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EDMONTON FREE PRESS

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Phone 5595 ELMER E. ROPER, Editor 101 Purvis Block VOL. 1, No. 35. DECEMBER 6, 1919

CALGARY AHEAD

It is interesting to note at this time, that Calgary has already gained a number of the objectives of the Labor Party. The property qualification in Calgary has been abolished insofar as it affects candidates for Alderman or School Trustee. In the southern city any voter who is good enough to vote and earn and spend his income, large or small, in the city, is permitted to run for the office of Alderman or School Trustee.

Calgary has the proportional representation method of voting. The Mayor, Commissioners, Aldermen and School Trustees are all elected by this method of polling, and the wage-earners are thus certain of having representation on the elective Boards in the southern city.

A feature of the Calgary Civic election is another of Labor's provisions. The polls are open in the prairie city from the Saturday previous to the regular election day, to permit railway men and others who, because of the nature of their calling, might not be in the city on the prescribed election day. Almost any fair minded person will see the advantage of the Calgary scheme over the Edmonton plan which robs all of their votes whose business will not permit them to be in the city on the regular polling day.

The Calgary elections will this year be held on Wednesday instead of Monday as formerly. The change was put into effect in order to take advantage of the half-holiday which is observed on Wednesday throughout the year in Calgary.

The Edmonton Labor candidates are in favor of all the election advantages that Calgary enjoys, and are prepared to go even further along the line of electoral reform.

DON'T FORGET THE SCHOOL BOARD.

In the excitement of the Mayoralty and Aldermanic elections, we would again plead for a greater interest in the selection of School Trustees. The candidates for School Board are as usual given the briefest possible time in which to place their views before the electors at the public meetings, and as ever they are placed in the "also spoke" class in the newspaper reports. To our mind the work of the School Board is of such vital importance to the community that it should not be relegated to a subordinate place in the interest of the voters. We would like to see School Board elections held at a time apart from the Mayoralty and Aldermanic contests, so that the interest of the electors might be focused entirely on the most important task of choosing the proper persons as School Trustees.

It would be difficult to choose four better men as School Board candidates than the standard bearers of Labor in the present elections. Frank Scott, J. W. H. Williams, S. A. G. Barnes and Dr. McPherson are men whose deep interest in educational affairs, whose honesty of purpose and personal integrity make it a pleasure to commend them to the voters. If Edmonton citizens want a progressive educational policy they cannot do better than vote for Scott, Williams, Barnes and McPherson.

PAY THE ALDERMEN.

The voters will be asked on Monday whether or not they are in favor of paying those whom they elect to carry on the work of the city through the City Council.

Edmonton is graduating out of the small town class. The duties of an Alderman are even now many and varied, and, if properly conducted, consume a large part of the Council members' time. We feel sure that the citizens of this city do not wish any man or set of men to lose time from their occupation or business in the performance of work that is the concern of all the citizens, without any remuneration for such time expended. It is not fair, but more important than that, from a business standpoint, it is not wise. If we expect as citizens to get the proper kind of service, we must expect to offer some remuneration to Aldermen to make up for the time lost from their private means of securing a livelihood.

For the benefit of the city's future welfare we have no hesitation in advising readers of the Free Press to vote "yes" on the matter of the payment of Aldermen.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

The use of over a column of good newspaper space by the Journal in reply to our criticism of Alderman Esdale in last week's issue, did not effectually refute our arguments. Nor did the Journal's effusion establish any evidence to combat the claim that in his term of office as Alderman Mr. Esdale has, beginning with the firemen's strike, consistently opposed Organized Labor in his public capacity.

The Journal says: "He (Alderman Esdale) is of course, not seeking election as manager of the Esdale Press, so why should anyone have brought up the question of his attitude and record as a private employer?" Hear! Hear! We agree with the Journal that Alderman Esdale should not have sought to counteract his unenviable public record by referring to his private affairs. That is what we were objecting to all along.

If any further proof was required by trade unionists, or others, as to the character of one Joseph W. Adair, the present campaign has furnished ample evidence of that gentleman's nature. We have always distrusted the motives of Adair in becoming a member of the Labor Party, and we feel that our suspicions have been well grounded. The voters will put the smooth-tongued gentleman where he belongs on Monday next, and Edmonton trade unionists will do their bit in the good work.

W. H. Hoop's reference to the so-called revolutionary tactics in the Labor movement as "one step forward and two back" is timely. When the Organized workers begin to realize to what extent the visionary fancies of the supposedly radical, but actually reactionary, theorists have harmed the Labor movement, they will lose no time in taking steps to place the wreckers in a position that will prevent them making another attempt to smash the workers' economic weapon.

FERNIE MINERS SAY ENOUGH OF O.B.U. FOR THEM

Members of the United Mine Workers of America at Fernie, B.C., who broke away to join the One Big Union movement, are coming back to the regular union. Several locals already have re-joined their O.B.U. views and got back into the fold. At the Miners' convention in Cleveland, Acting President Lewis declared with profound conviction against the One Big Union movement.

A great many advocates of the One Big Union have pointed to the United Mine Workers as justification for their beliefs, because the United Mine Workers enroll all workers "in and around the mines."

This, however, did not prevent the Canadian O.B.U. schemers from doing

their best to break up the United Mine Workers. Their action in going after the miners demonstrated to many the insincerity and hollowness of O.B.U. pretenses, while the return of the Fernie miners to the bona fide miners' union proves once and for all that the One Big Union is a failure for every-day purposes, that it is fundamentally unsound and that when results are wanted the organizations that American labor has built up through years of struggle and practical work are the ones that actually "deliver the goods."—Machinists' Journal.

NOTICE

Bro. Talton, President of Div. No. 4 asks that all members of the Joint Railway Federations be present at a meeting to be held in Labor Hall, Sunday, December 7th, at 3 p.m.

REPORT OF THE REGULAR MEETING TRADES COUNCIL

Civic Election Had Some Effect On the Council Meeting Monday Evening

Civic elections had some effect on the meeting of the trades council on Monday evening, when the attendance was not up to the standard of recent meetings.

W. H. Hoop, international organizer of the retail clerks was present and gave an interesting talk to the delegates. In referring to the recent upheaval within the Canadian labor movement, Mr. Hoop did not hesitate in stating that the supposedly revolutionary, but really reactionary movement in Winnipeg had left organized labor in that city in the position of being "shot to pieces." "Any movement" said Mr. Hoop, "that takes you one step forward and two back, will have a reactionary result. The speaker referred to the limitation of the views of the O.B.U. leaders and blamed them for the position that Winnipeg labor finds itself in today.

Mr. Hoop who is here to reorganize the local union of retail clerks, appealed for the support of the central body in bringing the clerks together. He pointed out the potential strength of a strong clerks' organization, and quoted figures to show the relative numbers of those employed in the distributing trades as compared with other lines of work. In Montreal alone, said Mr. Hoop, there are 60,000 retail clerks. Before the upheaval in the Labor movement in Winnipeg, the clerks were joining the union in very large numbers, 3500 having affiliated in one month.

Scaffolding Inspection.

The proper inspection of scaffolding on buildings in course of erection was brought up by Delegate Driscoll from the Painters' union. He considered that there was serious neglect in regard to inspection, and that some action by the council should be taken to have more rigid enforcement of the law. Delegates Francis, Geary and others voiced similar opinions and the executive committee will be expected to take some action to have conditions bettered.

The question of a fair wage clause for the province was discussed at some length, and it was decided to take the matter up at the Alberta Federation convention in January. It was also pointed out that there was no fair wage clause in connection with the hospital board.

The election of delegates to the federation convention was again postponed until next meeting when it is hoped a larger number of delegates will be in attendance.

The legislative committee reported on employment bureaus set, and recommended the abolition of private bureaus. The report was adopted and the council will approach the government on the matter.

President McCreath reported having spoken to the students at the university on the subject of "Labor in the Community."

Labor Representation.

Labor representation on the various civic boards, such as the public library, the exhibition board, etc., provided some food for discussion as well as thought, several delegates contending that the council should not relax its prerogatives in connection with such representation. President Lafontaine and Secretary Mathieson, of the Teamsters' union, appeared in the council, asking for the use of one of the small offices in the labor building for the use of their organization. On Secretary McCormack pointing out that this request involved the general question of business agents for other unions the matter was referred to the executive for consideration, on motion of Delegates Campbell and Geary.

Products of the Red Devil Tool Co. and Tuckett cigars were mentioned as being on the "we don't patronize" list.

PRESS INDIGNANT AT MINE OWNERS' PROFITEERING

Since former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo's statement regarding the coal owners' profits that ranged from 15 per cent to 2,000 per cent, the newspapers of the U.S. are endeavoring to "get out from under" after mounting public opinion against the striking coal miners. The New York World illustrates the new policy by affecting a virtuous indignation and thunderously declares:

"Such testimony cannot be ignored. If corroborated, it must convict the mine owners not only of outrageous profiteering but of inhumanity. They have underpaid their labor and they have overcharged the public. Furthermore, they have put their labor in the wrong and they have appealed to a plundered public to make the odious cause of monopoly its own. There may be something meaner than that but we do not know where to look for it."

CAMPAIGN MEETINGS.

Friday—Empire theatre, King Edward School and Calder. Saturday—Victoria High School and Parkdale School.

LABOR CHURCH.

The Citizens' Band will furnish the music at the Labor Church on Sunday night, December 7th, in the Empress theatre. Rev. Geo. L. Ritchie will preside and it is expected that there will be a large attendance. Everybody is welcome at these gatherings.

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The statement is being circulated that the Esdale Press is unfair to labor. The person or persons circulating this statement are evidently not conversant with the facts, or are endeavoring to give the public an erroneous impression of Mr. Esdale's attitude toward labor with a view to alienating the sympathies of labor in his present mayoralty campaign. We think this statement is unfair to Mr. Esdale and a slander on the employees of this establishment. We therefore wish to state that only union labor is employed in all departments of The Esdale Press, and has been ever since its inception in Edmonton.

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