

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest To Ex-Service Trade Unions.

INCOME TAX RELIEF RETURN-ED SOLDIERS.

Captain C. G. Power, West Quebec, asked if the Government could not use its influence with the Ontario Provincial Government for the relief of certain returned soldiers in the province and particularly in Ottawa, who were being assessed under provincial law income tax on incomes over \$700. Sir George Foster replied that he thought the intercession of the Federal Government would not be taken very kindly by the Provincial Government, and perhaps Captain Power had better take the matter up himself.

"It seems to me the city is the one to take action," Premier Drury observed when questioned on Monday regarding Major C. G. Power, who in the House of Commons for leniency to returned soldiers being taxed on income over \$700. Premier Drury expressed the opinion that the municipal income tax was referred to.

S. C. R. EMPLOYMENT OFFICES CLOSING.

It is the intention to close all the employment offices in connection with the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. This will be accomplished by July. In cases where officers of the department occupy space in Government buildings they will be withdrawn.

Following various conferences during the last two weeks, it is officially learned that demobilization of these branches will take place. Thirteen employment offices will be closed, or S. C. R. representatives drawn, on May 1. Forty-nine more will be similarly affected on June 1, and the remaining 43 will be closed on July 1.

In a report to the Minister, the director of information and service branch, S. C. R., deals with employment conditions in Canada. He says the demand for unskilled labor is on the increase.

"The formation of a branch of the One Big Union at Pembroke," says the report regarding Ottawa Valley conditions, "has resulted in a refusal on the part of employers to

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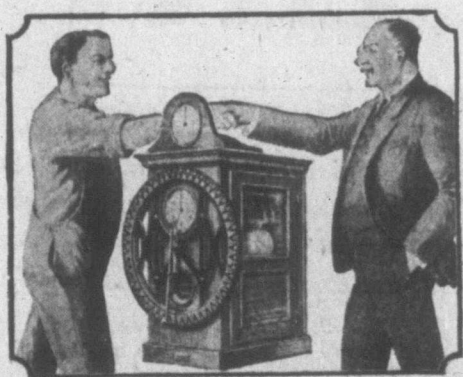
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Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Can.

NEW YORK WOMEN WILL ORGANIZE FOR EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

The women of New York state will force the universal adoption of the eight-hour day by organization. Legislation to that effect is the substance of an ultimatum delivered by Miss Rose Schneiderman, president of the Women's Trade Union League, to the Women's Joint Legislative Conference, the organization which has vainly been making an attempt to get an eight-hour bill for women through the state legislature.

Declaring that a law-making body controlled by employers will never pass the eight-hour bill, Miss Schneiderman called upon the legislative conference to put the backing of its 10 organizations into a drive to enroll the 20,000 unorganized working women in New York state into trade unions.

For six years trade union women have been trying to get the eight-hour bill passed, said Miss Schneiderman, but in all the time the bill had never reached the floor for discussion, and the minimum wage bill had not been debated once in four years.

EUGENE V. DEBS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH ENTIRE SILK OUTFIT.

Milwaukee—Eugene V. Debs will be presented with an entire outfit of silk through the efforts of union workers of New York City, according to information received here by The Jewish Daily Forward.

When word was received that Warden Zerbe would allow Debs to wear his own clothes, the silk makers of New York City decided to present him with silk clothes as a token of their admiration for his life struggle in behalf of humanity.

"RED TAPE" IN BRITAIN.

A girl clerk, whose arms and body were wound with red tape, has just led an unusual procession through Whitehall street, the home of Government departments, to draw public attention to the demands of women in Government employ for equal pay and equal opportunities with men.

The march was organized by the Federation of Women Civil Servants, and served its purpose to attract public attention to the women's protest.

WANT ONLY WOMEN'S TRADE UNIONS REPRESENTED.

From the office of the International Congress of Working Women we have this week received the second news letter issued by that office. It is full of interesting news concerning working women in all parts of the world and we hope to publish extracts from these items at a future date.

Mrs. Derry, of Toronto, who represented the Dominion Trades Congress at the Washington conference of the International Congress of Working Women, is quoted in the Newsletter as follows in regard to the constitution:

"In answer to a recent letter from you with which was enclosed two suggested constitutional amendments, I would say, I have the opinion of the Dominion Trades Congress also, but I will state that I do not think the two drafts are identical. The same that were put before our women's congress at Washington, one being rejected and the other adopted as the constitution proper for our congress, therefore it seems to me the defeated one is obsolete. It is merely the opinion of Canada that I wish for, I would not personally take the same stand that I took in Washington; and in this, now as then, I voice the opinion of the Dominion Trades Congress and Labor Congress, that our congress should be composed of trade union women only, else it certainly must drop the name of the Working Women's Congress, because it would cease to be such, becoming instead a huge political machine, which in itself would be divided by different political views. The political women's parties, are in some countries so much stronger than the Women's Trade Union movement, that it would be a foregone conclusion which would be in control, and in my mind, in addition to this, a political party has always certain funds behind it, which again lead to a certain control.

"I wish I could do more towards forwarding our cause in Canada, but as I have said, as I am working in a factory, I have little chance; but I believe our Trades and Labor Congress will do its utmost to help us along."

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

BRITISH WORKERS RESTLESS.

A wave of discontent, similar to that of last year, is passing through the ranks of workers in almost every industry. The most serious is the unrest of railway workers who are demanding the abolition of the sliding scale principle which was the basis of last year's strike settlement. Under this system all grades of railway employees are automatically increased in wages a week when the cost of living increases five points. This increase is regarded as inadequate in view of the many necessities of life, and is accounted for by the Government in compiling cost-of-living statistics. The railway employees are now demanding a flat wage increase.

The unrest has affected post office workers who are protesting against the "dilution" methods of the department in negotiating demands for improved conditions. These employees have declared for the strike if a strike fund is used if the emergency arises.

A national conference to consider wage increases has been called to consist of delegates from the shipbuilding and metal trades, together with clay, chemical and railway workers. These workers will act together at the periodical revision of wages under the terms of the industrial courts.

The labor correspondent of Reynolds' Newspaper says that it is becoming harder and harder for trade union officials to convince members that they did the best

they could in securing wage agreements. It is stated that there is a tendency to repudiate agreements in spite of contrary advice by officials. This tendency has been fostered, it is stated, by the number of awards in which the principle of "splitting the difference" has been adopted.

SCOTTISH T. U. C. FAVORS LIQUOR PROHIBITION.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress, at its recent convention passed a resolution in favor of liquor prohibition.

48-HR. WEEK RECOMMENDED FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

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age which is in charge of or operating any power machinery used for moving material in a mine, and no person other than a male person shall operate any power machinery used for raising or lowering persons in a mine.

3. In order to bring uniformity in the provisions of the act, it is recommended that all provisions should insert regulations in mining laws providing for not more than 9 hours as a legal day's limit of the work, as incorporated already wholly or partly in the existing laws of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and the Yukon.

4. That payment of wages at least semi-monthly be made compulsory by law in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, such payment to be made by check or currency. Payment of wages on hotel premises and the cashing of pay-checks in a hotel or other place where eating liquors are sold to be prohibited by law in all provinces.

5. That legislation providing for miners' liens be enacted in all provinces where such legislation is not already in existence, applying to mines, mining claims, mining lands or work connected therewith, and every person who performs a labor for wages shall have a lien thereon.

6. That legislation be enacted in all provinces where legislation is not already in existence, providing that no amount may be retained from wages of an employee except sums due for powder, coal, oil, rent and such doctors' and hospital fees as may be approved by the Workmen's Compensation Boards, and such necessary to the execution of the work carried on by such employees, nor shall an employer apply the wages of an employee to payment of a debt without the written consent of the employee given individually or by collective agreement.

7. That where, in any province, examinations are required for certification of the competency of mine managers, pit bosses, and other working officials, such examinations shall be conducted by a board composed of a government inspector, a working miner and a mine manager.

8. We would recommend that all candidates for certificates as mine managers, pit bosses, etc., shall have at least five years' mining experience, produce evidence of ability, sobriety and good conduct, and be at least 23 years of age.

9. Mine inspectors, shall be holders of mine manager's certificates, with at least seven years' mining experience in the class of mines of which he is made inspector. He shall not be interested in mines in his district, either directly or indirectly.

10. We recommend that without limiting the powers of inspectors, an inspector shall have power to enter, at any time, any mine, and any part thereof at all reasonable times by day or night, to examine into and make enquiry respecting the state and condition of the mine, its ventilation and safety of mines, to give notice in writing of any matter, thing or practice which he considers dangerous or defective, and of the immediate remedy.

11. Resolved, that all mines shall have an adequate amount of ventilation passing therein, and that all mines be examined before the workers enter the mine, and that a report of such inspection be made in a book to be kept at the mine for the purpose, and such report shall be available to any workman employed in mine.

12. The question of health of employees in mining camps is now being examined into by the different provinces concerned, with a view to fully protect the workers and as far as possible unify the laws, and we submit that this matter be referred to this tribunal for action.

13.—Resolved, that the present laws with reference to special investigations which are in existence in several provinces be continued, and that the same provinces be made to extend to provinces where such laws are not in operation.

14. Resolved, that the Workmen's Compensation Board in each province where such board exists, shall make provision for the administration of first aid and mine rescue work, and that where no boards are in existence, special provisions be made.

Messrs. Gillis, McLean, Lowe, Halford, E. Robinson, Molloy, Stirling and Coulman formed the Committee on Mines and Mining Laws.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. E. A. Acland, Deputy Minister of Labor, for his good work as chairman of the commission, and to Mr. Gerald Brown and the other officers of the Labor Department, who had assisted in the work connected with the commission.

The Committee on Industrial Legislation brought in the following report, which was adopted without amendment:

The committee has examined the existing legislation of the Dominion and provinces with respect to industrial disputes, and is of the view that to secure a reasonable degree of uniformity with regard to the same it is desirable that the following principles should be observed:

1.—That disputes in mines and public utilities should be dealt with exclusively by Federal legislation.

2.—That Federal legislation should be held to apply to public utilities under the control of a province or municipality or other public or private authority.

3.—That whereas in some cases provincial legislation has been enacted respecting industrial disputes which applies to all occupations giving rise to the relation of employer and employee, and which therefore includes policemen or firemen in all parts of Canada should come within the jurisdiction of the Federal law.

4.—The committee lacks information enabling it to decide upon the advisability of the extension of the present Federal law to other industries and therefore makes no recommendation.

Teachers have in these days an enormous responsibility.—J. L. Paton.

BRITISH LABOR M. P.'S WALK OUT AS PROTEST.

Labor M. P.'s on April 26 walked out of the British House of Commons Committee which was dealing with the Government's Unemployment Insurance Bill.

This committee (writes the Herald's lobby correspondent) seems to be incapable of missing an opportunity to show its hostility to trade unionism. At its meeting on April 20, an amendment was carried by which, as the bill now stands, not only approved societies under the health insurance scheme may administer benefit, but any organization whose membership is composed either wholly or in part of unemployed persons.

This amendment was carried against the opposition of the Government, and its promoters had really no argument in favor of the proposal.

The Labor members left the committee in protest, on the ground that the carrying of the amendment was simply part of a campaign against trade unionism. The bringing in of friendly societies and other organizations to administer unemployment benefit simply means the setting up of bodies to compete with trade unions—bodies which have no established means of securing industrial information to enable them to function in this respect.

OTTAWA BUILDING TRADES STRIKE NOT ONLY

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stories warning the public that the building trades would strike on May 1. Had Labor's demands been met there would have been no stoppage of work in the building industry in Ottawa on May 1.

No one suffers more than the unions participating in the strike. These men are a determined aggregation when they are willing to go out into the street and face starvation rather than recede from their just demands.

No one can give a single instance where wages have increased before the cost of living. Labor is suffering from the high cost of living and while constantly increasing wages and shortening of hours do not help to reduce the high cost of living, the cost of living is enacted whereby Labor shall have a true knowledge of what profits are made and to what use they are put.

It will not be satisfied, President Tom Moore, of the Trades Congress, has repeatedly stated that the introduction of Joint Industrial Councils will pave the way to industrial peace. Up to the present there does not seem to be any desire on the part of a large section of the employers to introduce this form of democracy into the industries of Canada. Until such a time as Labor is taken into confidence and given a voice in the industries of this or any country then we may expect industrial disputes, strikes, lockouts and general unrest.

Let us perfect our Labor organizations. Let us start campaigns everywhere that will bring about a hundred per cent. membership of all industrial workers in Canada into the various craft organizations that are to be found in the International Trade Union movement and thus bring about complete justice for Labor.

"The Daily Herald's" Russian scheme of "thorough-going State Socialism" could not be made possible unless the whole of its advocates and supporters were assured of snail appointments as slave drivers, inspectors or executioners.—Robert Blatchford.

The labor movement of our country is the expression, the intelligent expression, the rational expression, the natural expression of discontent of the people to establish through orderly regular means and methods, right and a greater opportunity for the uplift of the people of our country.

Notice to Contractors.

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Board of Control and endorsed "Tender for Alterations to Hotel 'Hill' or 'Wachner' Hall" as the case may be, will be received by its Secretary up to 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 11th, 1920. Any tender received after the above stated time will be declared informal. Specifications and full particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned. The Corporation does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

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