

TRADES COUNCIL HANDLES VARIETY OF QUESTIONS

(Continued from Page One)

new ground stand would really facilitate the still greater success of the summer fair. Del. Roper moved, seconded by Del. Murray, that the council endorse the city by-law providing for this work, and also that all the other by-laws which are to be submitted to the rate-payers be endorsed by the council and that all trades unionists be urged to support them.

Public School Curriculum

Another communication read to the council was one from the principal of the technical school on behalf of the committee working on the rearrangement of the curriculum of the schools. The letter requested the co-operation of the council in the work of the committee to prepare a more adaptable course of studies for the various grades. Del. A. A. Campbell, of the civic service union, took up the subject as one of great importance, claiming that while he was quite aware of the high value of art, music and kindred subjects in the education of the child, there should be stricter attention given to the elementary studies of reading, writing and arithmetic. It was the duty of education to qualify the child first of all for the task of providing his own subsistence in the most effective manner. He had noticed in many cases that applicants for positions here, who had come from the old country, were more thoroughly trained in the funds, mental than were many of those who had come from Canadian schools.

Del. Francis supported the position taken, believing that there were too many subjects which the pupils had to take up. Or at least, that there should be some opportunity for optional studies. Del. Hawkins took exception to a certain history at present in use in one of the higher grades, which named the United States as the winner of the war. Del. Cotterell also voiced sentiments similar to those of other speakers.

On motion of Del. Latham the letter was filed and the secretary instructed to answer it and say that the council

would be very glad to co-operate in this matter with the committee.

Assistant Postmaster

In connection with the appointment of the assistant postmaster at Edmonton, letters were read from the three Edmonton members, Messrs. Douglas and Griesbach stated that they did not intend to interfere in the matter, but H. A. Mackle stated that he was taking the matter up and purposed bringing it to the attention of the House at Ottawa. Del. Latham and Del. Campbell moved that the letter carriers' union be notified of the action so far taken and that they be asked to attend trades' union meeting in order that a clear understanding might be reached of their position in the matter, as it was said that there were at least two men here who were qualified for the position.

A. Farnilo, Canadian representative of the A.P. of L., and general organizer, made a written report to the council on his work in the district. Del. Cotterell of the Painters and Decorators, stated that his union had asked Mr. Farnilo to give them some assistance, which had not been forthcoming. He requested that this matter be called to the attention of Mr. Farnilo. Del. Cotterell moved that this be done. Del. Francis seconded it, and the motion was carried.

Del. A. A. Campbell reported on the activities of a committee that is at present endeavoring to secure more decided results in regard to athletic recreation. It was felt that full benefit from the equipment already in the city was not being received by the citizens, and the object of this committee was connection with gymnasiums, swimming pools, and so forth. On motion the report was accepted and Mr. Campbell requested to continue on the committee.

To Boost Free Press

Regarding the agreement with H. J. Roche, publisher of the Free Press, the executive committee reported that it had been agreed that \$1 should be the price of the paper to all subscribers, that there should be no change in the present agreement as to the time it should run, because it now provided that the council could cancel it for cause at any time. The committee also recommended that a strong campaign be put on to increase the circulation of the paper among the members of the unions. The report was accepted and it

RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS HAVE A GRIEVANCE

Say Gov't Has Not Kept Faith With Promise Made During Winnipeg Strike

Railway mail clerks are indignant over information received by officials of the association, at Winnipeg, to the effect that under the civil service reclassification bill, the present maximum of \$1,680 per year for railway mail clerks would be reduced to \$1,500 and that their mileage would be cut out, which would further reduce wages by \$45 a month.

"If the information is correct, the government in making the reduction from \$1,680 and cutting out mileage in the bill to be presented in the house, is guilty of a distinct breach of faith with the Dominion Railway Mail Clerks' Federation," declared E. C. Bell, Secretary of the federation.

The proposed reduced maximum, he said, would be \$20 less than the maximum in 1914. The federation had the distinct promise from the government that the maximum would be \$1,680, that was resolved that the individual delegates take the matter up in their respective unions and report back to council the feeling there expressed.

The executive of the Edmonton building trades local wrote asking the council to request the A.P. of L. to send a special organizer to this city, as there was a great deal of work that required attention. Del. Francis moved that this be done, which was agreed to.

Sympathy for Harry Clark

A resolution of condolence to Delegate Harry J. Clarke, the death of whose wife took place on Saturday, was passed by standing vote.

A letter was received from the Workmen's Compensation board asking for representation at a meeting to discuss regulations for the prevention of industrial accidents. The legislative committee was ordered to go into the matter and suggest provisions which will be placed before the conference by E. E. Roper.

the mileage would be one cent a mile, flat rate, and that this mileage would be made retroactive to April, 1919.

This promise was made by Hon. N. W. Rowell in June, 1919, when the Winnipeg strike was on. "He appealed to us, to remain loyal, and stated definitely that if we remained at work the reclassification, when it took place, would be made retroactive to April 1, 1920," declared Mr. Bell.

Relying on that promise the executive wired all branches advising them to follow instructions. If the railway mail clerks had come out the strike would never have been broken. Now that the disturbance is over the government apparently propose to cut us off. If any similar trouble ever arose again the actions of the railway mail clerks would undoubtedly be greatly influenced by the circumstance, and the outcome might be very different.

Mr. Bell announced that a meeting of the executive of the federation is being held this week in Ottawa to decide what course they shall take. He said, "I fought against the strike, although the railway mail clerks were in sympathy with the strikers, because I was assured that we should get a square deal ourselves. If the government is going to deal with us as though we were children, it is time for us to get out and do something. No employee of a private corporation has to work under such conditions as ours. The railway mail clerks have been looking forward to the receipt of \$180 back pay when reclassification should come into effect, and some of them have pledged this amount in advance. No man in the mail service has received as yet any payment under the new classification."

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