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Labor News From Coast to Coast.

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THE COAL MINERS' STRIKE IS ON

Over 400,000 Workers in U. S. Lay Down Their Tools.

The great strike of miners in the coal fields of the United States commenced as per schedule on November 1st. The action of the United States Government in issuing an injunction against the leaders of the United Mine Workers of America did not prevent the rank and file from laying down their tools. The questions in dispute are chiefly a five-day week and a 60 per cent. increase in wages. Negotiations have been carried on for some months but no progress was made.

At the time of writing nearly all the union mines in the United States have stopped production, with about 425,000 miners on strike, and there does not appear to be any break or weakening on the part of the miners.

There are indications that each side is willing to negotiate, but each seems determined that the other should surrender some point before diplomatic relations should be resumed. The chiefs of organized labor, particularly Samuel Gompers, suggest that the Government should dissolve its injunction against the mine workers' officials, and such a move would indicate that the way was open to peace. The mine operators maintain their attitude that the strike must be called off before negotiations can be opened. John L. Lewis, acting head of the miners' organization, says the negotiations can start any time.

The Strike in Brief.

The miners demand a six-hour day, a five-day week, and a 60 per cent. increase in wages.

Operators contend that the present contract is valid until peace treaty ratified; no negotiations unless strike is called off and miners resume work.

The United States Government has secured injunctions against the union leaders; fuel administrator's war-time powers revived; maximum prices fixed; military protection for miners remaining at work and for strikebreakers.

JOHN L. LEWIS.

Acting president of the United Mine Workers of America, whose organization is out for a five-day week and a substantial increase in pay to combat the high cost of everything.

Number of bituminous coal miners, 655,000; paid-up union members, 351,687; mines operating by union men, 4,167; tons of coal mined weekly, 11,000,000; union fund reported back of strike, $15,000,000.

RAILROAD BROTHERHOODS IN SYMPATHY WITH MINERS.

W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, has issued a statement in reference to the position that the transportation employes would take in connection with the strike of soft coal miners. He said:

"Our organization is fully in sympathy with the miners in attempting to secure a living wage and better working conditions, and believes that the position taken by the Government in connection with the injunction issued will probably disturb industrial conditions to a far greater extent than recognized by those in charge of governmental affairs.

"The railroad brotherhoods will assist the miners in every honorable and consistent way and the officers of the miners' organization fully understand the brotherhood's position.

"I have not assumed to impose my opinion or presence either at the White House or upon the Attorney-General in connection with the miners' strike, because no intimation from the officers of the miners' organization has come to the Trainmen's Brotherhood, to my knowledge, requesting such assistance or the use of our influence."

LITTLE FELLOWS DO BIG THINGS.

The importance of the small investor in regard to the success of Canada's Victory Loans cannot be over-estimated. This is apparent in the remarkable fact that about one million $50 Victory Bonds are at present held by the Canadian people. The number of holders of $100 bonds is also exceedingly large. Most of these bond holders are happy in the possession of their investment. They know that their money is as safe as it could possibly be anywhere; that it is drawing a most generous rate of interest and that it is working for the benefit of themselves and the whole community in providing for the pressing needs of the nation.

A large number of these holders of the bonds of small denomination had never saved any money before. They have now "got the habit." The Victory Loans have proved a splendid thing for them in that respect alone. Perhaps when they subscribed it pinched them a little. Many bought on the instalment plan and looked forward to the dates of payments with trepidation, but now their experience has taught them how readily supposed difficulties can be overcome.

These small investors are confidently expected to repeat their good work for the Victory Loan 1919. Doubtless they are anxious to do it. Accumulated savings cannot be better placed.

A. F. OF L. OFFICIAL SAYS LABOR AND CAPITAL BOTH HAVE RIGHTS.

In a recent ad[illegible] Matthew Wall, vice-president [illegible] A. F. of L., said:

"The relation be[illegible] employers and employes is n[illegible] matter of legislation. This [illegible] function properly and righ[illegible] exercised by those directly co[illegible] and interested. Emplo[illegible] employes should jointly a[illegible]ectively determine the rel[illegible] of employment and by c[illegible]ce establish the standards [illegible] requirements which ought, a[illegible]ight, should prevail. We b[illegible] those immediately engaged [illegible] a particular class of manufacture or production, because of their experience and training, and by reason of their interests and direct connection, are best able to determine the relation which should prevail between employer and employee, and the standards and the requirements which should be observed in the particular industry or craft.

"We believe that employers and employes of each particular group of manufacture and of each distinctive process of production should jointly and collectively determine the requirements and standards of their joint enterprise.

"The American Federation of Labor is not opposed to the organization of employers. On the contrary, it favors the organization of employers. In doing so it likewise demands for the wage earners the same right of organization, that same privilege of assisting and helping each other, in determining the conduct of business.

"When workmen are given the right to help determine their destiny in life, their conditions of work and their conditions of labor, then you will find that happiness and contentment which is so well expressed in our constitutional authority, that Governments should be organized for liberty, justice among men and the pursuit of happiness."

CANADIAN WORKERS ARE ORGANIZING

Independent Labor Party Should Have Strong Support.

Throughout the entire Dominion of Canada the workers, male and female, are organizing politically. The recent election in the Province of Ontario has helped in no small measure to arouse the enthusiasm of the trade unionists and their sympathizers, and a survey of the Dominion proves that everywhere we find the workers lining up behind the Independent Labor party or the Labor party of Canada, and after all, they have both the same ideals behind them—that Labor have its own representatives in the various public offices. We find that municipal elections are going to be a lively issue in every industrial centre and Labor will have its full quota of candidates for the various offices.

The recent municipal election in the Old Land should be an incentive to the workers in Canada. Labor made a clean sweep, unparalleled in the history of Britain.

The unorganized districts are also becoming deeply interested in organized Labor and the Canadian Labor Press is of the opinion that political action will do much to assist the organizers in the districts where previously the workers were content to work under whatever conditions their bosses desired. However, the time is at hand when all the workers should get into the International trade union movement and help in the gigantic work of re-construction. Very little can be accomplished without an organization and the workers in all parts of the world are allying themselves with organized Labor. Great Britain is a striking illustration of what can be accomplished when the workers are 100 per cent. organized.

If you have not an organization in your town or district a letter to the secretary of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, Hope Chambers, Ottawa, will bring to you all the information you desire. Don't put it off until tomorrow. Get busy today.

MEN MUST HAVE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE.

While at St. Thomas recently as a guest of the Trades and Labor Council, E. W. A. O'Dell, of Hamilton, organizer of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, said, in discussing the present Labor unrest, that he was very much in the dark regarding the true situation. He admitted that it was grave and bore evidence that a mighty upheaval was impending, but he expressed a belief that serious complications would be avoided. There would continue to be trouble and unrest, he said, so long as the employers of labor refused to concede their employes the right to organize and objected to their collective bargaining and boards of arbitration to settle any wage and hour difference that might arise. "The sooner manufacturers realized that organized labor was in earnest and intended to get its rights the sooner harmony would prevail."

NOVEL SCHEME TO COMBAT H. C. OF L.

Owing to the hardship caused by the constantly increasing cost of living, the New South Wales Government has introduced a novel scheme for the relief of wage earners with limited incomes. A bill already passed by the Legislative Assembly provides that the Board of Trade shall ascertain the cost of living, for a man and wife as well as for a single child, and for each additional child in the family. Statistics will set the cost of living so that it will form a basis from which all wages will be calculated.

The maintenance of the children of workers will be met by payments from a fund administered by the Government. This fund will be secured from employers each paying, in respect to his average daily number of employes, an amount per employe ascertained by dividing the total cost of maintenance for the children of his employes covered by the act amongst all the number of his employes.

PROSPECTIVE ONTARIO MINISTER OF LABOR, HIS HOME AND FAMILY

On the left of the picture is shown Mr. Walter Rollo, Hamilton, Labor leader, slated for Minister of Labor in the Farmer-Labor Government. Next to him is his son, Gordon, aged 18, on the upper left-hand side of his house at 13 Pine street, Hamilton. In the right-hand corner below, is his daughter, Jeanne, aged 14, and on the right, Mrs. Walter Rollo.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS REPORT ISSUED

Would Cost Province About Million Dollars Per Year, Says Dr. Riddell.

What appears to be a step in the direction of the establishment of a system of mothers' and children's pensions in Ontario, was made last week, when the interim report of Dr. W. A. Riddell, Superintendent of the Trades and Labor Branch of the Government Department, was made public by Premier Hearst. Dr. Riddell was instructed to prepare a report on the subject last January, and submitted an interim report in March. This report was not made public until last week.

Dr. Riddell estimates the cost of a pension system at about $1,078,000 per annum. This would allow for a full pension to all widows and children coming within the conditions laid down in the report. There are, it is estimated, some 16,000 widows and 8,900 children who would be benefited by such a scheme. Dr. Riddell suggests that one-half the cost of the undertaking be borne by the Province and one-half by the municipality in which the pensioner resides, and that the Act be administered by a commission of five, appointed by the Province, with local committees throughout the Province. The enabling legislation would be known as "The Mothers' Allowance Act."

The conditions under which Dr. Riddell recommends that allowances be granted include the following:

That the mother must have a conjugal status, that is, must be either a widow, the wife of an inmate of a Provincial asylum for the insane, or the wife of a man permanently incapacitated.

That the mother must be in every way a fit person to take charge of the bringing up of children.

That the father must be, or when dead must have been, a British subject. That the father and children actually were resident in Canada for a period of three years prior to the application for an allowance; that they were actually resident in Ontario at the time the application was made, and for a period of two years prior to that time, and that the family must continue to reside in Ontario as long as the allowance is paid.

That the mother and dependent children do not own property valued at more than $2,000; that they do not own more than $500 cash or securities convertible into cash, other than household goods, and that the children are dependent upon the mother for support, and that their condition is such that they will not be properly provided for without Government aid.

As regards children the Commissioner recommends that allowances be available only to families of two or more children, that the children shall be under 14 years of age, and that the children shall be under the immediate care of their mothers.

Dr. Riddell recommends that the administration of the Act be carried on by a Provincial Commission of five members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, two of the number being women. One member shall retire each year. All members would be subject to reappointment. He suggests, too, that the members serve without remuneration, except that a per diem allowance be provided during regular sessions, and that the chairman would be elected by the commissioners annually by ballot.

The powers of the commission would include the appointment of the executive and supervisory staff, the prescription of the duties of the staff and the fixing of such staff on the report of the Civil Service Commission and the approval of the Government. The commission would also be empowered to consider recommendations from local committees and to have full advisory powers and final decision in all matters affecting allowances. Regulations could also be passed by the commission subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. He recommends also that a penalty be provided for fraud.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS SITS AT HULL.

The Quebec Board of Examiners of Stationary Engineers are this week sitting in the city of Hull. The board is composed of Messrs. Marchand and Valliquet and G. R. Brunet, all of Montreal. It is interesting here to note that every member of the board is a trade unionist, the two former being members of the International Union of Steam and Portable Engineers and the latter, the financial secretary, is a member of the International Pressmen and Pressmen's Assistants' Union.

For four years the board has been in existence in the city of Montreal, but new legislation was recently passed by the Quebec Legislature and the board now operates throughout the entire province. The sittings in Hull are the first under the new law and the board has before it a number of cases to pass upon.

Internationals in Conference Will Formulate Policy to Safeguard Workers

Call For Conference At Washington On December 13 Issued By A. F. of L. and Railway Brotherhoods.

As was intimated in the Canadian Labor Press last week, the heads of the various International Unions of Canada and the United States are being called together in conference at Washington on December 13 next.

When the Industrial Conference met at the American Capital some few weeks ago, the Labor group found itself assailed on every issue, with the result that the Labor leader withdrew his forces from the discussions. Immediately following this move, the heads of the four big railway International Unions, which are not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, issued a statement endorsing the move of the head of the A. F. of L. President Gompers announced that a conference of all the International Unions and the Farmers would be held at an early date. This week his promise has been fulfilled, and a call has been issued for a conference to be held at Washington on December 13.

The call, which is signed by all the executive officers of the A. F. of L., as well as those of the four great railroad brotherhoods, is dated October 29, and reads in part:

"In this critical reconstruction period Labor is confronted with grave dangers affecting the very foundation of its structure. So grave is the present 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 executives of the National and International Unions should be invited to participate in a conference at the headquarters of the A. F. of L. at 10 o'clock on the morning of December 13, 1919, and there to take counsel and formulate such action as may be essential to safeguard and promote the rights and freedom of the wage-earners, the workers, who form the great mass of the people of our Republic.

It is imperative that the responsible representatives of the Labor movement shall therefore consider the situation in the industrial and legislative field and agree upon fundamental principles and a programme which the wage-earners will accept in performing their duties as citizens and at the same time maintaining the right of free men in order to conserve human interest and welfare.

"We conferred with the representatives of the various Farmers' organizations. The conventions of these several bodies will be held within the next thirty days. The representatives of the Farmers, while in sympathy with the purposes of the conference, did not feel that they had the authority to append their names to this call. However, formal communications will be sent to their conventions, inviting them to appoint representatives to participate in the conference of December 13, with authority to speak in the name of the organizations they represent.

SAMUEL GOMPERS.

President of the American Federation of Labor, who has called a conference of all the International unions in Canada and the United States to convene at Washington in December.

BROTHERHOOD OF CARMEN BUY MORE VICTORY BONDS.

Fifty thousand dollars was placed to the credit of the Canadian Victory Loan, 1919, in Ottawa last week, the money in question coming all the way from Kansas City, Missouri.

The subscription was placed by Mr. Thomas Broad, of 50 Melrose avenue. Mr. Broad is the fifth member of the International executive of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, and he is also vice-chairman of the C. P. R. joint protective board of the Brotherhood.

The $50,000 represents a portion of the International funds of the Brotherhood.

This makes in all over $160,000 which the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America have in the various Canadian Victory Loans.

The 8-Hour Day Discussion At the International Labor Conference

By Fred Bancroft.

The organizing committee recommended to the International Labor Conference a "draft convention," which is a proposed statute for the various nations to establish a 48-hour week for all industrial workers, with certain exceptions, as provided for in three schedules. The recommendation also seeks to limit overtime for each worker to 150 hours each year, and after five years to reduce overtime to 100 hours. It also proposes that overtime be paid at the rate of "25 per cent. over normal pay."

It is proposed to bring the law into effect not later than July 1, 1921, and at least 400,000,000 of workers will be affected if the proposal is finally adopted by the 40 nations in the conference.

The legislation proposed is to cover all industrial workers, and it is left to the various nations to define where the line between industrial, commercial and agricultural workers shall be drawn. Most of the occupations are named in the proposal, and among the industries are mines, quarries, railways, docks, wharves, construction, manufacture, maintenance, repair, generation of electricity, shipbuilding, warehousemen, and, generally speaking, all industrial workers are covered.

In schedule "A" are outlined occupations where 56 hours per week may be worked. Among them are "Industries in which work is necessarily carried on by all or the great majority of the workers night and day for seven days a week," and includes "Public utility services such as gas, electricity and water." This would give to these workers eight hours per day for seven days per week.

In schedule "B" are named classes of work in which the employes may work 60 hours a week. Among them are boiler attendants, engine men, electricians, oilers, greasers, laboratory chemists, persons engaged in research work, furnace men, retort men, and other special occupations.

Schedule "C" indicates occupations where the employes may work 150 hours' overtime during a year, and includes aerated water making, beer bottling, printing and bookbinding, preparation of food and many other industries under the heading of "Industries liable to press of work at certain recurring seasons of the year." It is quite clear from the above that the legislation proposed is far from advanced, as understood in North America, and even if adopted will help most unorganized workers and nations where conditions of labor are very backward.

The workers of the United States claim to have better conditions than are prevalent in Canada, but there are many countries with longer hours. The workers in India who are organized, mostly work 72 hours per week. In Central Europe the hours are generally nine and ten hours a day.

It must be remembered that the organizing commission has made its recommendations from information regarding conditions in about 40 countries who were signatories to the Peace Treaty.

BRITISH LABOR'S GREAT VICTORY

In Municipal Elections in Old Land Without Precedent.

Labor's sweeping success at the municipal elections throughout Britain is so complete that even the victors admit their astonishment. It is certain that such a landslide is without precedent in that country.

There are numerous instances of towns and boroughs going solidly for Labor and leaving the other parties without representation. Battersea, which had no Labor representative in the last council, has now forty-one. Popular Laborites captured thirty-nine seats out of forty-two. These London results are typical of Labor's success in other cities. The Progressive Party, which approximates to Independent Liberalism, has almost entirely disappeared from London and in the provinces also Labor's gains are largely at the expense of the Liberals.

Although the newspapers have for several weeks been trying to stir the voters out of their apathy to municipal affairs, less than 30 per cent. of London electors took the trouble to vote and as Labor's opponents say, "London has itself to thank."

Robert Williams, secretary of the Transport Workers, is frankly jubilant and considers the election heralds the collapse of the Lloyd George Coalition. "Labor is sobering down from the intemperance of the last general election," he declares. "The working class electorate now realize that coalition promises were mere decrust and are broken beyond the possibility of the fulfilment."

Mr. Brownlie, of the Amalgamated Engineers, says the victories of Labor may be taken as a certain augury of what will happen at the general election, and J. P. Thomas, M.P., secretary of the Railwaymen, describes the municipal results "as clear and abundant evidence of Labor's great power and determination to rule the country."

ELIMINATION OF CARTOON IS FORCED.

Pressmen in a Boston printing plant where "Life," a New York publication, is being printed as a result of the troubles in the printing trade in New York City, forced the removal of a cartoon from the publication because they considered it a reflection on organized labor. They refused to work until the cartoon was eliminated.

The drawing to which the pressmen objected shows a patrolman in uniform standing at the door of a room in which a man is beating a woman with the arm of a chair. The policeman is represented as saying to the captain of police, "It's all right, captain, he's got a union card."

Stonecutters' President View of Congress Convention.

The following is an extract from the official report of Sam Grigg's, president of the Stonecutters' International Union:

"During the early sessions of the Congress the advocates of the one big union proposition, and the other radical elements were going to turn the Congress upside down and elect their own choice for officers of the Congress. In fact, the thought that seemed to be uppermost in the minds of the radical elements was not to better the working conditions of the workers, but to tear down the conditions established through the active co-operation of the International Trades Union movement that has done so much for the betterment of the workers in Canada, and elect to all of the offices within the gift of the Congress men who held the same impossible radical views as themselves. This well-laid plan of the radicals, and the One Big Union advocates went the way of all other such irresponsible, destructive efforts of men who don't have a solitary thought for the betterment and advancement of the workers that would not stand an hour's practical demonstration. As the convention progressed the delegates began to realize what a "gold brick" the radical element was trying to hand them for the purpose of getting their radical element into office in the Congress, that a complete revulsion of feeling took place, and when it came time to elect officers, President Moore and Secretary Draper were re-elected unanimously, with increased salaries, and an ovation that lasted several minutes. This goes to show that whatever is born in deceit and practiced in fraud will be found out and its purpose defeated."

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN ELECT OFFICERS.

Mrs. Raymond Robins, of the American delegation, was elected president of the International Congress of Working Women at Washington. Other officers chosen were: Secretary, Maud Swartz, United States; first vice-president, Jeanne Bouvier, France; second vice-president, Katherine Derry, Canada, and third vice-president, Yadwiga Lukasjuk, Poland.

DRAPER OPPOSES THE 48-HR. WEEK

At International Labor Conference Canadian Delegate Livens Issue.

The International Labor Conference called in accordance with the Peace Treaty is in session at Washington and all the nations of the world have representatives present. The Canadian workers are represented by Mr. P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, and already he has proven that he is the right man in the right place. The 48-hour week convention brought forth some striking and forcible logic from the Canadian workers' representative.

The fight came before the conference on Tuesday in submission by the organization committee of the proposed convention for the 48-hour week. Hon. G. K. Barnes, British Government delegate, and a member of the British War Cabinet, pleaded for the convention and was supported in his view by Mayor Desplanches, Government delegate from Italy.

"We cannot do less at this conference," Mr. Barnes argued, "than adopt a convention for a shorter working day. To do less than this would be to break faith with labor." He would have certain amendments to the convention to submit later, but the British Government had every desire to fulfil all its obligations. Greater production was needed, but it would not be obtained by denunciatory speeches. The only way to get it was by "better organization of industry, by humanizing the conditions of labor." The idea of the conference was not to get more pay, but to get more leisure for the workers.

Mr. Barnes then moved that "the draft convention of the 48-hour week prepared by the organizing committee be adopted by the conference as the basis for discussion, but that its application to the tropical and other countries referred to in Article 405 of the peace treaty be referred in the first instance for consideration by a special committee which shall report to the conference."

Then came a labor revolt. Mr. P. M. Draper, Canadian workers' delegate, led with a query how far acceptance of the motion would bind delegates to the 48-hour week. Could amendments for a 44-hour week be subsequently submitted? The chairman thought that acceptance of the motion did not tie the conference down to any of the provisions of the convention and invited Mr. Barnes to state his view on the point. Mr. Barnes argued that the peace treaty laid it down "that we are to have an eight-hour day, or a 48-hour week. The organizing committee put forward as the basis of discussion in a 48-hour week. I take it that the convention would be open to amendment only insofar as amendments were compatible with that principle of a 48-hour week."

Mr. Draper reported that he could not then accept the proposal. "As the representative of the working people of Canada," warmly declared Mr. Draper, "I am not in favor of the proposition as submitted by Mr. Barnes. I believe that, if we are nailed down to the proposition that we can only have a 48-hour week or an eight-hour day, it opens the door for allowing certain industries to work nine, ten, eleven or twelve hours a day—it makes no difference so long as the 48 hours per week have been worked. I don't think that is a good proposition, and, of course, I would like to hear some further explanation before I cast my vote."

From employers' delegates both of Great Britain and France there came requests for adjournment that the proposals might be studied. Mr. Baldesi, Italian workers' delegate, protested. "Every time there is some divergence of opinion," he complained, "somebody jumps up and proposes adjournment." The eight-hour day had been under discussion 54 years.

The only question at issue was that raised by Mr. Draper of the 44-hour week.

"If," added M. Jouhaux, French workers' delegate, "the adoption of the resolution proposed by Mr. Barnes binds us down to the 48-hour week, the majority of the workers' delegates cannot accept it." But M. Jouhaux agreed that it was better to adjourn to enable the proposals to be studied.

The British Government will make good its promise to Labor during the war by passing the eight-hour day bill, the conference was told by Geo. N. Barnes, member of the British War Cabinet and Government delegate. Workers in Great Britain will never go back to old conditions, he said, adding that in view of this the public had a right to expect that Labor would give its whole-hearted co-operation to increase production to the largest degree possible, and make good the losses of the last five years.

Mr. Barnes urged a declaration of a 48-hour week instead of a straight eight-hour day, as more easily put into effect, and avoiding the difficulties of providing for overtime. "What we are after is more leisure for the workers," he said.

Mr. Parsons, Canadian employers' delegate, thought that the second part of the Barnes motion should be considered first. He would in the first instance refer to a special committee the question of the application of the eight-hour day to the tropical and other countries, to which special reference is made in the peace treaty. Upon receipt of the committee's report the conference could then proceed to discuss the entire question of the eight-hour day.

COALITION TO GOVERN ONTARIO

I. L. P.-U. F. O. Agrees to Take Over Reins of Power.

The coalition of the Independent Labor party and the United Farmers is now an assured fact. Last week a caucus of the parties was held and the coalition agreed upon. Mr. E. C. Drury, of the United Farmers, will be the leader of the coalition and Premier of the Province. Mr. Walter R. Rollo, M.L.A., West Hamilton, will head the Labor forces and will probably be the first Minister of Labor of Ontario.

For a time it looked as though the coalition would not be successful. As a matter of fact Mayor MacBride, of Brantford, the Labor member for that constituency, left the caucus and declared that he would sit in the cross benches of the Legislature. However, these things are to be expected and we do not anticipate that the new Government will have an easy task in conducting the business of the province. We do expect, however, that they will give Ontario efficient administration. The Canadian Labor Press believes that they should at least be given a fair trial. We feel confident that the Labor section of the coalition will stand firmly for justice to all classes and that they will be a power for good in the Legislature. Again we say that the breaking away of Mayor MacBride is unfortunate but the leader of the Labor party, Walter R. Rollo, puts a new aspect on the case when he said:—

"It is not any wonder that the members of the Brantford Labor party endorse Mayor MacBride's stand. They have only heard his side of the story, but if the members knew the actual facts of the case there would not be a labor man in Brantford in sympathy with his actions. If the Brantford Labor party wants a true statement of what happened, the Ontario Labor party executive would be only too glad to send some person to Brantford to state the facts.

"The coalition platform agreed to at the I.L.P.-U.F.O. conference was presented to the Labor conference by Mayor MacBride, who was very strongly in favor of it and it was unanimously adopted by the conference. He now repudiates it.

"Regarding Mayor MacBride's statement that member-elect Greenlaw, St. Catharines, and others are in accord with his action, Mr. Greenlaw was in total accord with what was done by the Labor party. The St. Catharines train left at 7 p.m., hence Mr. Greenlaw's early departure from the conference from which Mayor MacBride bolted. If Mr. Greenlaw was not in accord with what was done he (Mr. Greenlaw) neglected to register any protest.

"It is apparent to every person who is familiar with the man, that Mayor MacBride's bolt from the conference was due to his personal ambition to secure a Cabinet position, which at the time of the incident was not altogether a certainty for him.

"After the Labor conference had voted by ballot to name W. R. Rollo, Minister of Labor, and leader of the Labor group, and had turned down a motion to name a man for the second portfolio without knowing what position the appointee had to fill, Mayor MacBride left the room in a huff and informed one of the Labor representatives, Mr. Keenan, member-elect for Kenora, that he was sick and tired of the whole dilly-dallying business, and that he intended to cross the floor to the opposition."

Our Hamilton correspondent this week writes as follows:—

It's little wonder that the Labor men of Hamilton these days are feeling proud and elated. Walter R. Rollo, member-elect for West Hamilton, besides being the choice of the elected and defeated candidates and the provincial executive of the Ontario Labor party has not only been appointed leader of the Labor group, but is Ontario's first Minister of Labor. No better representative of Labor could have been dually honored. That he will "fill the bill" is conceded. Mr. Rollo we won't tack "Honorable" to his Scotch name yet—has, for very many years, been foremost in organized Labor circles throughout Canada. He holds the proud distinction of being one of the pioneers of the Independent Labor Party in this fair Dominion. He has labored untiringly for the good and upliftment of the masses, since his advent into the Labor game. He knows it from "A" to "Z" as the saying goes; so there's no questioning his proving a dignified and capable Minister of Labor and leader. The Canadian Labor Press wishes Bro. Rollo every success. And may the portfolio long rest with him; for it's in very safe keeping.

The announcement that the Farmers and Labor elected groups in Ontario's new Legislature would form a Government has been received with acclamation by Labor's rank and file in the Ambitious City. The further announcement that the Labor group would be honored with two portfolios, was also read with approval.

From what can be gathered, member-elect Warden F. C. Biggs, North Wentworth, will also be given a portfolio in the Ontario Cabinet by Leader E. C. Drury. Hamilton Laborites are in accord with the Farmer-Labor scheme that that there is plenty of good reliable material among their members-elect to assume the reigns of administration. The coalescing parties' public statement that it is the new Government's intention to legislate for all classes, met with general accord. The Labor men are not engaging in any boasting. And despite his honors Walter R. Rollo is just as modest as ever. While Mr. Rollo piloted the Hamilton I. L. P. central branch, he laid the foundation for a successful organization. He is sure of an ovation from the Trades and Labor Council delegates when he trots into the Labor Hall next Friday night, of which body he is corresponding secretary.

HOLLAND ADOPTS 8-HOUR DAY.

The Dutch Upper Chamber of Parliament last week unanimously passed a bill establishing an eight-hour work day and a 48-hour week.