Labor News From Coast to Coast.

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LABOR PLACES ITS CARDS ON TABLE FACE UPWARDS

FIRST NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE A REALITY

Following Recommendations of Royal Commission on Industrial Relation Labor and Capital Assemble at Ottawa With Third Group Representing Community Also Present.

The wise men of the east, west, north and south are gathered at Ottawa this week at the first National Industrial Conference, called by the Dominion Government following the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, of which President Tom Moore and John Bruce are members.

Organized Labor has some of its best brains at the conference and even the capitalists' press tell us that Labor has the best orators. This is to be expected for Labor has struggled long for a place in the sun and all its ideas have been gained through practical experience. Just what the outcome of the conference will be we are not prepared to state, for, at the time of writing, the conference has done little more than debate the questions concerning industrial unrest. However, a closer understanding is bound to follow and many of the old prejudices held by Capital toward legitimate labor organizations will be washed away.

Sir Robert Borden's message, sent by the Premier to be read when he found himself unable through illness to be present, was read by Senator G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, who called the opening session to order and started the conference with the singing of the National Anthem.

Introducing the topic of the labor convention of the Peace Treaty, Senator Robertson called on Sir Arthur Sifton, who was in Paris during the conference with the Premier, to explain this feature of the treaty.

If an international labor convention was a necessity of the times, Sir Arthur said, the draft made of the proposed convention gave Canada a fair representation in it. The difference of Canada's position from that of other countries was in the condition of labor in the competing countries. Labor conditions in Canada were infinitely better than in many of the countries represented at the International Labor convention. The only interest in the convention to Canada was that Canada's export was limited entirely to her ability to meet the labor of these countries not so far advanced.

Hon. Newton W. Rowell, president of the Privy Council, also spoke of the conference at Paris. Men had gone there with conflicting ideas, but resolved to meet one another on a basis of peace. The conference would have been a disastrous failure had they not reached that basis of unity. He looked on this meeting today as the Canadian Peace Conference and warned the spokesmen of all interests that they would be judged by the country on their words and attitudes at this convention.

Canada, in spite of the unrest, had had less industrial warfare since the war than any other country that had participated in the war.

Canada's place as a pioneer in helping to solve the industrial problem was in the keeping of his audience. It was an inspiring task; he hoped each realized his responsibility and his opportunity.

Co-operation, based on a frank recognition of the rights of each, should take the place of conflict. It was the factor entering most largely into Canada's future well-being.

"In your high and noble task I wish you God-speed," he said in closing.

"My thoughts go back at this moment to a morning now nearly twenty years ago, when at the completion of a year's travel and study of industrial conditions in Europe, I received from the post office in Rome, where I happened to be at the time, notice of a cablegram for which I was asked to call," said Mr. King.

"I well remember the trepidation with which I opened the message, not knowing what intelligence it might contain. To my complete surprise, it was from the then Postmaster General of Canada, Sir William Mulock, and was to the effect that the Government of Canada had decided to start a Department of Labor, which was to publish a monthly journal to be known as the 'Labor Gazette.' The message inquired if I would accept the position of editor.

"Up to that time, I had been contemplating an academic career. A few weeks later, I was on my way to Ottawa; and yet a few weeks later was in search of premises in which to commence, under the direction of the Postmaster-General, the organization of the new Federal department. I well remember the incidents of those first few months, and indeed of those first years in which the department gradually came to take its place among the other departments of the Government.

"If I refer to the incident, it is that I may the more adequately express my appreciation of the courtesy of the Minister of Labor in inviting me to be present at this gathering, and the satisfaction it affords me to renew once again my acquaintance and to be brought once again into touch with the work of a department with which for over ten years I was intimately associated.

"Perhaps I may say at once that I am in most hearty accord with the purpose of this conference," continued the Liberal leader, "and shall be happy indeed if I can be of any service in connection with its proceedings.

"In the few remarks which I am about to make, perhaps you will permit me to saw a few words concerning the spirit in which I think the problem of the day should be approached by this conference. It may help to disclose my own views as to certain outstanding features of the problem of industrial relations."

The conference was described as a National Industrial Conference. He wished to begin with the word "National."

There was a spirit abroad in the world today under the influence of which there was a tendency for classes and groups to consider primarily themselves and not the good of the whole. Its method of proceeding was by direct action in one form or another. Canada got expressions of it in a farmers' party, a Labor party, a Socialists' party, in attempts to create a war veterans' party, and in other ways.

"The breaking up of society into groups," said Mr. King, "for the purpose of controlling Government, can have but one effect, and that is to foster other groups to oppose them. The process is a disintegrating, not a unifying one. However, successful any group may be in the short run, in the long run it is sure to fail. There is no group or class in this Dominion, be it farming, labor, manufacturing, commercial or financial interest, which is competent to possess a monopoly of control of Government, or should be entrusted with it.

"What is true in the political world is equally true in the realm of industry. Capital cannot expect to have it all its own way; neither can labor expect to have it all its own way. There must be give and take, a readiness on the part of both to consider each other, and to consider also yet a third party, of which I shall speak in a moment, the public, which has important claims to consideration in all matters pertaining to industry.

"I have ventured to set forth in a recent book what I believe to be an important sequence in the matter of competing industrial standards. It is a sort of application to industry of Gresham's law of the precious metals.

"What Gresham discovered was that where different metals were in circulation as coinage and some were better than others of the same nominal value, the coins made of the inferior metal tended to drive the better out of circulation; in other words, that cheaper money tends to drive out dearer. It is the same, I believe, with standards in industry, where the two are brought into relation with each other through the competition of commodities and services. If the labor laws of one province of the Dominion are not up to the standard of the laws of the other provinces, the provinces having the higher standards may become handicapped through the undermining effect of lower standards elsewhere. The lower standards tend to drag the higher down to their level. To maintain proper standards, they must be made equal in significance over all competing areas.

"This is of great significance in the international as well as the national arena, and is the strongest argument that can be presented in favor of the labor convention of the League of Nations.

"Perhaps you will pardon me if I venture to quote what appears in my book on the subject. It was not only written, but published while the war was still on, and before the armistice was signed:

Mr. King here quoted: "It is not a national minimum only, but an international minimum, which is needed, if labor standards are to be protected against the undermining effects of the law of competing standards operating through international competition. The possible creation of some international agency to further the establishment and enforcement of international conventions aimed at the maintenance of an international minimum, is a subject of momentous concern. It is well deserving of consideration in any discussion pertaining to a League of Nations which may constitute a part of the peace negotiations at the conclusion of the war."

"I come now to the significance of the second word 'industrial.' That raises at once the question of what industry is, and who the parties to industry are," he continued. "Upon a right understanding of these matters, and the considerations to which they give rise depends the solution of the problems with which you are called upon to deal.

"Broadly considered, there are but two methods by which changes can be brought about. The appeal to Reason or the appeal to Force. The former is the method of conference, the method of our courts and of our Parliament. The latter might be described as the Prussian method, the method of war and anarchy. Industrial conflicts arise and are prevented in manner wholly similar to international conflicts.

"Addressing the House of Commons in London on May 24, 1916, Sir Edward Grey said, referring to the war. 'I care not how often I say it, this war could have been avoided by accepting a conference. Why was the conference not accepted?' Because there was no good-will. What a momentous statement, and yet how true. In the last analysis, is this not also true of every industrial conflict; of every conflict there has been in the past; of every conflict there is yet to be?

"Attitude is everything. Grant good-will and conference between the parties to industry, and there is not one problem the solution of which cannot be worked out satisfactorily. With ill-will and an unwillingness to confer, nothing is possible, and there is no limit to the injury that may be done to an entire nation. A man has a right to have his personality respected, however humble he may be.

"The man who is unwilling to meet with and discuss in a friendly manner with any other man matters pertaining to their industrial relations is helping to plant hatred in the breast of his fellows, and to sow the seeds of anarchy. He deserves no consideration from his country. The greater the man, the greater the offence.

"Lord Shaughnessy was right when he said upon his return from England that what Labor was demanding above all else today, and what it has a right to demand, is a recognition of its status. I would like to go so far as to say that, with conditions what they are in the world today, the man, whoever he is, who is not willing to try any and every means of conference to avert industrial strife, should be regarded as a public menace and deprived of all authority. I say this equally of any leader of Labor and any captain of industry. It may not be possible to grant or to obtain demands, but it is always possible to state a position and to endeavor to persuade another of the wisdom of a particular course.

"Yours it is to create a constitution for industry, to establish those customs, agreements, and practices which, governing in industrial relations, will safeguard society in the realm of industry, just as our political constitution safeguards the interests of society in the state.

"Yours it is to introduce into industry a wholly new spirit and a wholly new ideal. Industry in the past has been viewed too much simply as a revenue-producing process in which some men by economic right or might obtained what they could in the form of wages, and other men by economic right or might, what they could in the form of profit. In this conflict of rival interests, the one true and really important conception of industry as being in reality in the nature of social service has been wholly lost. Let that larger conception hereafter prevail.

"Now that we enter upon a new era of peace in the world's history, let industrial service come to be regarded as the moral equivalent of military service in times of war. Let us honor the man who participates in industry, whether as a labor investor or a capital investor, as one who is performing an essential and highly important social service, also upon his due performance of all other forms of service ultimately depend. And him who serves and advances the interests of society, let society also safeguard and protect.

"In the relation of human lives to the material concerns of industry, let us remember that, precious as gold may be, there is nothing so precious as human life. Where, if ever, the claims of industry and humanity conflict, let us remember that industry exists for the sake of humanity, and not humanity for the sake of industry!"

Mr. King's speech was loudly applauded.

Col. David Carnegie, of London, Eng., well-known in this country through his connection with the shell-making industry during the war, was introduced by Senator Robertson to speak on his study of the labor conditions in England.

The Whitley Councils were the feature of the Colonel's remarks.

The Whitley councils had done this: They had increased production and improved conditions of the worker; they had brought out a new attitude on the part of both labor and employers towards one another; the recognized leaders of each side met at the council boards and were now considerate of one another's claims.

It was not an uncommon thing to find whole councils keenly trying to bring about increased production, worker and employer showing equal desire to bring this about.

Whitley councils had also investigated and reported on matters affecting all branches of industrial work and life of the workers, such as housing, education, insurance, etc.

The facts of the progress of these councils were indisputable. There was a confidence between worker and employer absent in industries where the principle had not been applied. All of England's big strikes had been in industries not using the Whitley plan.

Canada's problems showed differences when compared with England's. The percentage of organization of workers and employers here was about half of that in England. The alien laborer here was another peculiar factor, but he felt that the application of the Whitley plan here could not help but make for a finer national life.

At Monday afternoon's sitting E. G. Henderson said the delegates wished to express their regrets at the absence of Premier Borden through illness. Those present at the conference had wished for his attendance at the conference, it was hoped, would have such important effects.

Speaking as a member of the em-

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JAIL THE PROFITEERS.

"The prime object of this visit to Toronto and Hamilton is to spy out the ground to see if it is possible for the Board of Commerce to do with a number of commodities what it has already done with sugar—to establish a fair profit, the exceeding of which will result in criminality and jail."

In these words W. F. O'Connor, vice-chairman of the Board of Commerce, announced on Thursday his inquiry into the high cost of living at Toronto that infractions of the rules which, it was expected, would result from the present investigation would mean jail terms for the guilty parties.

36 CENTS FOR A LOAF OF BREAD.

In these days of the high cost of everything most of us are so concerned with the battle of our own domicile that we have little time to study the problems which confront our brothers in other lands. In the city of Ottawa we are paying 11c. for a loaf of bread. A well-known British economist makes the surprising prophecy that our fellow workers in the motherland will soon be compelled to pay 32c. for a four pound loaf. The following was taken from a recent issue of the illustrated Sunday World:

"I would not be at all surprised if, by the spring, the people of this country have to pay 1s. 6d. for the 4 lb. loaf," Sir George Parish, the economist, told a Hackney audience yesterday.

Why? Short harvests and falling exchange (that is, rising prices for us).

The present price of the 4 lb. loaf is ninepence nominally—for bread is subsidized to the extent of nearly £50,000,000 a year.

Sir George presumably takes it for granted that the subsidy (3d.) will be withdrawn by the Cabinet, and that economic causes will add another sixpence to the price.

CAN HE DO IT?

LIVES ENDANGERED FOR PROFITS.

During the past few weeks we have had many striking illustrations of how Labor is endangered to make profits for the capitalist class. In Nova Scotia a boy was killed and the jury brought in a verdict in which they stated that 13 hours was too long for anyone to work, and that death in this instance could and would have been prevented had the child been enjoying shorter hours.

At the inquest into the deaths at the explosion of the elevator at Port Colborne, one witness told how the plant was operated so that there would be no loss of weight, but a high chance was taken as the dust could not escape. An explosion occurred when some seven or eight lives were lost.

A coroner's jury at Galt during the past week in its verdict says: "In our opinion the workmen on the road were not sufficiently protected and would recommend that the Grand River Railway Co. should have printed rules and employes furnished with same."

The jury was empanelled to enquire into the death of Charles Bateman, a Grand River Railway section foreman, who died in the Galt Hospital on Sept. 3, as the result of injuries received the previous day in a collision between a passenger car and the bonding machine just north of Preston.

UNITED MINE WORKERS' CONVENTION.

Nationalization of mines as a general principle was approved by the convention of the United Mine Workers of America, with only one dissenting voice, the sole objector being shouted down when he declared nationalization an impossibility. He later explained that he only meant impossible for the present.

The convention voted with the same unanimity for the six-hour day and five-day week in all coal mines, to be incorporated in the demands presented to the mine operators at the joint wage conference at Buffalo, September 25.

The convention went on record against the "One Big Union," I.W.W. and kindred movements, endorsing President Lewis' sharp condemnation of these radical tendencies. The question came up during the consideration of the report of President Lewis.

A resolution approving the action of the international executive in revoking the charter of the West Canadian Miners for joining the "One Big Union," organized at Winnipeg this summer, was adopted, with only one dissenting vote. It was stated that 95 per cent. of the seceders were now back in the miners' organization.

The convention advocated calling an international mining congress, as proposed by the British miners, and recommended steps to bring about a general pension system by legislation.

MOONEY STRIKE COLLAPSES.

When the last A. F. of L. convention refused to abandon its agitation in favor of a new trial for Thomas J. Mooney and support a general strike, it was roundly condemned by persons who claim to be "radicals."

But these hotspurs cool down in a few weeks, as is indicated by this diplomatic acknowledgement issued by a newly-organized "defense league" in Chicago.

"That the forces of labor are not now sufficiently united to demand the freedom of their innocent union brothers, Mooney and Billings, was plainly evident by the reports of a host of delegates at this Chicago meeting. Consequently, the call for a general strike was cancelled until a more favorable date."

MONTREAL ENGINEERS' NEW SCHEDULE.

The International Union of Operating Engineers of Montreal and district have recently issued a new wage schedule. This schedule is now being voted upon by the various locals in the district. Returns will not be in completely before the end of the month.

In the matter of hours the schedule demands a 48 and 44 hour week. It is claimed by the union officials that in some of the plants there is a 84 hour week in effect, while in other plants there is a 55 hour week effective. They demand that all plants cut their hours down to a uniform basis of 44 to 48 hours.

The new schedule among other demands makes the following: Minimum wage for chief engineers in charge of plant, $50 per week. The minimum wage of assistant engineers is placed at $26 a week of 48 hours, time and one-half for overtime. This rate to be applied to all operators in office buildings, apartment houses, hotels, cold storage and packing plants.

Stationary firemen and oilers in such plants shall receive $20 in the former case and $28 per week in the case of others. Coal passers and ash wheelers shall receive $28 per week. The same conditions as to working hours and overtime.

With respect to portable engineers, master mechanics on construction work shall receive $50 per week. Engineers on foundation, caisson, open box and retaining walls shall receive $36 per week, with a 44-hour week with time and a half for over time. This scale shall apply to all boilers, pumps, cranes, hoists, air compressors concrete mixers and all engines irrespective of their motive power.

The wages of engineers on excavation work shall be $36 per week straight time with 44 hours for a week's work. This applies to boilers, pumps, cableways, stone crushers, hoists and compressors, locomotive and cement mixers and all engines.

The wages for pile driving engineers shall be $39 per week with 44 hours constituting a week's work. Engineers for handling and setting of steel and men shall receive $36 per week. Crane and digger engineers shall be $36 on excavation work. Steam shovel and dredgemen shall receive $200 per month, 26 days shall constitute one month, 8 hours each day. Engineers on steam rollers shall be paid $36 per week of 44 hours. The engineer according to the new schedule is obliged to give three days' notice before leaving his position and the employer is obliged to do likewise.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP IS ONLY SOLUTION.

"Public ownership is the only true solution of electric and steam railway problems," former Governor Eugene N. Foss of Massachusetts recently told the Federal Electric Railway Commission in Washington.

"Private ownership has fallen down," the former Governor continued. "There must be public ownership with public operation, or public ownership with private operation. This primarily means a better democracy. We have got to democratize our transportation systems; then we have got to democratize our industries, otherwise we will be in the condition they are abroad.

"In my judgment we are going to Government ownership."

INVITE GERMANS TO LABOR CONGRESS.

German delegates may be invited to the International Labor Conference, if the officials of the conference desire their presence. This is decided by the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference.

The Ballot is the Revolutionary Method in Democracy.

The International Trade Union movement is a progressive movement. Because it is progressive, it has won that place of great influence in Canada which it could not approach if it were a revolutionary movement. There is neither excuse nor possibility of success for revolutions against the Government in this country; for here the people themselves are the Government to the fullest extent that a majority wish to be. If any of our laws or institutions are oppressive, it is because the majority of our citizens do not realize that fact.

To perpetuate oppression is not in the nature of the Canadian people. When they realize that there is oppression they know that they can sweep it away and that is what they will do.

But their weapon, the decisive weapon of majorities, under democratic forms of government such as ours, is the ballot. In using the ballot the Canadian people may be careless for a time, but they are never reckless. They are progressive and practical.

They will not tolerate the violent methods of social revolutionists, neither will they be deluded by the "presto change" of social magicians.

They want the whole world to progress in democracy, and in aid of that process they are determined to develop it peaceably here. They see the democratic goal, but they also know that they must find and traverse the road to that goal. Step by step they are advancing in democracy, political and industrial.—William B. Wilson.

STEEL WORKERS TO STRIKE.

Iron, steel and blast furnace workers of the United States, not working under union agreements, are asked not to go to work September 22 in an appeal issued by William Z. Foster, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor national committee for organizing iron and steel workers.

The appeal, translated into seven different languages, and addressed not only to the United States Steel Corporation employes, but to workers of independent companies, has been sent to the 300,000 employes of the various concerns.

The statement, signed by the national committee, was issued shortly after the arrival at Pittsburgh, Pa., from Washington, of D. J. Davis, Edward J. Evans, and William Hannan, three of the six members of the strike committee of which John Fitzpatrick and Samuel Gompers are members.

Stating that the employers have refused to meet a union committee which wished to present "our legitimate demand for the right of collective bargaining, higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions," the appeal says, "therefore it becomes our duty to support the committee's claim, in accordance with the practically unanimous strike vote, by refusing to work in the mills on and after September 22, until such time as our just demands are granted. And in your stoppage of work, let there be no violence."

VANCOUVER CARPENTERS OFFERED $6.50 A DAY.

An offer of $6.50 a day beginning on the first of January, 1920, is being made by the Master Builders' Association of British Columbia to the carpenters, who have asked for increases in pay. The present scale is $6 a day and the demand is for $7 a day at once.

CANADIANS OPPOSE O. B. U.

Opposition to the One Big Union plan and to Bolshevistic agitation among labor men was expressed by Canadian Labor Department and labor organization officials, whose addresses occupied the entire morning of the convention of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and Railway Shop Laborers at Detroit on Thursday last.

AMBITIOUS CITY READY FOR ANNUAL CONGRESS CONVENTION

Biggest Assembly of Delegates in History of Organized Labor Expected at 35th Convention on Monday, Sept. 22.

From all parts of the Canadian "front" the Labor delegates are moving to their "assembly positions"—the Ambitious City—where the great attack on the Bolsheviki, the I. W. W., the One Big Union, and other secessionists will take place when the 35th Annual Convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress opens its "bombardment" in the Royal Connaught Auditorium, Hamilton, on Monday, September 22.

Despite the efforts of the One Big Union and other secessionists in Western Canada more delegates will assemble at the Ambitious City this year that at any previous convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress.

Since the last convention at Quebec the armed conflict against the Central Powers has been brought to a successful and victorious conclusion. In the drafting of the peace treaty the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress had a voice and the treaty contains a labor charter which when adopted and placed on the statute books of the Dominion will do much to eliminate the industrial unrest. A Royal Commission on Industrial Relations was appointed during the year and one result of its effects was the calling of the National Industrial Conference at Ottawa this week. The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress had two representatives on this Commission, one of them the Congress chief executive officer.

The Hamilton Trades and Labor Council convention committee has the stage all set for the opening of the 35th annual convention of the Trades ad Labor Congress of Canada, which convenes in the Royal Connaught Hotel Auditorium, Hamilton, next Monday, September 22, says our Hamilton correspondent.

When the curtain ascends for "Canada's parliament of Labor," the biggest assembly of accredited delegates in the history of the congress will face President Tom Moore, who since his election in Quebec last September, has unquestionably "filled the bill" capably and well. Since his elevation to the onerous and responsible office, President Moore has measured up to the standard, which encumbers the chief executive of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. No one can deny that he has fulfilled his important role with becoming dignity and ever level headedness on every mater affecting the status and fundamentals of Canadian organized labor. President Moore has by his unflagging efforts, sincerity and assiduity to duty, firmly entrenched himself in the estimation of organized labor's rank and file. Truly has Bro. Moore been hung in the balance and not been found wanting. And he's sure to be honored — fittigly — with another term of office.

Ald. Charles I. Aitchison, chairman; School Trustee Walter R. Rollo, secretary; Controller Harry J. Halford, treasurer; William Cassaday, James Roberts, Richard Riley, John Pryke, Edward Hughes, and Harry G. Fester, comprise the convention committee, entrusted by the Trades and Labor Council with the convention arrangements. All have labored harmoniously and assiduously in preparing the hundred-and-one arrangements, necessary to insure a replete programme befitting the occasion. And when the 500 and more delegates gather in the Ambitious City, everything will be in "apple-pie" order. The committee have left nothing undone to insure the convention's success. It is almost an eternity since Hamilton was honored as the convention city, and unquestionably its being held here, will be an impetus for the further expansion of trades unionism.

As expected, there's been a big rush for reservations in all the city's hotels. Despite the fact that accommodation has been at a premium for the past week, visiting delegates need not fear in being accommodated. The members of the committee have worked like trojans lately, with the result that an ample list of private boarding and rooming establishments has been secured, to house the delegates' influx.

Ald. Thomas O'Heir, president of the Trades and Labor Council will greet the delegates at the inaugural session. Mayor Goodenough Booker, will extend a civic welcome in behalf of the citizens. Sir William Hearst, Premier of Ontario, and Senator Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, will also address the opening session. Ald. McIntosh, chairman of the civic reception committee, will also attend.

The Ottawa delegates to the Convention held a meeting on Sunday last and decided to charter a special coach on the C.P.R. for Saturday night, and it is expected that about forty of the Ottawa delegates will leave for the Convention City on the special coach.

FROM COAST TO COAST

PRINCE RUPERT WORKERS WILL CONTEST EVERY ELECTION.

In spite of the fine weather last Sunday, a very good meeting was held in Prince Rupert, A. S. Wells, secretary of the B.C. Federation of Labor, being the speaker. The Northern City is pretty much alive as far as the working-class movement is concerned, and it is the intention to contest every seat, including the office of mayor, at the next municipal election. The provincial and Dominion seats will also be contested. Splendid organization work is being done, and a candidate for the Dominion House will be selected in the next few weeks. — Federationist.

ORILLIA LABOR CANDIDATE.

Mr. J. B. Johnston, reeve of Orillia, was chosen as the standard-bearer of the Independent Labor Party, the United Farmers' Association and the Returned Soldiers, in the forthcoming provincial election at a convention of these three organizations at Orillia last week. A joint platform was agreed upon embodying the salient features of the I. L. P. and the U. F. A.

Mr. T. J. Marks, provincial secretary of the Independent Labor Party, says that the combination of the two forces will make signal victories in the coming election.

SYDNEY WORKERS MAY GET EMPLOYMENT.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, it is reported, will erect a by-product plant in the near future to cost over two million dollars. The plant will be erected in connection with company's works at Sydney Mines and will necessitate the construction of an additional blast furnace, which will cost in the neighborhood of another million and a half dollars.

The press has been informed that construction work will commence within a short time. It is not likely the company will embark in the enterprise of selling gas for consumption to the citizens. There is the possibility that the company may decide for the electrification of its present railroad system.

VANCOUVER PLUMBERS' NEW AGREEMENT.

The Plumbers' Union of Vancouver, through its business agent, has been able to secure the same rate in Lyalls and the Northern Construction shipyards as was granted last week by the employers in the contract shops. These yards have taken the stand that the recent strike made the Robertson agreement null and void, and Business Agent Welsh is taking the matter up with the Wallace yard, with the expectation that the same rate will be paid. Every contract shop in the city has accepted the new scale of $7.20 per day for plumbers and steamfitters, and $5.00 per day for helpers.

VANCOUVER STREET RAILWAY MEN WITHDRAW.

At a meeting of the Vancouver Street Railwaymen's Union, held on Tuesday evening, it was decided to withdraw its delegates from the old Trades and Labor Council.

CAPE BRETON I. L. P. ADOPTS PLATFORM.

The Independent Labor Party at a meeting on Saturday took the first steps towards the organization of the Labor men of Cape Breton into a strong political force. A platform endorsing among other things, the eight-hour day, and Government control of the schools of the province, was adopted at the meeting while organizers for both the north and south ridings were elected. Ex-Mayor Wallace A. Richardson, of Sydney, is the new organizer in Cape Breton South and Richmond, while D. D. Macdonald, of Sydney Mines, is the organizer for Cape Breton North and Victoria.

The Independent Labor Party at the present time is in a fairly good financial condition, the auditor's report on Saturday showing a cash balance. The Labor Leader was endorsed as the official organ of the party.

VANCOUVER RAILWAY MEN TO ARBITRATE.

At the mass meeting of the Vancouver Street and Electric Railway employes held recently, the offer of the B.C. Electric Railway Company of five cents per hour increase was turned down, and it was decided to ask for a Board of Conciliation. T. J. Coughlan of the Railway Trainmen, will represent the men on the board.

NIAGARA RAILWAY MEN ASK BOARD.

Niagara, St. Catharines, and Toronto Railwaymen are going to ask an Arbitration Board to settle their wage question. They now get 39 to 46 cents an hour on a graded scale, according to length of service; but they ask 60 cents an hour for all men who have served a year, 55 cents for all who have served six months, and 50 cents for starters or men who have not served six months.

Manager Oliver, it is understood, has expressed willingness for an Arbitration Board to go into the whole question — wages, working conditions, etc.

GUELPH COUNCIL PROPOSES CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE.

At the last regular meeting of the Guelph Trades and Labor Council a notice of motion was given for an amendment to the constitution regarding representation from local unions. At the present time the unions are allowed delegates on the number of members they have. If the amendment is carried every union will be entitled to send three delegates.

WATERLOO AND KITCHENER TO NOMINATE LABOR CANDIDATE.

Waterloo and Kitchener Independent Labor parties have decided to hold a convention on Friday, September 19, for the purpose of selecting a candidate at the provincial elections.

VANCOUVER COUNCIL GOING AHEAD.

At a recent meeting of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council (International), Organizer Farmilo reported that the council now had a delegation representing a membership of approximately 5,000.

Reports received from cities east of Vancouver gave an indication that the international was due to go ahead with leaps and bounds.

SYDNEY TO HAVE MORE MINES OPERATING.

The Dominion Coal Company contemplate opening up the Gardner seam. An inspection of the seam is being made by officials of the company and if everything proves satisfactory, development work will be proceeded with at once.

The Gardner seam is one of the oldest known to Sydney mining men and many years ago it was developed to a small extent. On the incorporation of the Dominion Coal Company it was closed down. The mine will be equipped with electrical power.

The new Victoria mine has been re-opened. This mine was closed down in 1902, re-opened in 1913, only to again discontinue operations when war broke out in 1914. At the present time 20 hands are employed at the mine.

In 1902 it had a producing capacity of 1,500 tons per day and employed about 400 miners.

VANCOUVER TRADES COUNCIL NEW OFFICERS.

At a recent meeting of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council the following officers were elected: President, F. W. Welsh, Plumbers; vice-president, J. Sully, Machinists; general secretary, R. A. Webb, Barbers; doorkeeper, F. Poole, Teamsters; secretary-treasurer, J. H. McVety, Machinists; trustees, B. Showler, Teamsters; Mowat, Bookbinders; McKenzie, Hotel and Restaurant Employes, Harris, Boilermakers.

Delegates to the Dominion Trades Congress, McVety, McKenzie and Miss Gutteridge.

VICTORIA LABOR TO HAVE CANDIDATE.

The Federated Labor Party of Victoria, has invited T. A. Barnard, of New Westminster, to be a candidate in opposition to Dr. S. F. Tolmie, Minister of Agriculture, at the by-election to be held here on October 27th.