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## THE PLATFORM.

The difference between the platform of the Labor Party candidates in the civic elections and that of other aspirants to public honors, lies principally in the fact that the program of the former is the result, not of any one individual's study and experience, but is the product of the best intelligence of a large section of the community. The candidates of the Labor Party are pledged to support each and every feature of the platform. In voting for the Labor candidates the citizens, in effect, voting for the principles laid down by the Party in the platform.

The abolition of the property qualification is a principle that affects sections of the community other than the working class. It matters not how large a salary a citizen is receiving and spending in the city, it matters not how large an income or business tax a citizen is paying to the city, if he or she does not own property assessed to the value of five hundred dollars, such a citizen may not hold an elective office in the city. Thus a man who may not contribute anything to the city's welfare outside of a small land tax, may offer himself as a candidate for public office, while another who may spend all his time and income in the city, who may be contributing a great deal to the community welfare, is barred from office because he does not possess assessable property. This provision of the Labor Party for the abolition of the unfair, unwise property qualification, should appeal to voters in all sections of the city.

The municipal ownership of public utilities is the second principle upon which the Labor candidates are appealing to the voters. This is another point upon which the candidates should receive a large and representative vote. The municipalization of public utilities is increasing in favor the world over. It is to be expected that this live western city will not be behind with regard to this important plank of the Labor Party's program.

The principle that all civic promotions and appointments should be made from the ranks on the basis of seniority and efficiency, is not obvious and just to require any argument in its favor. Organized Labor never, at any time, deviates from this view, and the third plank in the Labor platform will appeal strongly to all just minded voters at the coming elections.

The election by vote of the people, of all boards having the control of public institutions, when the cost is borne by the city at large, is the fourth principle which the voters are requested by the Labor Party to endorse by voting for the Labor candidates. The Hospital and Exhibition Boards especially, conduct business that is the concern of every voter, and the voters as a whole should elect those who represent them on those boards. The Labor Party stands foursquare on the principle that the business of the people should be conducted by the elected representatives of the people.

The fifth plank in the Labor platform is new and provides for the retention of such land as the city now owns or may obtain in the possession of the city, and the lease of the same for homebuilding, industrial or other purposes, on such terms as would produce at least the amount of the city's outlay plus taxes. The value of this provision will be readily observed. It is a step in the direction of the socialization of the land, and is calculated to promote a community interest that will be without precedent. A careful study of this principle upon which the Labor candidates are seeking support, will convince the voter of the wisdom as well as the social and economic value of this part of the Labor program.

The Party stands opposed as ever to the business and improvement taxes. The idea of penalizing a home-owner because he paints his house or builds a fence around his lot, does not appeal to Labor and certainly should not meet with favor from the voters. We could understand a premium being placed on civic pride and interest, but it is difficult to see why a citizen should be taxed because he endeavors to beautify or improve his property. The business tax is also opposed for the reason that it is in reality a tax on the wages of the workers. The business tax is unsound in principle and theory and is unjust in its application.

We are convinced that the platform of the Labor candidates for the Mayoralty and Council, as outlined above, will commend itself to Edmonton voters. In voting for the Labor candidates the voter is supporting something greater than even the men themselves, and it cannot be too strongly emphasized that a vote for Labor's candidates is a vote for the Labor platform.

The platform of the School Board candidates will be reviewed in a later issue.

## THE BIG CONFERENCE.

It is interesting to form conjectures as to what will be the outcome of the conference of all National and International Unions, including the Railroad Brotherhoods, which is to be held in Washington on December 13th. The conference call which is signed by the officers of the A.F. of L. and the presidents of the four Railroad Brotherhoods, reads in part as follows: "In this critical reconstruction period, Labor is confronted with grave dangers affecting the very foundation of its structure. So grave is the situation regarded that at its recent meeting, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and the representatives of the Railroad Brotherhoods agreed that the executive of the national and international unions should be invited to participate in a conference, and there to take counsel and to formulate such action as may be essential to safeguard and promote the rights, interests and freedom of the wage earners, the workers, who form the great mass of the people of our Republic."

The purpose of the conference is stated in very wide terms, and it is difficult to surmise what action may be deemed "essential to safeguard and promote the rights, interests and freedom of the wage earners." It is interesting to note in this connection that the Brotherhoods have recently gone on record as being in favor of independent political action by the workers. Other International Unions, including the mine workers, have similarly expressed themselves, and rumor has it that Samuel Gompers' antipathy toward political action is far from being as pronounced as heretofore. At any rate, we would not be greatly surprised if the coming conference decided, that in order "to safeguard and promote the rights, interests and freedom of the wage earners," it was advisable to supplement industrial activities by political action.

It is evident that the day of separation between the Railroad Brotherhoods and the balance of the Labor movement, is passed forever. L. E. Sheppard, President of the Order of Railway Conductors, speaking before the Industrial Conference in Washington, said: "The railroad workers are not going to stand idly by and watch the other men of the Labor movement crushed by organized big business, piecemeal." Certainly the expression of a fine sentiment, and one that augurs well for the future solidarity of American Organized Labor. If the same sound sentiment of mutual interest is carried to the coming conference by all the Union Presidents, we can look forward to the gathering with a great hope for the accomplishment of the purpose for which the Conference is to be held.

## THE Y.M.C.A.

The Young Men's Christian Association of this and other cities is looked upon as somewhat of an exclusive institution. There is no justification for such belief, except insofar as only a small percentage of men take advantage of the privileges, benefits and pleasures afforded to those who are actively connected with the "Y." Any

man or boy regardless of age is eligible for membership, and there are phases of "Y" activities that each and every member can participate in.

The physical department is, of course, the principal phase of "Y" work and too much emphasis cannot be laid on the pleasures and benefits that the "gym" affords to Y.M.C.A. members. In this connection the Edmonton "Y" is fortunate in having one of the best physical directors in Canada.

The social and religious activities of the Y.M.C.A. are also a big part of the institution and boys and young men who are away from home will find that an active connection with the "Y" will, in a large measure, take the place of the home life. If the reader will take our advice and join the "Y," he will not regret his decision.

## NOT A GOOD RECORD.

As the official mouthpiece of a considerable body of citizens, the Free Press will naturally take some part in the civic campaign. Under no consideration, however, will this paper depart from the principle of fairness to all candidates, and only the public record of the aspirants for office will receive criticism from this source. Naturally, the attitude of any candidate toward Organized Labor is of particular interest to the readers of the Free Press.

Alderman Esdale's record in this respect is not of a nature to commend itself to voters who believe in the principle of collective bargaining and fair dealing with civic workers. Together with Aldermen Grant, Martin and Bush, Mr. Esdale voted against the adoption of the Street Railwaymen's agreement. At the special meeting of the Council on April 7th of this year Alderman Esdale also went on record as opposing the adoption of agreements with the Civic Employees' Union No. 30, Civic Service Union No. 52, and the Electrical Workers No. 544. The minutes of the meeting record part of the proceedings as follows:

Moved Ald. Kinney: That we now rise and report the various agreements adopted as amended; and that the Fire Dept. agreement, as amended, held in abeyance pending report of Special Committee. Carried.

The Mayor as Chairman reported, recommending the following agreements as amended:

Civic Employees' Union No. 30.  
Civic Service Union No. 52  
Electrical Workers No. 544 (Light and Power).  
Electrical Workers No. 544 (Telephone).

And that the Firemen's agreement is held over until next meeting pending report of Special Committee appointed.

Mover Ald. Kinney—Heppburn: That the agreements as reported by the Committee of the Whole be re-submitted to the various unions for approval, and if the amendments are accepted the proper officials of the City be authorized to execute same on behalf of the City. Carried.

Ald. H. M. Martin asked that the vote be recorded.  
For: Ald. McLennan, McKenzie, Kinney, Heppburn, Mayor Clarke.  
Against: Ald. H. M. Martin, Bush, Esdale.

The memory of Mr. Esdale's part in the firemen's dispute in 1918 is also difficult to erase from the trade unionist's mind. Taken altogether, in fact, his record as an alderman for two years will not commend Mr. Esdale to the voters as a Mayor who would deal with all classes of the community with equal courtesy and fairness.

Reconstruction! Reconstruction? Where have we heard that word before?

## EDITOR'S NOTES.

The history of the world's social progress is a history of class struggle.

The Organized Labor movement has given tone and purpose to the cause of the bottom dog.

If "progress" means long hours and short wages, then Organized Labor is, as Gary says, opposed to progress.

To the man who says: "What has the union ever done for me?" we would ask: "What have you ever done for the union?"

The extraordinary gains made by Labor in the British municipal elections should act as an incentive to the Canadian Labor forces. Let's go!

Here is a suggestion for a notice that might be posted up in Labor Headquarters: "If every member of my union was just like me, what kind of a union would my union be?"

When trade unionism enters an industry the foundation of democracy has been laid, because through the union the workers have a voice in the establishment of conditions under which they shall work.

There is little to respect about the worker who takes advantage of conditions created by Organized Labor, and then boasts on the fact that he receives as much remuneration as the union member. All parasites are not included in the class of the idle rich.

Does it ever occur to you, friend reader, that the men who continually harped on the "ignorance" of the ordinary trade unionist, were the fellows who played the game of Judge Gary and his ilk by an endeavor to destroy the solidarity of Organized Labor?

## MINERS INVITED TO CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON

Secretary Wilson and Thomas  
Brewster Signify Willingness  
to Negotiate Settlement

Secretary of Labor Wilson, and Thomas T. Brewster, chairman of the Operators' Scale Committee, have wired John L. Lewis, acting President of the United Mine Workers of America, inviting the miners' representatives into a conference for the purpose of negotiating a settlement of the strike of 425,000 union miners.

Mr. Lewis, on behalf of the Mine Workers, accepted the invitation of Secretary Wilson to meet the operators of the bituminous coal field, in Washington, Friday, November 14th, at 11 o'clock.

In replying to the telegram of the chairman of the operators, which invited the representatives of the mine workers to a conference "to negotiate a contract to be forced upon the termination of the contract now in effect," Mr. Lewis stated that the miners had already accepted the invitation of Mr. Wilson.

Officials of the Mine Workers have called off the strike, but court action in the strike case has not been completed. The miners have thirty days in which to prepare their writ of error should they wish to appeal the case to the United States circuit court of appeal.

Warren Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, declared that the bituminous coal strike is not settled despite the acceptance of the mandate of the court. "The time has not yet come when the government of this country can be conducted by this process," said Mr. Stone.

It was stated by Frank Farrington, chairman of the Miners' Scale Committee that original demands of sixty per cent increase in wages, a six-hour day and a five day week will be presented to operators by the Mine Workers in the joint scale conference called for Friday at Washington.

The outcome of the conference will determine to a large extent whether the case is carried further, according to a statement by Harry Warram, chief counsel for the miners.

The question of just when a new wage scale will become effective is the cause of much conjecture, and the union men object to the position taken by the operators that the wage scale in effect before the strike still is in effect. However, it is believed that if the operators go to the conference in a spirit of conciliation, an agreement was only a question of hours.

## NOTICE.

Returned soldiers, property owners, who have not registered, and Labor Party canvassers are asked to take note of the following:

All soldiers who have returned from the war since September 1 can obtain a certificate to vote in the Civic Elections at the City Hall.

All property holders, who have not registered are still permitted to vote on a certificate.

## NOVEMBER HOME FURNISHING NEWS

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