

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest To Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

INCOME TAX RELIEF RETURNED 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 \$100.

"It seems to me the city is the one to take action," Premier Drury observed when questioned on Monday regarding Major C. G. Power's plea in the House of Commons for leniency to returned soldiers being taxed on income over \$100.

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 1.

Following various conferences during the last two weeks, it is officially learned that demobilization of these branches will take place.

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

accept any men who have joined this organization. Fortunately, very few returned soldiers in this district are members."

The report adds: "A drop in applications for employment from 4,519 to 4,343 is largely responsible for a decrease of 218 in the number of placements the total for the week being 3,289. The number of unemployed is also much lower, 3,996 as against 19,952 for week ending April 11."

Blind Tommies March On London. Speaking "Tipperary" the same song they sang over the country roads of Flanders, 250 of England's blinded soldiers swung into London on April 28, completing a 200-mile march to protest to Andrew Bonar Law, as Government representative, against official neglect.

"Of all the thousands of British Tommies broken in the war, this was the most pathetic company that ever marched into London and the cheerfulness of the men themselves only emphasized their fortitude in adversity."

"We demand state aid and social justice," read the sign on the banners flapping above the sightless ranks. "We demand that the Government should take steps to provide for the needs of the blind."

No other public demonstration in a country that "demonstrates" for the reform of every sort of wrong has ever enjoyed such a full measure of public sympathy and support.

Everywhere along the line of march, cities and villages strove to give the radiant sunshine of April. At every mess-hall they were marshalled into hotel dining-rooms and provided with the best available fare; they were quartered at night in the finest rooms that could be found, even though hotels were compelled to turn down profitable business to accommodate them.

Laughing, bantering, singing along the holly-bordered country lanes, they brought tears to the eyes of those who went out to meet them. Men and women ran from the roadside and pressed money into their hands and stalwart bobbies on fixed posts in the cities held up traffic as they filed through their steel-studded hoes ringing in perfect rhythm on the flint cobblestones.

Even in the winding country paths and village high roads they held their formation as well as might be expected of the most earnest Tommies at a review, proud to be soldiers still. Little was said about their troubles, the banners covering that part.

Just outside of London a file and drum corps met the column and piped them into the city, picking up sympathetic delegations from labor unions on the way. At one point a large body of blind men and women from the civil institutions for the blind, joined the marchers and completed the journey with them. A few of the marchers became so exhausted in the last stages of their journey.

England is aroused to the plight of these soldiers. People are demanding economy, but not at their expense. England is aroused to the plight of these soldiers. People are demanding economy, but not at their expense.

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 is being introduced in the form 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 19 organizations into a drive to enroll the 200,000 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 and the women's minimum wage bill passed, said Miss Schneiderman, but in all that time the former has 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 Express.

When word was received that Warden Zerbo would allow Debs to wear his own clothes, the outfit decided to present him with silk clothes as a token of their admiration for his life struggle in behalf of workers.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America will make the suit; shirt makers the silk shirt; necktie workers, the ties; shoemakers, the shoes; white goods workers, silk handkerchiefs; textile workers, silk sweater and socks, etc.

"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.

The girl, who was protesting against the "red tape" which she said was hindering the work of women in government employ, carried a poster, which was linked together with red tape.

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 following 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 the proposed constitution of the International Congress of Working Women, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and to inform you that I have the same before me. I am sorry to hear that the constitution proposed by you was not accepted by the Washington conference, therefore it seems to me the defeated one is obsolete. It is merely the opinion of Canada that is wished for. I would like personally to take the same stand that I took in Washington, and in this now as then, I voice the opinion of the Dominion Trades Congress that our congress should be composed of trade union women only, else it certainly must drop the name of the Working Women 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 pay a week when the cost of living increases five points. This increase is regarded as inadequate in view of the many necessities of life.

The unrest has affected post office workers who are protesting against the "sliding" methods of the department in negotiating demands for improved conditions. These employees have declared for the strike if a strike fund to be used in 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 shop 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 regard the executives in spite of contrary advice by officials. This tendency has been fostered, it is stated, by the number of awards in which the "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. Continued From Page One. age which is in charge of or operating any power machinery used for moving material in a mine, and no person other than a female over 18 years of age shall operate any power machinery used for raising or lowering persons in a mine.

3. In order to bring uniformity in mining laws, 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, to be made by check or currency. Payment of wages on hotel premises and the cashing of pay-checks in a hotel shall 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 that 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, eating liquors or sold to be prohibited by law in all provinces.

7. That where, in any province, examinations are required for certain employments or industries, 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 introduced into a district, either directly or indirectly.

10. We recommend that without limiting the powers of inspectors, an inspector shall have power to snoop, inspect and examine any mine or 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, the ventilation and safety of mines, to give notice in writing of any matter, thing or practice which he considers dangerous or defective, and of an 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 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 a 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.

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

Labor M. P.'s on April 28 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 28, 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 which have established means of securing industrial information to enable them to function in this respect.

OTTAWA BUILDING TRADES STRIKE NOT ONLY

Continued From Page One. 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 everything and while constantly increasing wages and shortening of hours do not help to reduce the high cost of living, the only way to reduce it is enacted whereby Labor shall have a true knowledge of what profits are made and to what use they are put.

Tom Moore, of the Trades Congress, has repeatedly stated that the introduction of Joint Industrial Councils will help 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 Socialism" should not be made possible unless the whole of its advocates and supporters were assured of such 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 and regular means and methods, right and a greater opportunity for the uplift of the people of our country.

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