

THE SWORN ID CIRCULATION OF THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS IS OVER 30,000 COPIES EACH ISSUE

LABOR OPPOSES NEW EUROPEAN WAR

GOMPERS' DEFENSE OF THE UNION SHOP

Union Shop Only One That Stands For Democracy.

The recent declaration of the United States Chamber of Commerce in favor of the open shop has aroused much comment in Labor circles.

Samuel Gompers, who does not like the terms open and closed shop, substitutes union and non-union shop for them. The union shop, he says, stands for democracy, the non-union for autocracy. In the one "there is the right of organizing trade unions and bargaining collectively; employees in the non-union shops are like cogs in a machine."

In the American Federationist for August Mr. Gompers says:

"Who believes that the Chinese exclusion law should be repealed, who believes the literacy test should be repealed, who believes that border-line immigrants from southern and eastern Europe should be permitted to enter the United States as freely as citizens of this country pass from state to state, are the men who object to the union shop. They believe in autocracy in industry. They hope to use these heresies to lower the standard of living of the workers of the United States. Furthermore, they will fight to the last ditch to prevent the taking away from them of the arbitrary power of dictating wages, hours, conditions of employment to the workers in their employ."

Mr. Gompers declares that the real reason for the opposition to the union shop in the early 1900's was:

"Crusade of Profiters.

"But after the armistice was signed the profiteers, in order to hide their nefarious practices, launched a bitter crusade against the union shop. It is a crusade which has reached high tide and will soon recede, as the public, and especially the non-union workers, are beginning to realize that the only hope for relief is an organization. This has been exemplified in the past year by more than a million men who have organized themselves into unions, until now, July, 1920, there are 5,500,000 organized workers in America.

"What is the open shop?" asks Mr. Gompers, and answers, "An open shop is a non-union shop where the fiction is kept alive that union men may work there but they are not permitted to do so."

"An employer who refuses to employ a union man will say: 'I do not discriminate against union and non-union. I contract with the man that is, those who apply for work will be given employment when they are needed. This is a shop where men are treated alike.'"

"But when a workman applies for employment he is asked a number of questions. In many cases he has to fill out a questionnaire in which he answers the questions in the affirmative. If he is not employed, he is told that his name will be placed on file and that he will be notified when there is work for him."

"But he never is notified. Instead his name is sent to other manufacturers to prevent the possibility of him being employed elsewhere."

"This so-called open shop is the demoralizing factor that leads to the non-union shop; in other words, the shop which is closed to the union men, no matter what his skill and competence."

"The union creates certain desirable conditions for the non-unionist to try to destroy them. By not competing with one another for the employment, the unionists make their advantages. By competing, the non-unionists would generally find a way to break up organized labor."

"The term 'closed shop' is a false designation of the union shop. Those who are hostile to labor cunningly employ the term 'closed shop' for a union man because of the general antipathy which is ordinarily felt toward anything being closed, and in the specific case that the so-called 'open shop' must necessarily afford the opportunity for freedom. As a matter of fact, the union shop is open to all workers who perform their duty and they participate in the benefits and advantages of the improved conditions which a union shop affords. The union shop also implies duties and responsibilities. This is incident to and the corollary of all human institutions."

Make Labor Day Real One For the Union Label

It should be the aim and ambition of every trades unionist to make the demonstration on Monday, September 8th, in his city, the most harmonious and successful ever held. This can be accomplished by hearty co-operation with the committee having the affair in charge.

There should be no jealousy nor evidence of "slacking" displayed by any one. Non-unionists should not be permitted to secure financial or other advantage through thoughtless or ill-considered action on the part of any trade union or any of its members.

Through solidarity and unity in our ranks, our success and progress have been attained and through unity only can success and progress be maintained. As we march behind and are inspired by the harmony produced by union musicians, we should not disturb that harmony by being clothed in non-union apparel of any kind.

From hat to shoes, all wearing apparel should bear the union label. All banners, badges, etc., should bear the union label. In doing this we bear emphasis our loyalty to the cause we all hold so dear.

No better time to start a "boosting" campaign for spending money earned under conditions only for the products of union labor could be selected than Labor Day. The secretary of the Union Label League in your city will be glad to aid you in securing union labeled goods for Labor Day or any other occasion. If there is no Label League in your city, the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor will be pleased to furnish this information.

"The Corner Stone of the League of Nations."



"Labor Real Friend of League of Nations."—Headline in Canadian Labor Press.

HYDRO ELECTRIC'S REMARKABLE STRIDES

In Ten Years Grows From 12 to 115 Municipalities.

The provincial Hydro-Electric system has issued a comprehensive statement up to December 31 last of the business of the entire Niagara system, the clients of which has grown in ten years from 12 municipalities to 115, with a distribution of 235,000 horse power and serves also 12 rural systems, 23 companies and five Government industries.

The total assets at the Falls and at the municipalities are \$40,692,976, the accumulated reserves are \$7,584,376, and the surplus is \$2,177,324 as the result of an average operating period of five years. No tax levies has ever been necessary to support or carry temporarily any of the enterprises though the rates fixed by the Commission for a number of municipalities are a few cents slightly under the cost of power. Twenty-six municipalities operating for an average period of three and a half years, report a surplus of \$1,000,000. The surplus of the whole system is \$1,000,000. Such deficiencies are carried as deferred expenses against future revenue which will be provided in these municipalities by increased rates if necessary.

The report says:

"Obviously, the Niagara Hydro system is self-sustaining and more, as the sums in reserve clearly demonstrate. It is always maintained at the highest point of efficiency and at the same time is accumulating a surplus of more than 25 years, which will be sufficient to replace the whole central and local plant serving the district between the Niagara frontier and the St. Clair River."

NOVA SCOTIA MINERS PROTEST EMBARGO

Want as Wide a Market as Other Producers.

The Executive Board of District No. 26, United Mine Workers of America, on Monday notified Hon. F. B. Carvell, Dominion Fuel Commissioner, that his embargo order was displeasing and the action the miners intend to take.

According to the Halifax Herald, the following wire was sent to Mr. Carvell signed by J. B. MacLachlan, on behalf of the board:

"The Executive Board of District 26, United Mine Workers of America, protest against the Government's embargo on the export of coal, especially the unreasonable shutting off of coal already loaded at Port Hastings. This board still remembers the utter indifference of your Government, when only a few months ago many miners in Nova Scotia were working less than half time and your Government imported cheap coal from the United States. Members of your Government, when appealed to have the embargo removed, replied to the late mine workers: 'Go and starve.' Members of the Railway Commission also replied to the late mine workers: 'This is to inform you that this board shall use the powers of our organization to prevent you from destroying the coal industry. They do this because that as wide a market shall be open for our produce as for any other article produced in Canada.'"

A. F. OF L. STARTS ANOTHER CAMPAIGN FOR STEEL WORKERS

The American Federation of Labor is conducting a campaign to more effectively organize workers in the steel industry.

Morrison said that no plans had been made to call a strike of the steel workers in order to attempt to compel the United States Steel Corporation to recognize the union. He denied that the plans contemplated a strike among steel workers next spring.

Reports were circulated that the federation would back the organization of a new steel strike committee which would not include William Z. Foster and John Fitzpatrick, leaders in the strike of last fall. This committee, it was reported, would work to obtain more general recognition of the federation's demands for collective bargaining in the steel industry.

EASTERN MINERS MAY NOT ACCEPT AWARD

May Call Early Convention to Prepare New Demands.

The C.P.R. telegraphers' claim for increased wages was settled on Thursday afternoon. The decision of the Board of Conciliation's judgment by both parties.

Thomas Caruthers, chairman of the union, states that more telegraphers in first class service are being paid \$20 per month. Outside positions for the Morse telegraphers, increase \$17 per month. Automatic operators, increase of \$10 per month.

The clerks' salaries have been increased for junior clerks from \$5 to \$10 per month. The majority of the clerks receive \$12.50 a month, and cashiers at the larger offices \$20 a month.

These increases are those of the British Parliament or people's Conciliation which was in Montreal July 5, 6 and 7, and have been accepted by the men in the vote which has just been taken.

CONGRESS ACTIVITY SECURES RELEASE OF JOHN FARNELL

That Congress Executive's Policy Right One is Illustrated.

John Farnell, who was given a full term of nine months for seditious utterance at the time of the Winnipeg general strike, is to be released at once.

News of this effect was made public last week in a telegram received at Winnipeg by E. Robinson, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, from Tom Moore, president of the Trades Congress of Canada, who stated that he had been officially notified by the under-secretary of state that a wire had been sent to Winnipeg ordering Farnell's release forthwith.

Farnell has been in jail for about six months, so that three months are being lopped off his sentence.

The order for the release comes as the culmination to quiet but persistent efforts on the part of International labor leaders to get Farnell out of jail in view of the poor health of his wife and the baby who was born after the father was imprisoned.

For a considerable time past the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada have been in close touch with the Department of Justice and the various members of the Federal Government with the object of procuring the release of Farnell. The solicitor for the Trades Council, T. J. Murray, and Mr. Robinson have been particularly active, and members of the Trades Congress executive have had a number of interviews with the Solicitor-General and the Minister of Justice. On several occasions it seemed as if their efforts would be successful, but expectations were not realized, largely because of the deliberate resolutions sent to Ottawa from various parts of the country, the Government taking the position that it would not be coerced into granting the release of Farnell.

According to the Winnipeg Trades Council and the Trades and Labor Congress have not taken part in any of the protest meetings, they have been using the influence on behalf of the man in prison, and though they have been fiercely assailed for their apparent inactivity, the release of Farnell, as the report shows that their policy has been, to that extent, an effective one.

Building Industry Suffers By the Cement Shortage

The shortage of cement in the east, and the almost exorbitant prices charged for the supplies which are coming from the west, the only available source of supply at present, may cause a further step to building in the east. The price charged for cement for the foundation of the new civic hospital at Ottawa is the unparalleled figure of \$4.53 a barrel. When the tender for this work was submitted the price was \$3.90 a barrel.

As a result of this shortage, contractors, who are tendering on any large job, are prone to add riders to their tenders to the effect that the price is subject to the fluctuating price of cement.

With the object of having the Railway Commission secure a supply of cement for the cement companies in the east, so that they can operate their plants, which in many cases are standing idle, representation has been made to the commission by the Canadian building and construction industries.

BRITISH LABOR ISSUES WARNING TO GOVERNMENT

Declares War Between Allies and Russia An Intolerable Crime Against Humanity.

War between the allied powers and Soviet Russia over Poland would be "an intolerable crime against humanity," and British labor has warned the British government that organized labor will be used to defeat such a war. This declaration was reached on Monday at a meeting of the most prominent of the leaders of British labor, who later issued the following statement:

"This conference feels certain that war is being engineered between the allied powers and Soviet Russia on the issue of Poland, and declares that such a war would be an intolerable crime against humanity.

"If therefore warns the government that the whole industrial power of the organized workers will be used to defeat his war."

It was resolved by the conference, "to take such steps as may be necessary to carry the above decision into effect."

The statement advised all labor organizations to be prepared to send their leaders to London "to instruct their members to lay down their tools."

Many of the labor delegates had hurried to London from the Geneva conference to respond to the emergency call for the gathering. Among those present were John R. Clynes, former food controller and laborite member of parliament for Manchester; William C. Adamson, chairman of the labor party in parliament; C. T. Cramp, president of the Railwaymen's Union; Benjamin Tillet, secretary of the Dock, Wharf, River and General Workers' Union; and J. Bromley, secretary of the Society of Firemen and Engineers.

The principal organizations represented at the gathering were the Parliamentary Labor Party, the Parliamentary committee of Trade Union and the executive committee of the British Labor Party.

FREIGHT HANDLERS DENOUNCE O. B. U.

O. B. U. Parasites Living on International Accomplishments.

At a mass meeting at Toronto last week, called to consider the award handed down by the United States Railroad Labor Board with a view to its adoption by Canadian railway employees, Grand Vice-President A. C. Hay, of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, said the gathering in Victoria Hall that the Canadian roads had practically agreed to the new schedule.

During the evening International trades unionism was hotly defended and the O. B. U. was hotly denounced. E. J. Flannery, general representative, stated that the international labor movement had accomplished more in two and a half years in Canada "than any fly-by-night organization had during its entire existence."

The O. B. U. were "parasites, living on the accomplishment of the international unions."

Several denunciations of an attempt to form a national union, and pointed out that nothing would please the corporations more than to see labor split up into small groups. "The A. F. of L. has sent \$250,000 more into Canada to organize the workers than it has taken out of the pockets of the O. B. U.," Kennedy, general representative of the sheet metal workers. The O. B. U. and others were stated as going about their business trying to break up organized labor.

WORKING CONDITIONS BETTER THAN IN U. S.

A. R. Mosher Says Express Co. Employs in Better Position.

"Employees of the Canadian National Express Company and the Canadian Express Company, are in a much better position, both financially and with regard to working conditions, than employees of similar institutions in the United States, regardless of wage increases, totaling an annual expenditure of \$28,000,000, which has been granted them in the decision, announced on Monday, of the United States Railway Labor Board."

This statement was made Tuesday evening by A. R. Mosher, president of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees.

Mr. Mosher pointed out that substantial increases granted to workers of the two Canadian companies in a short time ago had given them a much higher scale of wages than that which prevailed in United States. While he had not, as yet, seen any specific schedule of wages for the United States express companies, he did not think that the award of the United States labor board would bring the standard as high as that prevalent in the two Canadian companies which he had mentioned.

But, in regard to working agreements, the Canadian companies are considerably ahead of those in United States. Agreements affecting working conditions have been in force in Canada for many years, while in United States consideration of such compacts is only now being given attention.

MANY SHOE WORKERS IDLE—NO REDUCTION IN PRICES

Walter Brown, business agent of the Toronto Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, announces that there are more shoe workers out of employment than at any time in the past two years.

Employers state that it is simply an off-season. Yet Labor is urged to increase production.

PRESIDENT WHO IS IN 'TEEN AGE IS ELECTED BY HULL TRADE UNIONISTS

Hull Trades Council Elects Officers For Ensuing Term—Will Assist Ottawa on Labor Day.

Samuel Zuana was elected by acclamation to the presidency of the Hull Trades and Labor Council at a special meeting held in Lafleche's Hall, Hull, Monday evening. It is interesting to know that the president-elect is under 20 years of age. He has the distinction of being the youngest member of any trade union to ever hold such a lofty office.

President Zuana has every appearance of being a great deal older, and many of his conferees are not aware of his correct age. An Italian by birth, he came to Canada when very young and started to work at an age that could be deemed prohibitive. He picked up the English language with remarkable ease and then started to master French. Today he speaks fluently all three languages.

Zuana is employed as a paper maker at the J. R. Booth mill. He is exceptionally popular among his fellow workers, possessing a pleasant personality, and is a general favorite among trade unionists in Hull.

The other officers elected were:

ADVISE COMING TO CANADA AND LOOKING AROUND

"The United States is Canada's best customer, and best customer, Canada is the best customer of the United States. Canada spends eight hundred million dollars in this country every year," says the Evening Journal, which adds:

"Five hundred and fifty American manufacturers have big plants in Canada, employing Canadian labor, and making cheap goods for Canadian buyers. They do this because the Canadians are intelligent enough to protect their own people. They have up there a Government that is worrying about Canada, not wanting time or thought on Baseboard or the suffering savages of the Ahkood of Swat."

"As soon as we get a new Government let's appoint an intelligent commission to go up to Canada and look around."

FIFTEEN PER CENT. QUEBEC CHILD LABOR ILLITERATE

The registration of children employed by labor or trades in the City of Quebec is now practically finished, and a report is being prepared to be forwarded to the Hon. Gaultier, Minister of Labor. Out of 1,800 children examined as to their ability in regard to primary education only about 15 were considered as illiterate, though a few had to be ordered to attend evening schools. In general, girls have shown less education than boys.

BRITISH I.L.P. WOULD JAIL CHURCHILL

A remarkable motion, demanding that the Government arrest and imprison Winston Churchill, Secretary for War, at the bar of Parliament, "for violating the constitution by using British military resources to assist reactionary elements in Europe to make war against Soviet Russia, without the consent of the British Parliament or people," was submitted by the Independent Labor party at the annual conference of the Scottish Labor party in Glasgow, September 15. This amendment was made by officials of the Independent Labor party at week.

AMERICA RAILWAY LABOR BOARD GIVES ADVANCES TO EXPRESS MEN

Eighty Thousand Workers Affected by Award—American Express Company to be Allowed Higher Rates.

The United States Railway Labor Board on Tuesday handed down a decision increasing wages of employees of the American Railway Express Company \$30,000,000 yearly.

Eighty thousand men not provided for by the recent \$600,000,000 railway wage award, are affected. The award is retroactive to May 15, 1920. The wage increase amounting to 16 cents an hour, will give messengers and other train service employees an increase of \$28.40 a month. All other employees will receive an increase of \$22.64.

Train service employees work on a 240 hour month basis while all other employees work on a 204 hour basis.

Under the terms of the East-Canada Act, the express company will be permitted to raise its rates sufficiently to meet the increased labor cost. Arguments in the case already have been represented to the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington.

Tuesday's award does not go into the question of rules and working conditions. As was the case last

TYPHO'S REQUEST GRANTED BY ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Premier Drury last week assured a delegation representing the Ontario and Quebec Conference of Typographical Unions that in future all contracts for the sale of pulpwood limits a clause would be inserted guaranteeing 15 per cent of the output to Canadian newspaper publishers.

LESS OUTPUT; MORE PROFITS

Less output and more profit is the feature of a financial report by the American Locomotive Company. The past six months the company produced no more than 85 per cent of capacity, and profits were \$200,000 in excess of profits during the same period last year.

President Fisher of the company expressed the hope that increased railroad rates will have a "stimulating effect on the railroad, which will result in greater service."

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS

Higher wages and improved working conditions for members of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, reported by officers of that organization, these gains are not localized, but extend to every section of the United States and Canada.

BUILDING GUILD GROWS

More than 14,000 members of organized building trades have associated with the London, Eng., Building Guild.

The guild movement was started by Manchester building tradesmen last January, following the failure of various schemes to relieve the housing situation. Guild membership includes workers, administrators and technicians, and is managed by a committee composed of representatives of these various elements. Surplus earnings will not be distributed, as is customary in business, but will be used to guarantee workers' wages when unemployed, and in improving services and equipment. No financial guarantee for the performance of the contract will be given, but the guild pledges itself to carry out the work it undertakes, and supports its members with a roll of volunteers who have promised to do this work. The guild declares that this is the most effective guarantee that can be given.

In Manchester that building guild has arranged with the co-operative society for the purchase of raw material.

GET 44-HOUR WEEK IN MAJORITY AWARD

Woodworkers Board Also Recognize Minimum Wage.

Though the report of the Board of Arbitration considering the dispute of the Ottawa Woodworkers will not be made public until this afternoon, the C. L. F. learns from an authentic source that the workers are awarded the 44 hour week. It is also understood that Mr. Marstock McLean, representing the employes on the Board, has presented the minority report in which he recommends a specific minimum wage. The principle of the minimum wage is recognized in the majority report.

TEXTILE MILLS CLOSE

A drop in wool consumption of nearly 11,000,000 pounds from the average for the six months of 1919 is reported by the Department of Agriculture. This curtailment is caused by many mills running on a short-week schedule, while some have suspended operations entirely, the suspensions in many cases being for an indefinite period.

These facts are ignored by men who call on workers to "produce more," that prices may be reduced as a result of increased commodities.