



EDMONTON FREE PRESS

Dept. of Labor April 12-20
(Circulation Branch)

EDITED, CONTROLLED AND PUBLISHED BY THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

VOL. 2, No. 15

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1920

\$1.00 Per Year; 5c Per Copy

LEGISLATION ASKED BY ALTA. FED. OF LABOR

What Was Asked and What Was Passed in Regard to Coal Mines' Act

(By Walter Smitten, Secretary Alberta Federation of Labor)

AMENDMENTS TO COAL MINES ACT What We Asked

1. Amend Section 17 clause (c) by adding the words "elected by the miners of each sub-district."
2. Amend Section 9 to provide for a maximum work day of 8 hours for all men employed in and around mines.
3. Amend Section 34 to provide for pay days being every alternate Saturday.
4. Amend Section 35 by adding after the word "them" the words "on a mine run basis to be paid in legal currency."
5. Amend Section 58 by adding the following to be known as clause (7) "In all rooms and other working places canvass shall be kept not less than twelve feet from the working face for the purpose of ventilation."
6. That regulations providing for the use of electric safety lamps in all gaseous mines be adopted.
7. That regulations governing the use of explosives be made more elastic to meet the requirements of hard coal needing the use of extra powder, same to be left to the discretion of the shot lighter and approved by the Inspector of Mines.
8. Amend regulations governing wash-houses and lockers by striking out the words "on a price agreed upon between the men and employer" and substituting therefor the words "free of charge."
9. That the Coal Mines Act be so amended as will provide that no person shall be employed at the mining of coal who has not first obtained a certificate of competency from a Board of Examiners, such Board to be composed of a member selected by the miners, another by the mine operators, and a third by the government, compensation for the work of the said board to be provided by the government.

What Was Passed

Section 34 was amended to provide that wages earned from the first to the fifteenth day of the month shall be paid on the last Saturday of the same month and that wages earned from the sixteenth to the last day of the month shall be paid on the first Saturday after the fifth day of the following month.

We were further assured that in the selection of the working miner, representatives on the board of examiners to inquire and determine qualifications of candidates for fire bosses, pit bosses and mine managers' certificates, the officials of the district offices were being consulted and that the persons recommended by them were being appointed.

Relative to the establishment by law of a maximum working day of eight hours for all persons working in or about coal mines we were informed that the jurisdiction of the province regarding legislation of this character was in doubt; that a meeting was being asked of the Supreme Court of Canada and it was ruled that the provinces should legislate we could expect the requested amendments.

The amendment regarding pay days leaves us in practically the same position as before except that two pay days will be assured in each calendar month, but periodically there will be three weeks between said pay days. What is desired is that every alternate Saturday shall, by legislation, be established as the pay day for men working in and around mines.

Our request for examination of all men who desire to work at the coal face by a commission of employers and employees as to their competency and the granting of certificates, said certificate to be necessary before a man would be permitted to work received no consideration. We were informed that there was at present a scarcity of practical miners in this province, that the adoption of this amendment would curtail production, and further that there were such a number of small mines in the province that were absolutely required if the farmers were to be assured an adequate supply of coal at a reasonable rate, which would be automatically put out of business by the adoption of this.

We suggested that the amendment be made applicable only to those mines where twenty or more men were working under ground to meet this situation, however, while it was admitted something should be done from the point of view of safety, no action was taken at this session.

The other amendments are technical and were prepared by a committee of competent miners, being deemed by them to be necessary as an additional measure of safety for the men, and surely in an occupation as hazardous as this any measure that would tend to minimize the possibility of accidents should receive due consideration.

Civic employees being eligible for

RAILWAYS ASK 30% RAISE IN FREIGHT RATES

An application has been filed with the board of railway commissioners at Ottawa, asking permission for a flat increase in freight rates in Canada to the amount of 30 per cent.

The application was sent in to the railway commission Saturday afternoon by the Canadian Railway Association, and their request is made on behalf of all the railways in Canada, members of the association, and also on behalf of all other Canadian railways subject to the jurisdiction of the railway commission.

Mr. C. P. Riddell, of Montreal, secretary of the Canadian Railway Association, made the application. It is expected that there will be a long fight over this application, one which will probably engage all the best legal talent of the Dominion.

CONDITIONS ON WHICH TRADE IS TO BE RESUMED

Soviet Government Has Accepted Terms Which British Gov't Stipulated

Leonard Krassin, Russian Bolshevik minister of trade and commerce, who left London recently for Moscow, after having consulted with Premier Lloyd George and allied representatives concerning commercial relations between Soviet Russia and the allies, will return to London immediately, says a Moscow wireless dispatch.

The conditions which the British government is declared to have stipulated before trade could be resumed with Russia and which the Russians have accepted are given as follows:

That each government agree to refrain from initiating action or official propaganda against the institutions of the other government, in particular that the Soviet government shall not assist the eastern people in hostilities against Great Britain.

That British subjects in Russia and Russian subjects in Great Britain be permitted to return to their homes.

That the Soviet government agree in principle to recognize its obligations and to refund to private individuals subjects losses suffered through the sale of goods or personal services rendered to Russia.

That Great Britain agree to the conditions of the Soviet government regarding trade on a mutual basis but retains the right to object to the appointment of any official agent of the Soviet.

TEN MILLION IN GOLD FOR CANADA FROM SOVIETS

Ludwig C. A. K. Martens Says To Be Used To Purchase Canadian Goods

Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, chief of the Russian Soviet bureau at New York, has announced that he has received a cablegram from the Soviet embassy in London, stating that satisfactory arrangements had been made with Canadian bankers for the transfer of \$10,000,000 in gold to Canada for the purchase of Canadian goods.

No further details in regard to the gold shipment were given in the cable, according to Mr. Martens, but he believed the arrangements had been made in London by Santeri Nuorteva, one of the Soviet representatives, who recently toured Canada interviewing Canadian manufacturers, and who afterwards went to London to conduct negotiations regarding the financing of contracts with Canadian firms.

He said the gold would be shipped from Estonia or from that deposited by the Soviet government in Scandinavian banks. It would be sent to the Dominion, but he did not know which Canadian bank would handle it. That was a matter which was to be arranged in London.

Plans are still in progress for the opening of an office in Canada, but they have not reached a stage where definite announcements of the arrangements can be made. Dr. Osol, head of the Soviet commercial department at New York, will likely be in charge of the Canadian office.

LABOR PARTY WILL CONTEST THE PAS ELECTION

At a meeting of the Manitoba provincial executive of the Dominion Labor Party held in Winnipeg on Saturday it was decided to contest the deferred election of The Pas against Edward Brown, provincial treasurer.

The constituency will choose its own candidate, but workers and speakers will be sent in to carry on the campaign.

A public office will be considered next week.

MANITOBA'S NEW MEMBERS DECIDE TO FORM GROUP

Farmers and Independents Combine Forces, Will Not Support Government

At a meeting of the newly-elected members of the Manitoba legislature, it was decided to form a Farmer-Independent group. The meeting was called by W. McKinnel, member for Rockwood, and after coming to the decision that it was advisable and necessary to form a definite organization of all members elected as Independent-Farmers and straight Independents, the meeting adjourned until July 27, when a group leader is to be chosen.

Mr. McKinnel stated that he believed the adjourned meeting would result in the formation of a strong group under a recognized leader. "We propose to give no pledged support to any other group in the house and will be strictly independent on all matters. The rumors that we are playing for cabinet representation have no foundation," said Mr. McKinnel.

The claim was made that this group when organized would be the second in strength in the legislature, and in their statements to reporters after the meeting, there was nothing to indicate that the government would be accorded any organized support from the group.

BRITISH UNIONS WILL BALLOT ON DIRECT ACTION

Trades Union Congress Demands Withdrawal British Troops From Ireland

In the special Trades Union Congress, called in London on Tuesday, to consider Labor's attitude on the Irish question, a resolution, introduced by the Miners' Federation, demanding the withdrawal of all British troops from Ireland, and the cessation of the manufacture of munitions to be used in Ireland and Russia was adopted.

The resolution recommended a general strike if the government refused the demands, but the question of direct action will be left to a ballot of the members of the various unions. Thus the rank and file will have a chance to express their opinion.

A previous resolution favoring direct action and introduced by the leader of the locomotive men, was defeated by a big majority.

Eight hundred delegates were present, representing 5,000,000 workers.

BORDEN'S LEGACY

(By Alex. Ross, M.L.A.)

Sir Robert Borden has at last done something that will meet with the approval of the majority of Canadian citizens—he has resigned.

His legacy to Canada is an appalling national debt, a host of associates who are looking for political honors and a new national party. The first part of the legacy will never be appreciated even by the most patriotic Canadian.

The second may continue to interest, if not amuse, the country for some time, the third may become a permanent institution. It would appear as if the personnel of the new Liberal and Conservative party will be much the same as the defunct Unionist party.

The old cabinet will be treated with a liberal veneer and placed on a brand new platform amply provided for in the last year's estimates by increasing the salaries. There is some speculation as to how the old cabinet will fit the new platform, but a glance at the platform is reassuring it is so designed that it can be made to harmonize so as to please even the most fastidious. So it is quite evident if any alterations are necessary that the experiment will be made with the platform and not with the cabinet.

The platform is built of well seasoned material the first plank is made up of a statement averting the fidelity of the new party to the British Empire. Many think it is a superfluous plank because the old cabinet has never displayed any inclination to depart from the constitution. On the contrary everything it did was strictly constitutional so jealous was it of the constitution that legislation was passed during the Winnipeg strike which provided for the deportation of any persons suspected of making faces at the constitution. Suspected persons were not even to be allowed the option of a trial, the penalty was made to fit the crime they were to be deported and compelled to reside in some other part of the British empire. The first plank is a sturdy old plank to be found in

TRADES' COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY

The regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council takes place on Monday evening, July 19th. Important business will be done with all delegates are requested to be in hand.

REV. F. E. MERCER IS ENJOYING HIS VACATION

Labor Men Will Learn With Regret That He May Not Return to Canada

Readers of the Free Press will be interested in knowing that Rev. F. E. Mercer is apparently spending a very pleasant vacation at his old home in Canterbury, England.

In a letter to the editor Mr. Mercer says: "Since my arrival over here I am afraid that my many relations and friends have used all my time, and that I have been revelling in the fleshpots of capitalism rather than laboriously manufacturing bricks for the Labor cause."

"However, I have taken my credentials to the headquarters of the Labor party in London, but got there on an unfortunate day when some Irish delegation had arrived, so every one was very busy. Henderson himself was sick. I am going up again next week and perhaps I shall have a more interesting time."

Edmonton Labor men will regret to hear that Mr. Mercer may not return to Canada. He has been recommended for a position in England that is very attractive and in a line that Mr. Mercer is interested in. However, he hopes to keep in touch with Edmonton Labor through contributions to the Free Press on British Labor matters. Mr. Mercer wishes to be remembered to all his Edmonton friends.

ORGANIZED LABOR IS FOR COX AS AGAINST HARDING

Non-Partisans Will Review Cox's Record in Congress, For Benefit of Voters

(By Laurence Todd, Staff Correspondent, The Federated Press.)

Washington—The old guard of organized labor is for Cox as against Harding, and it has no faith in a third ticket. At the same time, it is disappointed that McAdoo was not nominated by the Democratic convention, and it is doubtful of Cox's ability to run much better than Alton B. Parker ran.

That is the consensus of opinion gleaned from talks with a score of labor officials here on the morning following the selection of Cox by the Murphy-Brennan-Taggart-Lynch-Guffy combination. It was opinion expressed before the labor men had read Bryan's announcement that "The nomination of Cox signals the surrender of the Democratic party into the hands of the reactionaries on both the liquor question and financial questions generally."

Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, said that he anticipated the Non-Partisan Political Council committee of which he is secretary would review Cox's record in Congress for the benefit of the voters; he would not express a view as to Cox, but he had heard much favorable comment upon him from labor men in Ohio.

At headquarters of the Plumb Plan League, no statement was forthcoming in the early hours. Edward Keating, manager of the league office, stated that they would wait and watch developments both in the old parties and in the promised third ticket movement, before taking action.

The A. F. of L. political committee will not formally approve any presidential or vice-presidential nominee in this campaign.

TRADE BALANCE OF UNITED STATES 17 BILLION DOLLARS

Most of Favorable Trade Balance of U.S. Against Allied Countries

Since the beginning of the world war in 1914 the United States has rolled up a trade balance of approximately \$17,000,000,000 against the world. This exceeds by several billions of dollars the total balance in favor of the United States from 1875 to 1914.

Department of commerce figures show that the trade balance made in favor of the United States in the fiscal year ending in 1914, one month before the war began, was only \$470,000,000. During the first year of the war it was \$1,694,419,000, and in the next year, ending June 30, 1916, and advancing steadily each year to a new high record of \$4,685,741,747 during the eleven months of the present fiscal year. The previous high record was \$3,995,720,068 last year.

Most of the favorable trade balance of the United States has been against

the allied and neutral countries of Europe. Many of the South American and North American countries and some of those in the Far East have a balance against the United States.

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WINNIPEG TRADES COUNCIL APPOINTS HOOP ORGANIZER

Celebrates Anniversary of O. B.U. Disruption by Starting Strenuous Campaign

Last week the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council celebrated the anniversary of the disruption in its ranks by the splitting away of the O.B.U. faction, by instituting a strenuous campaign to build up the International movement.

Secretary Robinson is bringing in the report that if they did not get their fighting armor on the master class will be so well organized that we will have the devil's own job getting organized at all. The employer was not losing any point to strengthen his position and weaken theirs. The secession movement is nothing in itself though it has meant a lot to the trades union movement and it will be wiped out in a short time.

Delegate Winning said that the building industry with the exception of the painters and metal workers and possibly inside wiremen and sheet metal workers is standing solid and no secession workers are being employed on any big contracts.

The motion that the report be accepted and an organizer appointed was carried unanimously. On motion, W. H. Hoop was appointed organizer to take up the campaign against the O.B.U.

PROPERTY OWNER IS MORE SECURE THAN WORKER

Recipients of the Large Income Are Holders of Much Property

(By Scott Nearing, Staff Writer The Federated Press)

If the possession of property is to enjoy the full fruit of his ownership, he must be free to make from it whatever gains he can.

The present organization of economic life in the United States permits the wealth owners through their ownership to live without doing any work, upon the work done by their fellows.

As recipients of property income (rent, interest and dividends) they have a return for which they need perform no service—a return that allows them to "live on their income."

Civilization is built upon labor, and the structure of civilization is a labor-created structure. The clothes that men wear, the houses they live in, the books that they read were made by some human hands. The man who devoted his energy to making things produces wealth. In exchange for which he receives the income that enables him to procure the objects of his desire.

The man who fails to assist in productive activity gives nothing of himself in return for the food, clothing and shelter which he enjoys—that is, he lives on the labor of others. Where some have sowed and reaped, hammered and drilled, he has reaped himself on the fruits of their toil, while never toiling himself.

Living on one's income is not a new social experience, but it is relatively new in the United States. The practice found a reasonably effective expression in the feudalism of medieval Europe. It has been brought to extraordinary perfection under the industrialism of Twentieth Century America.

Imagine the feelings of the early inhabitants of the American colonies toward those few gentlemen who set themselves up as economically superior beings, and who insisted upon living without any labor, upon the labor performed by their fellows. It was against the suggestion of such a practice that Captain John Smith vociferated his famous "He that will not work, neither shall he eat." The suggestion that some should share in the proceeds of community life without participating in the hardships that they were involved in making a living seemed preposterous in those early days.

Today living on one's income is accepted in every industrial center of the United States as one of the methods of gaining a livelihood. Some men and women work for a living. Other men and women own for a living.

Workers are in most cases the humble people of the community. They do not live in the finest homes, eat the best food, wear the most elaborate clothing, or read, travel and enjoy the most of life.

The owners as a rule are the well-to-do part of the community. They derive much or all their income from investments. The return which they make to the community in services is small when compared with the income which they receive from their property holdings.

Living on one's income is becoming as much a part of American economic life as living by factory labor, or by mining, or by manufacturing, or by any other occupation upon which the community depends for its products. The difference between those occupations and living on one's income is that they are relatively menial, while it is relatively respectable, that is, they have won the disapprobation and it has won the approbation of American public opinion.

The economic system that exists at the present time in the United States places a premium on property ownership. The recipients of the large incomes are the holders of the large amounts of property.

Large incomes are property incomes. The rich are rich because they are property owners. Furthermore, the organization of present-day business makes the owner of property more secure—far more secure in his income, than is the worker who produces the wealth out of which the property income is paid.

NON UNION SHOP WAR ON AT TUCSON

Tucson, Ariz.—The non-union shop war has been inaugurated in Tucson.

The unions have decided to organize a state co-operative bank so as to permit the withdrawal of funds from local banks by union men. They will also inaugurate a boycott on all business houses displaying "Open Shop" signs. There is talk of all union men employed in places displaying such signs refusing to continue at work. The anti-union business men have formed an "Open Shop association" and are zealously signing up members.

FARMERS TO GET 30 CENT PAYMENT NOW

The Canadian wheat board has decided to make an interim payment of 30 cents per bushel as soon as possible after July 15, against the wheat represented by its participation certificates when such certificates are presented to the board, according to an official announcement made late Saturday.

The board, it is stated, will be unable to determine the total value of the certificates before the business is completed, but present indications are that this payment represents approximately 75 per cent. Owners of participation certificates can either send them direct for payment or through any available agency.

DISTINCTION IS MADE BETWEEN CLOTHES & CLOTH

U.S. Federal Judge Says That Bolts of Cloth Are Not Wearing Apparel

A distinction between clothes and cloth by Federal Judge Mack in New York resulted in the dismissal of the American Woolen Company and its president, William M. Wood, from the charge of violating the Lever act. The company was charged with having increased prices more than 200 per cent. The indictment charged Mr. Wood with receiving over half a million dollars last year in commissions that were charged to manufacturing and selling costs, and receiving "enormous salaries."

The court held that the amendment to the Lever act, which included "wearing apparel," could not apply to the defendants, as they did not handle wearing apparel. The court said that bolts of cloth "are not in and of themselves wearing apparel."

"Interpreted in the light of reason," said the court, "wearing apparel must be held to include all material used to make up a garment." The court said he could find no intent in the Lever act "to control distribution of all or indeed any of the ingredients that enter into wearing apparel. Apt words to indicate such an intent were readily available."

PICTOU COUNTY N.S. STRONG FOR IND. LABOR PARTY

Seven Locals Formed In Seven Weeks; Two Are Women's Auxiliaries

Pictou County, Nova Scotia, has come across for the Independent Labor Party, according to the Workers' Weekly, which states that seven locals of the I.L.P. were formed in almost as many weeks in that county. This is a record which shows that something is stirring in the land that augurs ill for the old parties and the old system of government.

Two locals were formed in New Glasgow, others in Stellarton, Trenton, Westville, Thorburn, and two Ladies' Auxiliaries in the number at New Glasgow and Thorburn.

This means the foundation for a triumph has been laid in every industrial section of the county—the politicians must be quaking! Some of the fairer minded of these have seen the light and would like to come over particularly as every day they are being deserted by their best workers.

The entry of the women into politics is the most heartening sign of all. The workers of the world have always favored their political emancipation which has been withheld and finally grudgingly granted by the parties which feared the common sense of the women. Their action in coming over to the workers justifies every fear ever entertained by the old line parties.

New York—The amalgamation of all central labor unions of the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Richmond, bringing together 750,000 trades unionists into the largest central labor union in the world, has been announced at the headquarters of the Central Federated Union, by Edward Hannah, president. This move is the result of instructions issued by Samuel Gompers.

"The effect of the amalgamation," said Hannah, "will be that the solidarity of organized labor will be demonstrated to an unprecedented extent, and there will be no more factional differences or misunderstandings or rivalries between competing unions when it comes to matters of the welfare of organized labor of the metropolitan district as a whole."

the allied and neutral countries of Europe. Many of the South American and North American countries and some of those in the Far East have a balance against the United States.