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### EDMONTON FREE PRESS

Edited, Controlled and Published by THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Issued at Edmonton, Alberta, Every Saturday. Phone 5595. ELMER E. ROPER, Editor. 101 Purvis Block

VOL. 1, No. 33. NOVEMBER 22, 1919

### LABOR AND THE VETERANS.

The Trades and Labor Council of this city will be represented in a fraternal way at the convention of the Alberta command of the G.W.V.A. next month. We trust that this may be the beginning of the establishment of a closer bond of interests between Organized Labor and the Veterans.

The great majority of the men who served as soldiers in the great war were from among the ranks of the workers. Now that they have returned to civil life their interests, industrially, economically, socially and politically, are identical with those of other workers who did not go overseas. A great many returned men are to be found within the ranks of Labor's industrial organizations, and as the organization of Labor extends to embrace all workers it can be reasonably expected that all returned men who are of the working class will be absorbed in the ranks of Organized Labor.

There is some talk of independent political organization on the part of the returned men. We fail to see, however, that in the new move along group lines, the Veterans can claim to form a separate group. As in the industrial field the workers who are veterans have interests identical with workers who are not veterans, so in the political field the same mutual interests are apparent. Just as it would seem to be folly for a farmer veteran to vote against a candidate who would serve his best interests as a farmer, so it would seem that the worker veteran should line up with other workers along political as well as industrial lines.

### AFFILIATE.

A communication from Secretary Smitten of the Alberta Federation of Labor, read at the last Trades and Labor Council meeting, disclosed the fact that a number of Edmonton unions are not affiliated with the Provincial Central body. We are confident that there is no good reason why such should be the case, and we feel sure that there is no intention on the part of Edmonton unions to ignore the important functions of the Federation, or to prevent it from being truly representative of every organized worker in the province.

As we have pointed out in previous issues, the Alberta Federation of Labor is recognized by the government of this province as the organization through which the legislative requirements of Alberta workers are given expression. All the legislation now on the statute books of the province, dealing with the welfare of work-people, is the result of agitation by the Federation. The degree in which such legislation is inadequate, is largely determined by the apathy of unions who have not realized the importance of the Federation's work.

The annual convention of the Alberta Federation will be held in Calgary on January 5th. Before that date it is to be hoped that every organization in this city will be affiliated. The per capita tax is so small as to be hardly noticeable (two cents per member per month), and there is no other initiation fee. Let every organization not affiliated, get in touch with Mr. John S. Bramham, 11438 96th street, phone 72320, or write direct to Walter Smitten, Labor Temple, Calgary.

### FIRST-LAST.

"The first shall be last" can easily be applied to the place that School Board elections occupy in the public interest. At campaign meetings the candidates for School Trustee are usually given about five minutes to speak at the end of the meeting, when the audience is thinking more of how it will feel when the alarm clock rings next morning than it is of what it is going to do on the second Monday in December. In the newspaper accounts of campaign meetings, we are told, as a rule, that Messrs. So-and-So and What-You-May-Call-Him, candidates for School Board, also spoke. And the day after election it is usually found that the man who could afford to advertise most, or who was a member of the largest number of clubs or secret orders, is elected. This lack of interest in educational affairs is most deplorable. School boards legislate for the future of the nation, and the personnel of such bodies should be the chief concern of the voters.

The Labor Party has been exceedingly fortunate in the choice of its candidates for the School Board in the coming elections. Frank Scott, S. A. G. Barnes, J. W. H. Williams, and Dr. McPherson are men of wide experience, possessing the qualities of judgment, ability and character that should be the essential equipment of the men who are to be entrusted with the arrangements for the training and molding of the citizens of tomorrow. The Labor candidates stand primarily for free education in the fullest measure. Believing it to be in the best interests of the state to have every child receive each and every advantage in the way of education, "from the elementary schools to the university," Labor stands solidly on the principle that, without regard to social position, every future citizen should receive the full benefit of all the educational facilities organized society provides.

That the Labor candidates believe in raising the status of the teaching profession, goes without saying. The matter of having representatives of the teachers as advisors to the Board is another move with which the Labor candidates are heartily in accord. No person is in a better position to realize what are the defects in our educational methods, and no person is in a better position to suggest amendments to curriculum or program, than the men and women who are daily using the educational tools prepared for their use.

Work and boost and vote for the Labor candidates for School Board.

### EASY PICKINGS.

To live by the sweat off the other fellow's brow, seems to be a natural human ambition. And what is more to the point, a great many people attain their desire in that respect. Many and devious are the means adopted to lure the hard-earned dollars from the pockets of the workers, but the most despicable of all is the parasite who uses the misfortune of one worker to make a soft living off other toilers.

In connection with the case of Tom Mooney in San Francisco, there exists a very outstanding example of the way in which the sympathies of the workers, for a man whom they believe to have been unjustly dealt with, were worked upon to provide a few unprincipled scoundrels with an easy livelihood. In Seattle the Central Labor Body had a "Mooney defense committee" appointed to collect funds to be applied to an attempt to have Tom Mooney released. It was found, however, that by the time the "committee" got through with the funds collected from unions and individuals there was mighty little money left. The Trades' Council then discharged the committee. That is, the Council thought it was discharging the committee, but the committee thought otherwise. The committee members had too good a thing to drop so easily, and they kept up the good work of reaping in the shekels. The Washington State Federation of Labor has issued a circular letter to all affiliated organizations revealing the true status of the so-called "defense" committee, and showing the dispensation of the funds collected. The committee had raked in something over \$9,000; \$6,000 had gone in "salaries." Almost \$3,000 went in "incidental expenses, printing, etc." The balance on hand was \$800, and not one cent had gone to Mooney or his defense. The money spent on printing was used chiefly in a campaign against the A.F. of L., and practically all of the time of the "committee" was also used in attempting to vilify the recognized Labor movement. In other words, it seems that the "committee" was composed of a bunch of professional destructionist propagandists, using the

unfortunate Mooney as a means of skinning the sympathetic workers. Organized Labor should be on guard against the parasites within its ranks, and should not hesitate to repudiate and condemn each and every scheme—and schemer—that is likely to put a blot on the recognized Labor movement.

### EDITOR'S NOTES.

Vote the straight Labor ticket.

There is all the difference in the world in being a good fellow and a good thing.

Your union is a piece of useful and valuable machinery, but it is the membership that furnishes the power to move the machinery.

There have been benevolent despots. There have been despots who have tried to be kind and good and considerate. But there has never been a democratic despot.

"The Toonerville trolley that meets all the trains" has nothing on the class of street railway service Edmonton people have been receiving during the past month or so.

It is not reasonable to expect that trade unionists would vote for a candidate whose votes and influence as an Alderman have been consistently and persistently opposed to Organized Labor.

"News of the local unions" is getting to be a mighty popular column. Guess we'll have to get the city editor to write a double-column head for that class of news pretty soon. Keep it up.

We would again call our readers' attention to the very valuable series of articles that Secretary Walter Smitten of the Alberta Federation, is contributing to the Free Press. They are too good to miss.

At the last civic election two candidates were defeated, and one voluntarily retired, who had been on the wrong side in the famous firemen's dispute in February, 1918. Aldermen Esdale and Bush are the two remaining members of the council who were on the unpopular side of that question. Nuff said.

A curious printer's error occurred on this page last week, when one of the Editor's alleged witticisms, that should have appeared under "Editor's Notes," got tacked onto our criticism of Candidate Esdale. A big share of the papers were printed before the mistake was discovered. Somebody is always taking the joy out of life.

Every union affiliated with the Alberta Federation of Labor should plan to have representation at the coming convention in Calgary. Unions not affiliated should lose no time in communicating with Secretary Smitten. The representative central Labor body of this province should speak for every trade unionist in Alberta.

About 1905, Mrs. Pankhurst and her followers were persuaded that more aggressive methods were necessary. The tactics of "peaceful militancy" pursued for some five years, included recourse to the time honored custom of heckling public speakers, especially cabinet ministers; the depositing of candidates at bye-elections; gigantic processions; deputations and petitions to parliament; to the Prime Minister and to others; and an ingeniously varied miscellany of sensational propagandist activities carried on by methods that frequently resulted in disturbances of the peace and brought many women to jail. The fate of the suffrage bills introduced into parliament up to 1912, was taken by Mrs. Pankhurst and the Women's Social and Political Union as proof that the government had deliberately and repeatedly tricked and betrayed their cause. Although pledges from a majority of members of Parliament to support equal suffrage had been secured, the cabinet was hostile. There resulted a decision to inaugurate a "Women's Revolution." The suffragette incitements to violence had their effect, country houses, club houses, railway stations, lumber yards, grand stands and churches were fired; race courses and golf links damaged; letters in the pillar boxes destroyed by acids, and bombs exploded. Offences from window smashing to arson became so common as to bring some thousand women to jail in 1918.

One would almost think that the above was an account of happenings in Russia. On the contrary it is the International Encyclopedia account of some of the activities of Mrs. Pankhurst. Who said Bolshevism?

### RESERVATIONS OF SENATE RAISES DIFFICULTIES

### Canadian Labor Group Thinks Canada Should Work Out Own Industrial Salvation.

The action of the United States Senate in adopting certain reservations to the peace treaty, has raised new difficulties for the International Labor Congress and for the Canadian delegation in particular.

One of the reservations practically precludes the possibility of the United States assenting to any convention adopted by the International Labor Conference which itself is a branch of the league of nations. This reservation includes "Labor" among the subjects which "are not to be submitted in any way, either to arbitration or to the consideration of the council, or of the assembly of the league of nations, or any agency thereof."

From the beginning Canadian employers' group has taken the stand that Canada should not become a party to any international convention placing restrictions of labor until the United States has first given its assent. While among the Canadian Labor group, the view is held that Canada should work out her own "industrial salvation" without waiting for a lead from the United States. Labor men hold, in addition, that economic pressure will eventually force the United States to limit hours of labor because, they say, an eight-hour day is more efficient than a ten-hour day.

A children's charter came before the international conference Wednesday. It was submitted to the conference in the form of a convention proposed by a special committee representative of government's employers and workers, which has been meeting under the chairmanship of Sir Malcolm Delavigne, delegate from Great Britain. The convention provided that children under the age of 14 shall not be employed or work in any industrial undertaking other than an undertaking in which only members of the family are employed.

### Civic Campaign Notes

The mass meeting of Labor men called for Saturday, November 22, in the Labor Hall has been postponed until Saturday, November 29th at 8 p.m. in the Labor Hall. On the same day there will be a meeting for ladies in the afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Labor Hall.

A cordial invitation is sent to any of the candidates beside the Labor nominees to attend any of the meetings arranged by the Labor Party.

The campaign headquarters have now been organized at the Labor Hall. All workers should report there for service or phone 4018.

### HALIFAX FIREMEN ASKING FOR TWO PLATOON SYSTEM

### Point Out Fact That No Other of the City Employees Called Upon to Work 21 Hours a Day.

Halifax Fire Fighters have asked for a two platoon system of work in the Fire Department of that city. In making their statement to the mayor and chairman of the fire department the men point out that none of the other employees of the city or of any city employer are called upon to work 21 hours out of the 24 and why should they?

They are asking that the two platoon system go into effect on the first day of May, 1920. The hours of duty for the day force to be from 8 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m. and of the night force, from 6 o'clock p.m. till 8 o'clock a.m. Every 15th day the forces are to be alternated for the purpose of giving one force or platoon of men twenty-four hours off duty. After one year's service each member of the Fire Department shall receive fourteen days' vacation each year with full pay.

It is said that George Washington never went fishing in his life. This may account for his truthfulness.

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Former price \$60.00. Reduced price.....	\$30.00
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### MAYOR CLARKE MAKES STATEMENT RE DEPUTIES

Says Superintendent of Each Department Should Have an Understudy.

In a statement which appears complete, issued by Mayor Clarke, he stated that there was no designated or named deputy for the utilities, in which the city has over \$9,000,000 invested. From the point of view that only a proved, efficient subordinate should be promoted to the responsible position of superintendent, the Mayor is of the opinion that the superintendent of each department should have an understudy who could automatically take hold should the necessity arise. It has been affirmed that the Mayor stated there "was no employee in any of the six or seven utilities, whom he would place in charge," which is not a correct interpretation of what the Mayor has stated upon the four occasions when he has referred to the matter during the present campaign, and no one present at any one of these meetings can bear out this statement. The Mayor stated clearly that some

present-employee of the department should be named as Deputy or Acting Deputy Superintendent for the express purpose of enabling such to qualify and prove his ability to carry on in case a vacancy in the office of Superintendent should occur; and he was complaining that no such Deputy was in existence, and that so far as he, in the Mayor's office was concerned, he did not know even the name of the person at present employed by the city in any of the departments, who would automatically take the position of Superintendent or Acting Superintendent in case the forced or quickly created vacancy in the office of Superintendent should occur. It is doubtful if any policy could be more clearly stated in the interests of, and to guarantee promotion from the ranks.

Local No. 514, Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen, and Helpers, held a well attended meeting in Labor Hall, Sunday evening, W. Murray, who has resigned from the fire department, to accept the nomination of the Dominion Labor Party for aldermanic candidate for the South Side, was appointed to act as assistant business agent and organizer for the Teamsters' Union. Mr. Murray will commence his duties in a few days and will open an office in the Labor Hall.

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