LABOR NEWS FROM COAST TO COAST

OTTAWA.

TRADES COUNCIL.

The Allied Trades and Labor Association held a decidedly interesting session last Friday evening and considerable business of importance to organized labor, also the community, was discussed.

The contentious clause which resulted in the meeting two weeks ago breaking up in disorder, received a saner reception. It was a resolution to endorse the request of the Winnipeg Strikers' Defence League that the Government be asked to withdraw the recent amendment to the Immigration Act and that all charges against the strike leaders be withdrawn.

The discussion was brief and endorsation granted unanimously.

The delegates led by Delegate McDowell supported the personnel of the Hydro-Electric Commission, which suggested that the circular from the Hydro-Electric should be handed over to the municipal committee and Independent Labor party executive for recommendations. The circular asked endorsation of the present temporary Hydro-Electric Commission being made permanent, consisting of Sir Adam Beck as chairman, an appointee of the Government, and another representative of the Ontario municipalities, the latter representative to be appointed by Sir Adam Beck, and the commission to hold office for six years. Delegate McDowell stated that in his opinion the third representative should be elective instead of an appointee of the chairman, and this was concurred in.

With regard to the proposed civic hospital site and board of trustees the report of the executive of the association deplored the fact that those responsible for the creation of the board of trustees had totally ignored the workers, in its classification, but was in accord with the site chosen.

The association went on record as endorsing the attitude of the Canadian delegates to the Labor Conference in Washington in its opposition to the establishment of a 48-hour week. It was pointed out that Canadian labor as a whole was now enjoying the eight-hour day, but what it aimed at was a 44-hour week.

The early erection of a Community Hall, both from a financial and social aspect was unanimously approved by the executive and delegates. "Soaring rentals" and a trenchant criticism of same by the executive, with a recommendation that the city establish a "tenants' complaint bureau" at the City Hall, was introduced and proved a fruitful source of discussion.

The executive reported that it had been voiced and with just cause that exorbitant rents were being charged by landlords, and that as the Board of Commerce had stated its inability to deal with the subject, it should be taken up by the city. A bureau should be established at the City Hall, in charge of city officials—the servants of the public, before which tenants who felt they had just grievances in this respect could voice their complaints. This would furnish the trend of public opinion in addition to providing valuable information for the assessment department, whereby profiteers of this kind could be made to disgorge.

The neglect of the delegates to the recent Trades and Labor Congress at Hamilton to furnish a report to the association was severely criticized, and for a time threatened to cause a repetition of the disorder which occurred at the last meeting.

In answering the criticism President Patrick Green said he had left the report in his office, but would present it at the next meeting.

At this Delegate Leckie produced an alleged copy of the report, not stating where he had obtained it, and which contained the signatures of Delegates Lodge and Green, and which was composed of clippings from newspapers.

Delegate Lodge suggested the delegates did not want the report, but were working the old game, "Trying to cause embarrassment." This statement was vigorously objected to by the delegates in question, and a warm discussion ensued, which resulted in a motion to have the report presented at once, and an amendment to have it produced at the next meeting. The vote was taken and the amendment carried, via a show of hands. This did not satisfy Delegate Robertson, who demanded a recount, via a standing vote. Delegate Lodge accepted this as a question of his veracity, as he had counted the first vote, and he refused to officiate at the next vote taken, which President Green declared carried the amendment.

WILL CONTEST CIVIC ELECTIONS.

The Independent Labor party and representatives of trade unions at their convention in By Ward Market Hall Monday evening nominated two candidates to run for the Board of Control and aldermanic candidates in all the wards excepting By and St. George.

The Labor standard bearers are:

For the Board of Control:
Mr. William Lodge.
Mr. John Cameron.

For City Council:
Capital Ward—J. A. P. Haydon, M.C.
Dalhousie Ward—Mr. Michael Cain.
Central Ward—Mr. H. L. Swann.
Victoria Ward—Mr. Tom Broad.
Wellington Ward—Mr. W. J. Devey.
Ottawa Ward—Romeo Lanthier and G. E. Fauteux.
Rideau Ward—Charles Kuske.

The mayoralty will not be contested.

All the candidates have been prominently identified with the Labor movement in Ottawa for some years and have each subscribed to the platform enunciated by the Independent Labor party.

Mr. William Lodge, who will run for the Board of Control, is a member of the Typographical Union and is an employe of the Government Printing Bureau. He is also prominent in the executive of Ottawa Trades and Labor Council, and is a member of the Theatrical Stage Employes' Union. He was formerly editor of the Canadian Labor Press.

Mr. John Cameron, Mr. Lodge's running mate for the board, is also well known, not only in Labor circles but as a worker in other spheres. He is a member of Ottawa Housing Commission and the Playgrounds Committee. During the recent provincial elections he ran second in Ottawa West.

Mr. G. E. Fauteux is president of Ottawa Letter Carriers' Association.

The other candidates are all well known and are prominent in Labor affairs.

BAKERY DRIVERS.

The last regular meeting of the Bakery Drivers' Union was well attended and much important business was transacted. Just before the meeting opened the president of the Ottawa Defence League addressed the meeting on a resolution the local league had drafted on the recent amendments to the Immigration Act and also asking that the charges against the Winnipeg strike leaders be withdrawn. He was given an attentive hearing, but when the matter came up during the meeting it was unanimously agreed that no action be taken, and further that the matter be not discussed.

J. A. P. Haydon, M.C., editor of the Canadian Labor Press, addressed the meeting and urged on the members the necessity of a 100 per cent. attendance at the meeting, so that the bulk of the work would not be left entirely to the officers. He also warned the Bakery Drivers of the "Reds" who were ever working through the various Labor organizations, and told of how, in Western Canada, the funds of the different International Unions were transferred to the coffers of the One Big Union. He also impressed on the members the necessity of standing solidly behind the International Trade Union movement, which was securing by constitutional methods the reforms sought, and not to be swayed with ideals and theories which could not be put into practice.

MAILERS' UNION DANCE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

The first dance given by the Ottawa Mailers' Union was held last week at Patricia Court, and was voted a great success by all present. If the success of this dance may be taken as a criterion, future evenings of a similar nature which the union intends holding during the winter months will be enjoyed by other large crowds. The Mailers' Union was organized a few months ago for the purpose of bringing about a better understanding between the mailers employed by the various local newspapers. Refreshments were served during the evening.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM FOR CIVIC ELECTION.

The platform on which labor candidates will go to the electors of the City of Ottawa in the municipal elections next January was enunciated at a regular meeting of the Ottawa Independent Labor party in Carpenters' Hall, Sunday.

The platform is as follows:—

(1) Public ownership of all public utilities and natural sources of wealth.

(2) Establishment of public abattoirs and cold storage plant to be owned and operated by the city.

(3) Gradual elimination of unearned increment by increased taxation.

(4) That the principle of local option in taxation be adopted and that provincial legislation be enacted to that effect.

(5) Abolition of property qualification in all elections.

(6) Adoption of the day labor system on all public works.

(7) That the system of proportional representation be made applicable to municipal elections.

(8) All civic appointments and promotions be based on seniority and efficiency.

(9) That representatives of labor be appointed on all boards and commissions of a public character.

LETTER CARRIERS ELECT OFFICERS.

The regular meeting of Branch No. 2, Federated Association of Letter Carriers, was held on Friday evening, Nov. 21, at 19 Elgin street. Among other very important business which was transacted was the election of officers for the year 1920, which resulted as follows: President, J. E. Fauteux; vice-president, R. J. Leonard; treasurer, F. X. Berube; secretary, W. E. Palen; financial secretary, E. Chateauvert; assistant financial secretary, J. Brown; sergeant-at-arms, A. Leclerc; Allied Trades and Labor delegates, J. Brown, J. Yandon, C. Clark; sick committee, A. St. Amand, A. Leclerc; auditors, Mr. Bruyere, E. Chateauvert, O. Cousineau; delegates to letter carriers' convention at Peterboro, B. Doyle, W. E. Palen.

A considerable number of new officers are to be found on the new executive, such as the following: Vice - President R. J. Leonard, Treasurer F. V. Berube, Financial Secretary E. Chateauvert, Assistant Financial Secretary J. Brown, Allied Trades and Labor Delegate J. Yandon, and Auditors Cousineau and Bruyere. After a hearty vote of thanks had been tendered the chairman and scrutineers, the meeting adjourned.

The letter carriers have decided to publish a bilingual magazine monthly, to be called "The Postman."

CIVIC EMPLOYES TO MEET BOARD OF CONTROL.

Four members of the Civic Employes' Union (Federal No. 15) have been appointed delegates to interview the Board of Control on December 2 to discuss the new schedule. They are Messrs. P. Racine, H. Mooney, E. Travers, and C. I. Clarke.

New members are being enrolled in this local almost daily, and they have an objective of 100 per cent. organization.

This time last year we had a Christmas raffle for geese and other valuable prizes. The boys are repeating the experiment this year.

WILL ADDRESS THE FARMERS.

J. A. P. Haydon, M.C., editor of the Canadian Labor Press, has accepted an invitation to be present at the county convention of the Glengarry-Stormont Farmers' Association, to be held at Apple Hill on Dec. 3. Mr. S. J. Macdonald is president of the association, and the convention will decide what part the farmers will take in the byelections to be held shortly. Attorney-General Raney, it is said, will seek a seat in Stormont. He has also accepted an invitation to address North Renfrew farmers at Pembroke on Tuesday evening, Dec. 2.

HAMILTON.

With every seat occupied the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council met last Friday night. The delegates did not take kindly to a communication received from the Ontario Hydro Commission, which requested that the Trades Council endorse the proposal, emanating from a recent gathering of delegates of the various municipalities, that Sir Adam Beck be made permanent chairman of the Ontario Hydro Commission; and that any representative appointed by the Provincial Government to the commission, in the event of the various municipalities interested not naming a representative, be subject to the approval of Sir Adam Beck. With odd dissenters, the council declined to accede to the request and Corresponding Secretary Fester was commissioned to reply to the communication, stating the reasons why.

During the interesting discussion that ensued, many of the delegates took occasion to rap Ontario's electric "knight." Delegate "Dick" Riley, business agent Machinists' District Union, was one. He said it was about time organized Labor had a representative on the Ontario Hydro Commission. He declared that Sir Adam Beck refused to do anything for the Niagara District federated workers engaged on Hydro development work, until they had him with his back up against the wall, and the electrical workers at the power house threatened to pull the switches unless he "came across" with more pay and the eight-hour day. Sir Adam Beck, Hon. I. B. Lucas, Attorney-General in the late Government, and the late Controller McNaught, Toronto, comprising the Ontario Hydro Commission, were very unsympathetic towards Organized Labor, emphasized Mr. Riley.

Unsparing efforts will be made to prevent a strike of the six licensed stationary engineers employed at the City Hospital. Delegate Howard Longfellow, Local No. 700, Steam and Stationary Engineers' Union, said every reasonable effort had been made by the local officers to [illegible] straight-from-the-shoulder [illegible] on motion of Delegate Roberts, it was decided to request Delegates Controller Halford, Ald. Aitchison, and Ald. O'Heir, Labor representatives in the City Council, to arrange an immediate conference between the Hospital Board and Stationary Engineers' officials, to try and bring about an adjustment of the dispute.

"The Hospital Board has not only ignored the union representatives, but failed to live up to its verbal agreement, entered into respecting back pay, and the payment of wages bi-monthly, instead of monthly. The union had been most tolerant, having been conducting negotiations since last July," declared Delegate Longfellow. "Furthermore," he said, "the Hospital Board had pooh-poohed the well-intentioned intereeding efforts of Deputy Minister of Labor Acland. Until the Hospital Board agreed to increase the men's pay, two first-class engineers got $85 per month and the other four $60 per month, board included, seven days per week being worked."

Controller Halford, Ald. O'Heir, Ald. Aitchison and other speakers avowed were a strike to take place, such would be a black eye and a calamity to Hamilton, and one must be averted at all costs.

The wiring at the Savoy Theatre, which is under renovation, will be done solely by union men. So reported Delegate Cont. Halford, who had conferred with Proprietor Geo. Stroud. Mr. Stroud has always been very fair to organized labor and whoever invented the fairy story must inevitably have had a "pipe dream," observed one of the delegates.

The bakery wagon delegates reported everything was flourishing with their local. Members were being initiated every meeting night. The delegates were requested only to buy bread from firms employing union drivers, wearing a button. Mention was made that the Bakers' Union, which is not affiliated with the A. F. of L., is faring badly these days. It was said at the last meeting of the union, hardly enough members were present to elect officers.

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HAMILTON'S NEWSY BRIEFS.

Next Saturday afternoon there is to be a meeting held under the joint auspices of the South Wentworth Committee of the I.L.P. and Farmers' Association, when the constitution and principles of the Canadian Labor party will be explained. Controller Harry Halford, President of the Canadian Labor party, had been invited to be the speaker, but will be unable to attend, his tonsorial duties being the cause. Probably Hon. W. R. Rollo, Minister of Labor, will attend in his stead.

The Mount Hamilton Labor party intends to contest every one of the five Barton Township councillorships which become vacant in the New Year. Reeve W. A. Crockett (Labor), member-elect for South Wentworth in the new Parliament, will not seek re-election, having publicly stated he has no desire to "hog" office. And the way things are looking, your correspondent would not be the least surprised were the Laborites to nab all the honors. Austin Smith will likely be nominated for re-election as first deputy reeve, while Councillor Pickering may make the grade again. Mr. Atherton will be a candidate for school trustee, for it is said School Trustee Penrose will be shelved.

TORONTO.

ELECTRIC WORKERS' BOARD.

The Minister of Labor has established a Board of Conciliation to investigate the difference between the Toronto Railway Company and its associate companies, and their electrical employes, being members of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, in Toronto. Fred Bancroft has been chosen by the employes and the company's representative will be named later.

It is understood that the affairs of about 20 men were not covered in the previous board in a manner to bring a satisfactory adjustment. The electrical workers asked to have the board reconvened to deal with this feature of the situation. This was not granted by the Department of Labor.

Later, the electrical workers applied for a new Board of Conciliation to deal with certain employes of the Toronto Railway Company. During the enquiry by Judge Barron into the calling of the strike, many references have been made to the dissatisfaction of a certain portion of the electrical workers with the award.

BANK CLERKS AT WORK AS WAITERS.

Are bank clerks and bank messengers in Toronto working as waiters at banquets and other functions to augment their slender stipends?

It was declared at a meeting of the executive committee of the Cooks and Waiters' Union that this was the case, and it was decided to boycott the banks which paid such poor salaries that their employes had to cut in on the business of the waiters in order to eke out an existence.

The boycott suggested was the withdrawal of the waiters' savings from offending banks.

TRADES COUNCIL.

Moving pictures are conducive to crime, according to opinion expressed at the last meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council.

"One boy was arrested only recently," exclaimed one delegate, "and he boasted that his occupation was burglary. This is the direct result of the teachings of the films being exhibited to children from the age of six years and upwards."

"The standard of pictures shown is horrible," declared Delegate Harry Pauline. "Yet it appears to be what the people want. In Europe they give audiences subjects of educational value, but that is not done here.

"You will see posters in front of the theatres where a pistol, held in the hand of an actor, is scribbled out in pencil. Yet the entire poster shows how safes are broken, robberies committed, and people are murdered."

The discussion arose from the reading of a report of the educational committee in which a recommendation was made that organized labor demand representation on the Board of Censors. The recommendation was concurred in and forwarded to the Ontario Provincial Executive to be taken up with the Provincial Government.

Amendments to the Compensation Act, especially to the clause whereby alien enemies were deprived of compensation when they had been injured in industry, were also discussed. The council finally decided upon the appointment of a committee consisting of Fred Bancroft, Herbert Lewis, L. Braithwaite, John Cottam, and John Doggett, who will act in conjunction with the Building Trades League and the Ontario Provincial Executive to draft up a programme of amendments to the act.

An attempt by Secretary Alf. Mance to secure concurrence in an executive recommendation that a [illegible] be appointed to attend the sessions of the recently formed Voters' League of Toronto, met with an overwhelming defeat, a scant half dozen delegates voting for it.

Mrs. Frances Hodgins, representing the Women's Labor League, made application that her organization be granted representation in the council. The application will be considered.

The Mates' and Masters' Association also made application for affiliation with the council.

POLICE ASK INCREASES.

Increases in salaries amounting to $500 per year each were asked of the Police Commissioners by a deputation of police inspectors, detectives, sergeants and constables, who called the commissioners' attention to the high price of things. It is understood that there will be increases in the pay of all the men on the force, but it is doubtful if the increases will be as high as $500 to every man.

BANK CLERKS' BONUS.

With reference to the question of small salaries paid bank clerks and bank messengers in Toronto and a recent charge by an official of the Waiters' Union that bank clerks and messengers were supplementing their pay by acting as waiters at banquets at night, Sir John Aird is quoted as saying that the salaries for clerks and tellers in the Canadian Bank of Commerce have averaged from $22 to $25 a week since the first of last May. All the employes of the bank will receive a bonus at Christmas time, Sir John said.

Officials of the Royal Bank say that a 20 per cent. bonus increase has been granted to 5,000 employes of the Royal Bank.

CLOTHING PROFITS FIXED.

The Board of Commerce at Toronto on Friday issued an order after agreement with local clothing dealers, prohibiting a gross profit of more than 33 1-3 per cent. on sales of ready-to-wear and partly ready-to-wear clothing.

On less expensive suits, costing the retailer under $25, the board allows even a smaller margin of profit, namely 26 per cent. maximum. Out of this gross profit the retailer must pay his rent, taxes, salaries, etc., and provide for depreciation and other overhead contingencies.

The order goes into effect in Toronto, December 15, and the board says: "If before January 20, no good reason is shown why it should not come into effect throughout the Dominion, it will no doubt be made Dominion-wide."

The order is signed by Judge Robson, chairman, and Commissioners Murdock and O'Connor.

EASTERN CANADA.

WINDSOR TRADES COUNCIL EXECUTIVE GUEST OF SCHOOL BOARD.

Thursday evening members of the Trades and Labor Council were the guests of the Windsor Board of Education, the occasion being a visit of inspection to the Collegiate Institute. It was the desire of the board to show the executive of the Trades and Labor Council how the appropriation of the ratepayers' money had been expended in that institute.

The inspection was thorough, and included a visit to the gymnasium and swimming pool that have been installed. The technical classes were also seen at work.

LABOR DEPARTMENT WOULD AVERT STRIKE.

An official of the Labor Department is now at Minto, N.B., in connection with the threatened strike of coal miners there and it is hoped that a tie-up will be averted. So far the mines are operating, but threats of striking have been made by the U.M.W. A majority report of the Conciliation Board, signed by Harrison T. McKeown, former Chief Justice, and Richard B. Hanson, the employes' nominee on the board, refused to recommend the 10 per cent. increase asked by the miners, but favored a slight increase to actual coal cutters of one cent per box.

With respect to the eight-hour day, the two members of the board found that cutters and helpers were only working eight hours, but they did not favor extending the eight-hour day to every employe.

The board also recommended against the erection of scales at the mines, collection of union dues through the pay office, and favored the weekly pay system. This report was accepted by the operators, who were prepared to put the findings into effect immediately, but the men have refused to accept the award.

NEW QUARTERS FOR THE WINDSOR RETAIL CLERKS.

The Retail Clerks' Association of Windsor had an enthusiastic meeting last week when a number of new members were initiated and satisfactory progress was reported.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided to engage quarters over the [illegible] commodate the organization, which is now the largest of its kind in the city.

Among important matters discussed was one pertaining to the idea of the clerks giving greater efficiency to their employers, and thus creating a better feeling all around.

ST. THOMAS TRADES COUNCIL.

At a largely attended meeting of the St. Thomas Trades and Labor Council held in the Machinists' Hall recently, business of much importance was discussed and passed on.

Amendments to the Assessment Act regarding provision for partial exemption of dwelling houses from taxation was dealt with and a strong committee appointed to present same to the city council urging that a by-law for that purpose be presented to the people.

The Labor Temple committee reported favorably on the proposition o building such a temple in St. Thomas and plans are now being formulated whereby the same will be a sure thing for the various labor organizations in this city.

The coming municipal election was dealt with in a thorough manner and the following slate prepared:

Aldermen: John L. Burger, Zack Rowland, John Lane, George Richardson, A. E. Hookway, A. J. Roberts, John Schram, Angus Taylor.

Hydro Electric Com.: W. K. Sanderson.

Water Com.: Earnest Woodruff.

School Board: O. Burrows, Alf. F. Brooke, J. W. Roberts, W. Holman, W. S. Richardson, N. Hathway.

STEEL WORKERS HAVE EMPLOYMENT FOR WINTER

It is officially announced that the Scotia blast furnace will be blown in immediately and the open hearth furnaces will resume operations. The resumption of work will give employment to the regular force of men engaged in normal time. The blast furnace and steel plant has been practically idle since June, with the exception of two open hearth furnaces that were started two months ago. It is understood the company have received an offer for a large quantity of steel products. There is naturally a feeling of satisfaction among the steel workers, who will now return to work in the course of a few days.

MONTREAL FIREMEN AND POLICEMEN GET INCREASES.

Representatives of both the Firemen's Union and the Policemen's Union of Montreal have waited on the administrative commission of that city and requested increases in pay to meet the high cost of everything. They have been offered rates of pay as follows:

First year, $1,060; second year, $1,116; third year, $1,272; fourth year, $1,368; fifth year $1,464.

This means an increase of from $64 to $80 according to the length of service. The salaries to be offered the officers of the fire brigade have not yet been decided upon, but it will probably be on the same scale as the police officers, with grades of pay according to the importance of the post in which they are stationed. The demands for the officers are a hundred dollars less per man than that demanded by the police, captains asking for $2,000 while the police captains asked for $2,100, lieutenants for $1,900, engineers $1,700, and firemen from $1,100 for the first year up to $1,600 for the fifth year.

MONCTON PLUMBERS' STRIKE.

About fifty pipe fitters and plumbers working for the James Ballantyne Company of Montreal, on the T. Eaton building, struck recently because of the presence on the job of two non-union men. The strikers were supported by the local building trades council. They have decided to remain out, claiming that work in other centres was plentiful and wages just as high.

FURNITURE WORKERS ORGANIZING.

James Marsh, President of the Labor Educational Association, and Canadian organizer of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and Joe Hunter, organizer of the International Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators, were successful last week in forming new locals of their crafts in Walkerville, says the Banner. These locals are composed of workers in the furniture factories, the carpenters being engaged upon the woodwork and the painters as finishers. The new carpenters local had over 100 charter members and nearly an equal number of applications for membership. The Painters and Decorators also get off to a good start.

RURAL MAIL CARRIERS POSTPONE ACTION.

Postoffice Inspector McLean of Charlottetown, P.E.I., was notified last week by Austin McInnes, of Richmond, P.E.I., secretary of the rural mail carriers' union, that the threatened strike through the maritime provinces has been postponed from November 22nd to December 22nd as the acting premier of Canada has wired the union that their grievances will be given careful and sympathetic consideration.

LABOR CANDIDATES FOR HULL CIVIC ELECTION.

Last week the Labor Party of the city of Hull decided to place Labor candidates in the field to contest the various wards in the forthcoming civic election. During the past year have been occasions when Labor received the short end of the stick from the hands of some of the Hull city fathers, and it is not surprising that the working men and women of Hull have decided to have real working men sit on the city council. We all recall the serious situation that arose when the Hull fire fighters were forced to strike and the subsequent events that followed in which the fire laddies scored a big victory. Strikes of this nature can be avoided and with labor men on the city council a recurrence of this in unlikely.

PETERBORO TRADES' COUNCIL

At the last meeting of the Peterboro Trades and Labor Council, Ald. A. A. McIntyre was nominated to contest the mayoralty on the labor ticket. He will have several opponents.

Ald. Crowe's proposal to impose a poll tax upon women of twenty-one years and over failed to win the approval of the Trades Council.

A committee was appointed to confer with the Independent Labor Party in regard to the prospects of publishing a labor paper in Peterboro.

ST. JOHN 'LONGSHOREMEN COMPROMISE.

The matters of wage negotiations were finally arranged between the shipping interests and the 'Longshoremen and Coal Handlers' Unions at St. John, N.B., recently, at the first conference between the shipping people and the 'longshoremen, the latter turned down the offer of sixty-five cents an hour, made to them previously. However, another offer was made, and it was decided to compromise by the 'longshoremen accepting seventy cents an hour. The agreement has been signed and is binding for twelve months, beginning December 1.

Harold C. Schofield, who acted as chairman of the conference between the 'longshoremen and the shipping interests, said the meetings with the men were very harmonious and great satisfaction was expressed by both sides in bringing about the agreement so amicably and promptly. Thomas Robb, of the Shipping Federation, and Captain J. T. Walsh, representing the C. P. O. S. left for Montreal following the announcement that the matter of wages had been finally settled. It was also learned that the Coal Handlers' and Trimmers' Union was successful in being awarded an increase. The men will receive eighty cents an hour, an advance of ten cents an hour over their wages of last year. The 'longshoremen's roll shows a membership of 1,116, while the Coal Handlers' Union has a roll of 200 members. Wage negotiations with the Freight Handlers' Union are still in progress.

ONE BIG UNION NOT POPULAR AT ALMONTE.

At the last regular meeting of Local Union 2,000, United Textile Workers of America, held at Almonte, the members were addressed by General Organizer John Thomas, of Philadelphia. Organizer Thomas went into the history of the organization and told of its progress throughout the continent. He also discussed the One Big Union, and it is safe to say that this dual organization will take no root in the ranks of the textile workers of Almonte. The textile workers of Almonte were organized some few months ago and since then they have made rapid progress.

ST. JOHN'S FREIGHT HANDLERS STRIKE.

A partial tie-up of ocean traffic occurred Friday through a walkout of members of the Freight Handlers' Union, as a result of failure of negotiations between C. P. R. and the union to culminate in a settlement of the wage dispute before the old agreement had expired. In an effort to avert a tie-up the union continued work 12 hours after the agreement had become void. The freight handlers requested an increase of 18 cents per hour over their old rate of 47 cents, and it is reported that the company offered an increase of one cent per hour, or the Montreal rate of 48 cents. The proposal of the company evidently was not to the liking of the workers. The old agreement ceased to be in effect at 11 a.m. Thursday.

The City Council has decided to take a hand in the controversy and is arranging a conference between the parties.

MONTREAL BUILDING TRADES' STRIKE ENDED.

The "finis" was given on Monday to the strike of the Montreal building trades, which started on Labor Day, and which in its early stages affected about 12,000 workers. Agreements were gradually reached between the contractors and the men returned to work on Monday.

MINTO MINE STILL OPERATING

The award of the Conciliation Board in the dispute between the miners of Minto Mine and the operators was made public last week. The majority report awarded the men an increase of one per cent. and in some instances an eight-hour work day. The minority report recommended what the men asked, namely, a ten per cent. increase and an all-round eight-hour work day. The majority report was not acceptable to the executive of the U. M. W. of District 26 and a strike was ordered. The men refused at first to obey the order and it was not until after they held a mass meeting that they decided to strike. It was the intention of the officers of District 26 to transport all the miners and their families to Western Canada where there seems to be a demand for miners. However, the Labor Department of the Dominion of Canada has taken a hand in the matter and the secretary of the U. M. W. of District 26 says there will not be a strike pending the negotiations.

CONCILIATION BOARDS APPOINTED.

Some few weeks ago the U. M. W. of District 26 applied to the Labor Department for a Board of Conciliation in their dispute with the operators of the Maritime provinces. The Labor Department did not name one board as the men had asked but have appointed boards in all the various mines where agreements have not been reached. The U. M. W. have named Mr. J. C. Watters as their representative and state that no matter how many boards are established by the Labor Department that Watters will represent them on all boards.

NO TROUBLE UNLESS COAL SENT TO U. S.

There will be no trouble with the miners of the maritime provinces so long as coal is not to be shipped directly to the United States contrary to the interests of the United Mine Workers' membership across the line, according to J. B. McLachlin, who was asked this week about the bunkering of ships here which are unable to get coal at American ports.

SYDNEY MOULDERS THREATEN STRIKE.

[illegible] employed by the Dominion Steel and Iron Company, have notified the management that unless demands which were made some time ago for wage increases are met they will quit work. Some weeks ago, when the men's demands were made general, Supt. Rice stated to the employes that no general increase in the wages in the company's plant was possible, and that it could not be granted one class without raising the question of a general increase. The men have now notified the company that there must be increases or a strike, though the International Union is said to have instructed the men to negotiate further.

WESTERN CANADA

LETHBRIDGE LABOR PARTY CONTESTS SEATS.

The Labor Party of the city of Lethbridge is contesting the vacancy on the commissionership and is running two candidates for the Public School Board, one of them a lady, Mrs. Holmes Jowett, and the other W. Hawkins, a typo, and secretary of the Trades and Labor Council. The Labor Party also recommend a change in the form of civic government. The city is at present run by a commission. The Labor Party suggests that the administration of the city be under a manager with an aldermanic board to whom he would be held responsible.

SUGGESTS CHANGE IN METHOD OF ELECTION OF U.M.W. OFFICIALS.

That the present system of electing officers among the miners is all wrong and leads to unrest and discontent, was the opinion of John Laughran, representing district 18 of the U.M.W. of A., on the coal commission at the sittings of the commission at Lethbridge recently. His argument was that it took a year for the president to become acquainted with conditions in the district, and during that time the unsuccessful candidates for the office used every means to injure and to blacken the holder of office in the hope that this would be of use to them in seeking office the following year. It resulted in the man who made the most noise, and created agitation getting to the top of the poll.

Mr. Laughran advocated a longer term of office than one year, and cited the case of Frank Sherman who held office for five years and of Bill Powell who held the same for two or three as showing that the long term was satisfactory. Mr. McNeill contended that discontent among the miners was through lack of information. To this Mr. Laughran interpolated it was worse than that, in that certain officers made it their business to breed discontent. He said that it had come to this, that no respectable man would seek office, but he later corrected this by saying "no wise man."

WINNIPEG LABOR CONTESTS EVERY SEAT.

Before this reaches most of our readers the Winnipeg civic elections will be over. The Labor party of that city is contesting every seat and is bitterly opposed by the Citizens' committee, organized during the strike there last summer. The slate follows:

For mayor: Charles F. Gray, (Citizens' ticket); S. J. Farmer, (Labor.)

For aldermen:

Ward 1.—J. G. Sullivan, (Citizens' ticket); S. Cartwright, (Labor.)

Ward 2.—F. O. Fowler, (Citizens' ticket); F. G. Tipping, (Labor.)

Ward 3.—George Fisher, (Citizens' ticket); John Samson, (Labor.)

Ward 4.—F. H. Davidson, (Citizens'); Thomas Flie (Labor).

Ward 5.—John Queen, (Labor); H. E. Wilder, (Citizens'.)

Ward 6.—R. H. Hamlin, (Citizens'); John M. Blumenburg, (Labor); J. Kapanovitch, (Independent.)

Ward 7—A. M. Clennan, (Citizens'); Herbert Jones, (Labor.)

B.C. COAL MINERS HARD HIT BY OTTAWA EMBARGO.

"If the government persists in an embargo on coal going into Washington and other United States points from British Columbia, and adopts the principle of not allowing coal to go out in foreign bottoms our mines on Vancouver Island will have to close down," declared W. D. Maltby, an official of the Western Canadian Fuel company, recently. Mr. Maltby stated that the mine owners are in communication with the department of mines at Ottawa endeavoring to show that stringent regulations will close the mines.

EDMONTON TRADES COUNCIL CO-OPERATE WITH G. W. V. A.

In response to an invitation from the Alberta command of the Great War Veterans' Association, the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council will be represented by a fraternal delegate at the Veterans' convention in Edmonton on December 9. President McCreath was on Monday evening chosen to represent the Council in that capacity. This action was decided at the last regular meeting of the Edmonton Trades Council.

CLERKS' STRIKE CALLED OFF.

A strike of Glace Bay clerks has been called off. The strike was unique in that it was called by the clerks of a Glace Bay concern in support of a manager's action in discharging a fellow-employe by whom he had been assaulted. When the directors reinstated the discharged man the strike resulted. "Kid" Burns, a prize fighter, who was the cause of the trouble, was again suspended and the clerks went back to work.

INCREASES FOR CIVIC EMPLOYES.

According to the revised figures submitted to the Montreal administrative commission this week by City Comptroller Pelletier, the available revenue for the City of Montreal next year amounts to $20,504,173. The intention of the commissioners to vote numerous increases of salaries this year is reflected in the summary of the proposed expenditures which shows that the total amount under this head is $7,074,137, being an increase of $439,254 over last year.

EXPECTS CIVIC ELECTION SWEEP

Hamilton I. L. P. Will Contest Every Office For 1920.

To all intents and purposes Hamilton's central branch of the Independent Labor party have designs on capturing the 1920 City Council. As far as is discernible, there's no question that next year's City Council will contain a larger proportion of Labor representatives than 1919. Last January, included among the 71 Civic "Papas," returned by the electorate, were two Labor controllers, five Labor aldermen and one school trustee. The Labor wave, which manifested itself in the Ambitious City on October 20, will again sweep [illegible] locally take it for granted that the electorate will not display fickleness on New Year's Day.

Officials of the Independent Labor party have determined that the convention for the nomination of candidates for civic honors will take place in the Moulders' Hall, on Tuesday, December 2. Last Thursday night the I.L.P. special selection committee met and drew up a partial slate of candidates, the names of whom will be presented to the members attending the convention. During the interim mere names are being secured.

Harry G. Fester, vice-president, I.L.P., convened the selection committee.

Controller Harry Halford, Ald. C. I. Aitchison and Ald. Thos. O'Heir will be recommended as Board of Control candidates. It is positive that Willoughby Ellis (Conservative), chairman of the Hydro Commission Board, will be opposed. Mr. Ellis has been a Hydro Commissioner since the board's inception six years ago. The names of Ald. Archie Burton (carpenter), and F. Pace, member of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Union, will go before the convention, and perhaps others.

Aldermanic recommendations are are follows: Ward 2, D. Garritson; Ward 3, open; Ward 4, H. Bourne (molder), and A. P. Gibbon (teacher); Ward 5, Alfred Hurst (barber) and T. Roy; Ward 6, Ald. E. Gurry (blacksmith) and W. Hennessey; Ward 7, John Harrower (patternmaker) and Jas. Mason (molder). With the exception of Harold Saville, Ward 8 is incomplete, further suggestions having been left in abeyance pending action by the East Hamilton I. L. P. branch.

For school trustees the following names will be submitted to the convention: Ward 3, School Trustee William Barrett; Ward 6, John Halcrow, brother of Controller G. C. Halcrow, member-elect, East Hamilton; Ward 5, School Trustee Thomas McIlwraith. Other wards are sure to be contested.

When next year's City Council convenes the resignations of Hon. Walter R. Rollo, Minister of Labor, and James Cunningham, will have been received. Both being I.L.P men, Labor will endeavor to have two fitting representatives appointed in their stead. The selection committee at the convention will urge that strong pressure be brought to bear on the 1920 City Council to appoint Mrs. J. Inman, a member of the Women's Labor party as successor to Hon. Mr. Rollo.

LABOR.

I've builded your ship and your railroads,
I've worked in your factories and mines,
I've builded the roads you ride on
I've crushed the ripe your wines.

I've worked late at night on your garments,
I gathered the grain for your bread,
I built the fine house that you live in,
I printed the books you have read.

I've linked two great oceans together,
I've spanned your rivers with steel,
I built your towering skyscrapers.
And also your automobile.

I've gone out to wrecked ship in the life boats,
When the storm loudly cried for its prey,
I've guarded your home from marauders,
I have turned the night into day.

Wherever there's progress you'll find me,
Without me the world could not live;
And yet you would seek to destroy me,
With the meager pittance you give.

Today you may grind me in slavery,
You may dictate to me from the throne;
But tomorrow I throw off my fetters,
And am ready to claim what I own.

I am master of field and of factory,
I am mighty and you are but few;
No longer I'll bow in submission,
I am labor and ask for my due.

—Pud McKillips.

ONLY A PAINTER.

"He is only a painter," the people say,
As they pass him by or give him the way.
For the tools of his craft with rattle bang,
Strike sensitive ears with unpleasant clang.

His dress is not tidy, his face lacks the tan
But with head erect he walks like a man;
Respecting friends, not afraid of foes,
As to his work each morning he goes.

Facing the dangers of death each hour,
His trust and hope is the Unseen Power
That gives strength to his arm, light to his eye,
He has courage to live, and fear not to die.

A startled cry—a hurrying to and fro—
Oh! a painter fell—in death laid low.
His pals stood by, their tears fell fast,
Not a word was spoken as he breathed his last.

Then they told of their comrade, dead at their feet:
"He was only a painter, never tidy and neat,
But his heart was as big as the world," they said,
"We'll keep green his memory, now that he's dead."

And the brotherly love of the gang that day
Was renewed by the side of their broken clay.
Who loved his friends, feared not his foes,
And had a heart for humanity's woes.

—ORA C. BOWEN,
L. U. 706, Council Bluffs, Iowa., in the Painter and Decorator.

THE LISTENING POST.

By F. D. E.

I went to a meeting
WHERE there were
A LOT of very healthy
PEOPLE who listened
TO a man who told them
HOW they were being
STARVED to death
BY a lot of czars
AND kaisers,
AND kings of labor,
AND the people
WHO didn't look
AS if they were being
STARVED to death
BY anybody
SAID "Hooray,"
AND the man went on
TO tell them
HOW desirable it was
THAT all the smaller nations
SHOULD enjoy
SELF-determination,
AND they hoorayed
FOR self-determination
THOUGH I am sure
THAT three-quarters of them
DIDN'T know whether
SELF-determination is
A BATTLEFIELD, or
A VEGETABLE and it struck me
THAT if these
FOLKS who are not satisfied
WITH their governments
AND want them changed
ARE entitled to
IMMEDIATE consideration,
THEN surely we who live
IN Canada, and America,
AND England, and who
ARE satisfied with
OUR form of government
AND don't want it changed
ARE entitled to some
CONSIDERATION, too.
INSTEAD of which
IT would appear
WE are at the mercy
OF every blatherskiting
BOLSHE