Think of others in worse plight,
When success you fail to gain,
Sail right in, and
Try again!
Right now make up your mind,
That you won't lag behind;
Don't be a quitter—don't complain,
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More than 200 rescue homes for fallen girls are maintained by the Salvation Army throughout the world. More than 85 per cent. of those passing through these homes are permanently restored.

TAYLORVILLE, Ill. — Mayor Motley, of Kincaid, is mad. He swears vengeance on the person who placed a sign bearing the inscription "bathing and fishing" in the middle of the city's biggest mud hole.

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Activities of German Trade Unions.

Membership of General Trade Union Federation.

In September, 1919, the German General Trade-Union Federation, the central organization of the Free (Social-Democratic) Trade-Unions, had a membership of approximately 6,400,000 organized in 54 federations. Of these 5,227,000, or about five-sixths of the total, belong to 12 federations, each of which has 100,000 or more members.

Federations of the German Free Trade-Unions with a membership of 100,000 or over in September, 1919:

Federation.	Membership. Before the war.	In September, 1919.
Metal workers	531,991	1,359,000
Factory workers	207,330	506,000
Transport workers	238,207	450,000
Mine workers	101,956	422,600
Railwaymen	.....	420,000
Building trades	305,562	400,000
Agricultural workers	72,571	400,000
Textile workers	113,034	270,000
Salaried employes	35,219	250,000
Wood workers	192,465	310,000
Municipal workers	54,527	250,000
Tailors	49,145	100,000
Total	1,865,962	5,227,600

With respect to the membership figures given in the preceding table it should be noted that the railwaymen's federation was not established until July, 1916, and that the salaried employes' federation was formed in 1919 by the amalgamation of two other federations.

Commenting on the rapid growth of the membership of the Free Trade-Unions an article in Correspondenzblatt says:

German Free Trade-Union membership is making rapid strides from the sixth into the seventh million. Considerably more than half of the members are persons who have joined a trade-union for the first time. These must be trained to be good trade-unionists. This training has for many years been the task of the trade-unions, but it has never been so big and difficult a task as it is now. Hitherto the old members were in the majority in the local unions, the district councils, federations and conferences. Now the new members are in the majority. The minority has to teach the majority. The new members have been in the trenches for four years, and their experiences have left a mark. They are not shy and retiring as new members were in the old days. The characteristic of the masses of the workers today is a deep-seated feeling of bitterness and mistrust toward everything and everybody. All this must be taken into consideration. New members must not be called "November Socialists" and must not be referred to as "those who have just crept into the organization." The youthfulness of the new members must not constitute a cause of reproach.

POVERTY LINE IN BRITAIN FIXED AT

Continued From Page One.

to be for some years what might be called a reasonable expectation of a substantial cheapening of the cost of living."

In the schedule of family expenditure put forward the figure for rent was stated as high as 10s. or $2.50 per week. We venture to say that not a dozen workers in the city of Ottawa pay anything like $10 a month for rent. Twenty dollars would be nearer the mark.

The establishment of a poverty line is bound to have a far reaching effect upon industry generally in Great Britain. The Court of Inquiry in the Dockers' dispute was the first of its kind held in Britain and affected every port, dock and harbor in the Kingdom and a laboring population of about 125,000 men. The report says both parties showed a business-like determination to make the investigation helpful by its thoroughness.

The majority report, which was signed by nine including the workers' representatives of the court's eleven members, recommends the following:

(1) That with a view to establishing a national minimum standard the minimum for day workers and piece-workers shall be 16s. per day on the basis of the national agreement for the 44-hour week.

(2) That a system of registration of dock labor should be introduced into all the ports, docks, and harbors of the Kingdom.

(3) That the principle of maintenance of unemployed casual labor is approved.

(4) That wages of dock labor should be paid weekly, and that this system should be introduced at the earliest possible date.

(5) That the constitution of a national joint council and its correlative and local bodies should be undertaken for the dock labor industry on the lines of the Report of the Whitley Committee.

(6) That these bodies should, failing agreement by the parties, be charged with the settlement of the incidental matters mentioned in this Report, and of the remaining items of claim.

TORONTO NEWS ITEMS.

The Amalgamated Association of Sheet Metal Workers has refused to arbitrate on its wage demand of 90 cents per hour, following the advice of the general organizer, Mr. John H. Kennedy.

John Munro, president of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, reports that a number of firms have granted 90 cents per hour to their machinists.

Local 1820 of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, by a vote of 24 to 17, decided to protest against the inauguration of daylight saving in Ontario.

Secretary W. J. Storey, of the Plumbers and Steamfitters, reports that the plumbers are still keeping busy, and that conditions in the trade are good.

The Master Barbers report that there is an increasing scarcity of men throughout the city, and it is stated that when the summer resort season gets well under way that conditions are liable to be worse.

Business Agent J. J. Gibbons, of the T.S.R. Union, reports that conditions among the street railway men are good at the present time, and that the union has been showing increases for a number of months in the matter of initiations.

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