Labor News From Coast to Coast.

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CANADA'S FIRST NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE

Opens At Ottawa On Monday, Sept. 15—Capital To Have Equal Representation—List of Delegates.

The first National Industrial Conference of the Dominion of Canada, at which labor and capital will have equal representation, will convene at Ottawa on Monday next, Sept. 15. There will be seventy-five employers' delegates while organized labor will have an equal number of spokesmen chosen from industrial groups by the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. About forty other persons will be in attendance at the conference comprising municipal representatives, members of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, members of the Labor sub-committee of the Dominion Cabinet, representatives of returned soldiers and others.

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, will open the conference and will act as chairman. The Honorable G. D. Robertson will act as vice-chairman. It is expected that the various provincial Premiers will also attend. Hon. W. L. M. King, the new leader of the Liberal party, will speak on the opening day immediately following the address by the Prime Minister.

Col. David Carnegie, London, England, formerly Ordnance Advisor of the Imperial Munitions Board, who since last spring has been following closely the developments of British industrial policy, has come over to Canada to give the conference first hand information respecting the Whitley plan of Joint Industrial Councils, which has made such remarkable progress in Britain during the past year.

W. Jett Lauck, of Washington, D.C., secretary of the U. S. War Labor Board, who is intimately acquainted with the most recent developments in the field of industrial relations in the United States, will also address the conference.

Mr. Gerald H. Brown, who during the past two years has served as secretary of the Reconstruction Committee of the Dominion Cabinet, and who was for eight years assistant deputy minister of labor, will act as secretary of the conference.

The twelve members of the Canadian Railway Board of Adjustment No. 1, being six representatives of employers and six of employes, will attend the conference in a body on behalf of railway transportation and telegraphs. There will be four delegates present from the Civil Service Federation, representing the public service of the Dominion. The financial interests will be represented by three persons chosen by the Canadian Bankers' Association. There being no organization made up of farm laborers, it was found impossible to secure representation of employers' and employes' interests in agriculture on the same basis as in other industries. The Government was, however, desirous that agriculture should be represented and five delegates have accordingly been selected through the Department of Agriculture on behalf of the farming interests of the Dominion.

The following is a list of the Labor delegates invited to the conference:

Trades and Labor Congress—Tom Moore, United Bro. of Carpenters and Joiners, Ottawa; P. M. Draper, Int. Typographical Union, Ottawa; Robert Baxter, United Mine Workers of A., Glace Bay, N.S.; Arthur Martel, United Bro. of Carpenters and Joiners, Montreal.

Building Trades.—A. E. Stirling, Intern. Bro. of Painters and Decorators, Regina; Tom Izzard, Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers, Toronto; F. H. Healey, Portable and Hoisting Engineers, Niagara Falls; Jas. F. Marsh, United Bro. of Carpenters and Joiners, Niagara Falls; Jos. P. Hunter, Bro. Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, Niagara Falls; James Winning, Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers.

Clothing Trades.—Fred Bush, United Garment Workers of America, Toronto, Ont.; S. Koldofsky, Int. Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Toronto.

Metal Trades.—J. H. Kennedy, Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers, Toronto; W. G. Hunter, Pattern Makers' Assn., Toronto; J. T. Foster, Int. Assn. Machinists, Montreal; W. G. Powlesland, Int. Bro. of Blacksmiths and Helpers, Toronto.

Railway Shop Trades. — Frank McKenna, International Bro. Railway Carmen, Vancouver; R. J. Tallan, Int. Assn. of Machinists, Calgary; Stanley Steeves, International Bro. of Blacksmiths, Moncton, N.B.; James Somerville, Int. Assn. of Machinists, Moose Jaw.

Freight Handlers.—A. C. Hay, Bro. Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes, Winnipeg; A. R. Mosher, Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes, Ottawa.

Shipping.—J. E. Tighe, Int. Longshoremen's Assn., St. John, N.B.; A. F. Brunet, Montreal.

Woodworking Manufacturing. — T. Jackson, United Bro. of Carpenters and Joiners, Toronto.

Power House Employes.—Jas. W. Frame, Int. Bro. of Electrical Workers, Calgary.

Electric Railway Employes.—J. L. Bourbonniere, Amal. Assn. Street and Electric Railway Employes, Montreal.

Printing Trades — James Drury, International Typographical Union, Montreal; R. A. Rigg, Int. Bro. Bookbinders, Winnipeg; W. R. Trotter, Int. Typographical Union, Vancouver; A. J. Larden, Printing Pressmen and Assistants, Ottawa.

Mining—David Irvine, Calgary; L. J. Rousseau, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Thetford Mines, Que.; Jos. Gorman, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Cobalt.

Boot and Shoe Workers—E. W. A. O'Dell, Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, Hamilton.

Broom Makers—W. R. Rollo, Broom and Whisk Makers' Union, Hamilton.

Metal Trades—Arthur O'Leary, Hotel and Restaurant Employes' Int. Alliance and Bartenders' Int. League, Toronto; Wm. McKenzie, Hotel and Restaurant Employes' Int. Alliance, Vancouver, B.C.

Packing Houses—L. Braithwaite, Amal. Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of N.A., Toronto.

Paper Trades—Jas. Lockwood, Int. Bro. of Paper Makers, Sault Ste. Marie; Maurice LaBelle, Int. Bro. Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, Ottawa.

Iron and Steel.—E. Dalrymple, Amal. Assn. Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, Sault Ste. Marie; J. A. Gillis, Amal. Assn. Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, Sydney, N.S.; J. Barnett, Inter. Assn. of Moulders, Hamilton.

Civic Employes.—W. P. Harpur, Policemen's Federal Assn., London, Ont.; Henry Bishop, Civic Employes' Union, Edmonton.

Clerical and Retail Trades.—Joseph Sexton, Clerical Workers' Union, Glace Bay, N.S.; E. S. Woodward, Retail Clerks' Int. Bro. Association, Victoria.

Pottery Trades.—Geo. Smith, National Bro. Operative Potters, St. John's, Que.

General Trades.—John A. Flett, Federal Unions, Hamilton; G. R. Melvin, Federal Unions, St. John, N.B.

Publishing Trades.—James Simpson, Int. Typographical Union and Industrial Banner, Labor Temple, Toronto; Gus Francq, Int. Typographical Union and Labor World, Montreal.

Amusement Trades—Wm. P. Covert, Int. Alliance Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators, Toronto; D. A. Carey, American Federation of Musicians, Toronto.

Women Workers—Doris Meakin, Int. Bro. of Electrical Workers (Telephone Operators), Labor Temple, Winnipeg; Helena Gutteridge, United Garment Workers, Vancouver.

Dominion Public Service Employes—F. Grierson, president, Civil Service Federation of Canada, Ottawa; J. C. O'Connor, 2nd vice-president, Civil Service Federation of Canada, Ottawa; Major M. A. McInnes, president, Western Canadian Interior Assn., Saskatoon; W. A. MacDonald, vice-president, Dominion Letter Carriers' Assn., Hamilton.

Railway Transportation and Telegraphs.—S. N. Berry, senior vice-president, Order of Railway Conductors, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; J. M. Main, deputy-president, O. R. T., Montreal; Geo. K. Wark, vice-president, B. of L. F. and E., Montreal; James Murdock, vice-president, B. of R. T., Montreal; Ash Kennedy, asst. grand chief, B. of L. E., Montreal; Wm. Dorey, gen. chairman, U.B.M. of W. E. and S. L., Montreal; W. L. Best, legislative representative, Bro. of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, Ottawa; L. L. Pelletier, Dominion legislative representative, Order of Railroad Conductors, Ottawa—Canadian Railway Board of Adjustment No. 1.

Shipbuilding and Marine Trades—Fred Welsh, United Assn. Plumbers and Steamfitters, Vancouver; R. C. McCutcheon, Int. Bro. Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders, Winnipeg; J. E. Morash, Bro. Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders, Halifax; Omer Fleury, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Quebec City; John A. McClelland, International Association of Machinists, Montreal.

Textile Workers—Lena Comier, Moncton.

Leather and Tannery Workers—F. Grant, Inter. Bro. Amal. Leather Workers, Kingston.

CANADIAN RAILWAY SHOPMEN WATCHING UNCLE SAM.

Labor men, and the railway shopmen in particular, are intensely interested in the new development in the industrial situation in the United States; the demand of the shopmen for a decrease in the high cost of living, instead of the usual labor claims, higher wages and shorter hours.

The Canadian railway shopmen are watching developments across the border with great expectations, for the American arbitrators have promised a come-down in the high prices within 90 days. They have also offered a daily pay increase of four cents an hour.

This offer has been accepted by the shopmen conditionally, of course. If the promise is made good, there is little likelihood of a general strike on this continent, and both sides are anxious that this should be avoided if possible.

In the meanwhile negotiations are proceeding between the railway shopmen and their employers to ameliorate the working conditions and the shop rules. These deliberations will not be so necessary in Canada, as the representatives of the railway shopmen have already discussed the matter thoroughly with the members of the Canadian Railway War Board, and an understanding has been arrived at.

The question of wages, therefore, is the principal matter which interests the Canadian railway shopmen. It is expected that the logical result of a settlement of the question in the United States by lowering the high cost of living will be an attempt at settlement on similar lines in Canada.

It is extremely improbable, therefore, that there will be a strike among the Canadian railway shopmen in the immediate future. In any case they are watching their co-workers in the United States and it is almost certain that they will follow any action taken by them.

TORONTO ELECTRICAL WORKERS FORCED TO STRIKE.

From last Thursday, during the rush of the Exhibition, Toronto was without a street car service. Two hundred and fifty electrical workers of the Toronto Electric Light Co. went on strike, following the company's refusal to accept the award of the Conciliation Board in the dispute with their employes. However, the prompt action of the men who were backed up by organized labor, brought the desired results. On the face of it it is plain that the drastic action on the part of the men could and would have been avoided had the company recognized the workers' right, but it is the old story, and the public are fast coming to know that workers have a right to live and work as well as the capitalists.

MONTREAL CONVENTION APPROVES OF LABOR MAGNA CHARTA.

The fifth annual meeting of the National Council of the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association was held at Montreal this week and among other things that organization did was to approve of the labor programme as outlined in the League of Nations.

It seems that every organization whether affiliated with the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the American Federation of Labor, the Manufacturers' Association, or any other body, is approving of Labor's Magna Charta except the parent bodies, the Federal and Provincial Governments, but after the National Industrial Conference next week a change in the attitude of the Government towards organized labor is anticipated. Here's hoping.

OTTAWA TRADES COUNCIL.

Labor will take an active part in the coming municipal elections in Ottawa and probably will enter the provincial and Dominion fields. Tentative attempts have been made before to contest seats in the municipal elections here but with scant success. With 14,000 trade unionists in the city Labor has felt that if a concerted effort were made to run candidates it could elect men who would represent their views. To further the work of preparing the ground for Labor's entry into municipal politics the Ottawa Trades and Labor Association at its meeting on Friday night voted $50 to a committee of the association which has this work in hand. A platform will be drawn up which will conform very much with the platform of the Independent Labor Party of Ottawa.

The motion to grant this money for the necessary propaganda was passed by a large vote, but not before a long discussion which was considered by some delegates as entirely irrevelant to the question at issue.

Delegate Kavanagh who sponsored the motion said that there were enough union men in the city to elect representatives to the city council, the Provincial Legislature, and the Dominion Parliament. It was necessary, however, to awaken them out of the lethargy and get them interested in Labor candidates.

Delegate Draper while not opposing the scheme referred to the Independent Labor party which looked after that end of the business. He wanted to know whether the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association intended to usurp the powers of the Independent Labor party. He spoke at some length about his position in the trade union movement in Ottawa and in Canada. Any programme he thought should be framed so as to suit the mass of the voters of Eastern Ontario which would be different from making an appeal to the West.

Delegate Robinson criticized the meeting for wasting so much time. The property qualifications prevented many Labor men members from taking part in the municipal elections, he said.

Delegate Cameron explained the position of the Independent Labor party and emphasized how necessary it was for Labor to be organized with a clear cut definite programme in order to win any votes.

Delegate McCann was of the opinion that it was necessary to play politics like the other organized parties did. Hence it was best to delete certain clauses of the Independent Labor party if hope was entertained of being successful.

Delegate McDowell spoke of the good results which would follow if the committee of the T. and L. Association co-operated with the Independent Labor party.

Delegate Leckie, in opposing the motion, criticized the attitude of the trades union council which professed to be a legislative body but never took action to effect legislation.

The treasurer was empowered to submit $15 to the international to pay for a charter for a new union of women workers which is being formed in the city.

The executive recommendation that a housing plan should be formulated by the Government whereby the artizan class should be enabled to participate in the benefits of the housing scheme was adopted with an amendment that the Government should assume mortgages or loans at the same rates available for the housing scheme for those who improve their houses.

No action was taken in regard to observing Wednesday, September 17th, as a protest holiday to the action of the Government in withholding bail to the Winnipeg strike leaders. The meeting passed the executive report which read: "The principle of holding a man innocent until proven guilty is a cardinal point in British justice and therefore endorses the appeal of the Winnipeg T. and L. Council to admit to bail the labor leaders who are at present awaiting trial."

Delegate McDowell raised a discussion about the adverse rate of exchange, which affected the labor unions when remitting fees to international headquarters. There is more silver in the Canadian five cent piece and more copper in the Canadian one cent piece than there is silver and copper in the respective American coins. He would like to see an effort made not to accept American money in Ottawa except at the same rate of exchange prevailing in the United States.

Delegate Leckie explained the reason why the adverse rate of exchange was an inflated currency and an adverse balance of trade.

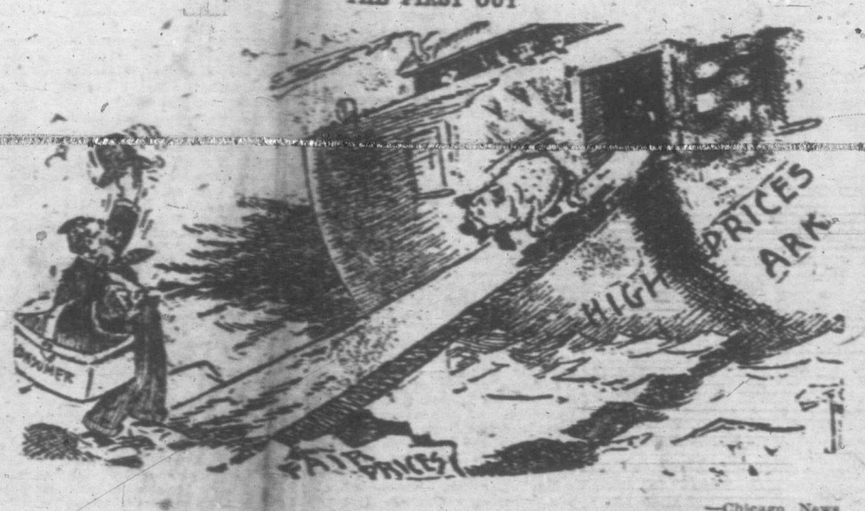
Delegate Cameron recommended the course of buying Canadian and British made goods to change the rate of exchange in Canada's favor.

325,000 RAILWAY MEN VOTE STRIKE.

The strike referendum of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, completed Wednesday, shows that 325,000 members favor a walkout unless their demands for a wage increase of approximately a dollar a day per man are granted, Brotherhood officials announced on Thursday.

Union officials expressed confidence, however, that an agreement will be reached with the railroad administration without resorting to a strike.

THE FIRST OUT



—Chicago News.

FROM COAST TO COAST

NOVA SCOTIA MINERS START NEGOTIATIONS.

Representatives of the United Mine Workers and the coal operators of Nova Scotia will meet in conference in Sydney some time the latter part of this month or early in October. This assurance was given to President Robert Baxter of the United Mine Workers, and Silby Barrett, board member of the U. M. W. for District No. 26, by A. J. Tonge, manager of the Dominion Coal Company, and representing the operators, at a recent conference.

Messrs. Baxter and Barrett had a short meeting with Mr. Tonge at Glace Bay, and the latter stated that owing to the absence of several of the operators from the province, a conference would be impossible until the last week in September. Mr. Tonge declared, however, that the operators would be pleased to meet the miners' representatives as soon as the operators now on a holiday, return. At this conference the coal trade situation will be thoroughly discussed and the question of a new wage scale gone into.

SYDNEY STEEL WORKERS ASK ROYAL COMMISSION.

Employes of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company have taken up the matter of the closing down of the plant, to the extent of petitioning Premier Borden for the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the suspension of operations at the works. The petition requests the leader of the Government to ascertain why there has been a cessation of operations and also to enquire into the profits made by the company during the past five years and the amount of bona fide capital invested in the enterprise.

The petitioners declare they can get no satisfaction from the management as to when operations will be resumed, and that even a temporary suspension of operations means a hardship not only to employes but to business interests in Sydney. The necessity for immediate action by the Government is urged.

TORONTO IRON MOULDERS' FIGHT ON.

Toronto iron molders are steadily improving their position. One by one the managements of the struck shops are opening up negotiations and signing up straight union agreements, which means they have agreed to concede the 44-hour work-week and the union minimum wage of 75 cents an hour. Two more firms came over on Wednesday. The I. M. U. was one of the metal trades that came out on strike on May 1, but never went back, and, as far as they are concerned, there is no doubt whatever but that they are due to win and the industry in the Queen City be put on the 44-hour week schedule. International Vice-President John Barnett, an old Toronto boy, is in the city and still on the job, and feels pretty good at what he calls the approaching successful termination of the strike. — Industrial Banner.

HALIFAX WORKERS GET INCREASES.

Increased pay has been granted civilian employes at H. M. C. dockyard at Halifax. About 400 men are affected. They were advised yesterday that, under instructions from Ottawa, the new scale would be 40 cents per hour for laboring men; 50 cents for skilled labor; 10 cents per hour increase for foremen, and 5 cents increase for assistant foremen. The new schedule is retroactive dating from June.

GUELPH RADIAL DISPUTE.

The Minister of Labor has created a Board of Conciliation to deal with the dispute between the Guelph Radial Railway Company and its motormen and conductors. Judge Colin B. Snyder, of Hamilton, has been appointed chairman of the board, Harry Mahoney, of Guelph, will represent the company, and Thomas Hall, also of Guelph, the employes.

TORONTO GARMENT WORKERS' BIG VICTORY.

The garment workers' strike, which has been in progress in Toronto for several weeks, has been terminated, the employers having signed an agreement providing for a 44-hour week, collective bargaining, arbitration in case of disputes, preferential union shops and a minimum wage scale. The agreement is operative until June 1, 1920, after which committees from the union, and the employers will meet on February 15 and August 15 in each year to arrange a scale of wages to become effective upon the following June 1st and December respectively, so that the manufacturing firms may have time to adjust the prices of goods to meet the wage scale.

When disputes arise it has been arranged that these shall be dealt with by a permanent board of arbitration, made up of two members of the union, two representing the employers, and a chairman who shall be selected by the four.

The settlement was brought about by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the Wholesale Clothiers Association of Toronto.

VANCOUVER PLUMBERS' NEW AGREEMENT.

The agreement between the Plumbers' Union at Vancouver and the employers has been settled to the satisfaction of both parties, reports Organizer J. W. Bruce. An increase in wages of $1.20 per day, with double time for overtime, has been obtained. The closed shop, which was lost to the union during the recent strike, has also been agreed to by the employers. These improvements will give the plumbers of Vancouver a wage of $7.20 for an eight-hour day and a closed shop with double time for overtime.

OTTAWA PRINTING PRESSMEN'S BOARD AWARD.

The decision of the Board of Conciliation, inquiring into the grievances of the printing pressmen of Ottawa, was arrived at Monday, and a copy of the award sent to representatives of the Pressmen's Union and the employers.

The board decided to allow almost the same rate as the employers had previously offered. The pressmen had held out for $2 or $3 a week more. In all cases it means a substantial increase over present rates of pay.

The award was: Cylinder pressmen, at present receiving $26 a week, awarded $32, asked for $34.

Pressmen on one cylinder and two platens, at present receiving $26, awarded $32, asked for $34.

Pressmen on one cylinder and two platens, at present receiving $26, awarded $32, asked for $34.

Pressmen on two ponies or four platens, at present receiving $22, awarded $28. This is what was asked for.

Cylinder men, at present receiving $16.50, awarded $22. This was what they asked for.

Pony feeders, at present receiving $13, awarded $16. They had asked for a slightly higher rate.

NORTH WATERLOO TO HAVE LABOR CANDIDATE.

At a largely attended meeting of the Independent Labor party, held in their quarters at Kitchener, recently, it was unanimously decided to have a candidate in the field at the forthcoming provincial elections. Just who will be the standard-bearer was not mentioned, but several strong men of the party have been approached and a selection will be made shortly. The feeling of the meeting was that with united effort on the part of the workingmen a representative would be sent from North Waterloo that would be a credit not only to the county, but to the province as well. The question of affiliating with any of the other political parties did not find any support whatever. In fact the Independent Labor Party, as was voiced at the meeting, were prepared to take up the cudgels on their own behalf and adhere to the principles as laid down in their constitution. From the spirit of the meeting, the party is ready to get right into the campaign, and a strong committee was appointed to confer with a committee from Kitchener for the purpose of arranging a date for the convention, which will be held in the Labor Hall, Waterloo, within the next ten days.

ST. JOHN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' BOARD.

A Board of Conciliation has been recently appointed by the Minister of Labor to deal with the dispute between the Bedford Construction Company, of St. John, N.B., and its employes engaged on the Courtney Bay construction work. Sir Ezekiel McLeod will act as chairman of this board, Brig.-Gen. C. L. Hervey, of Montreal, will represent the company, and J. E. Tighe, the employes.

SYDNEY STEEL WORKERS STILL NON-PRODUCTIVE.

The steel smelters employed at the open hearths of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company at Sydney, N.S., held a conference at which a majority of the men were appointed to interview Superintendent Rice regarding conditions at the plant, and to find out if possible when work would be resumed in their department. Later the men met Mr. Rice, who gave them practically the same information as published recently:

That the plant would be put on full time with all the hands necessary when sufficient orders were booked to warrant going ahead. He could give the men no definite answer as to when this would be. A number of the smelters say they intend leaving Sydney in the near future if they do not get work.

NEW GLASGOW WORKERS OUT.

Recently the employes on the ship plant of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co., some 250, asked for the same rate of wages paid in the Halifax yards, which the company refused. At a mass meeting, the men on Friday, who are organized in the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Shipbuilders of America, by unanimous vote decided to go out on strike Saturday morning, and as a result every man is out.

The men say the wage and eight-hour day is not the only cause for the strike, that they quit in the face of a lockout, the company in the last few days having dismissed certain men for causes alleged not to be justifiable.

It is claimed that one man was dismissed because of absence from work and that the reason he was absent was because his wife and children were very ill, one of the latter dying. A representative of the Labor Department, Ottawa, is here looking into the matter.

VANCOUVER STICKING.

The tide of sentiment in Vancouver is still running very strongly against the One Big Union and in favor of retaining international affiliation. Union after union which formerly lined up with the new organization are returning to the international field, and indications point to a comparatively small membership for the One Big Union in Vancouver.

The defection of the longshoremen was a hard blow, and several other of the bigger unions followed the dockers back to the old fold. One result of the longshoremen's decision was to leave Jack Kavanagh, secretary, and one of the strongest personal forces in the One Big Union movement, without proper credentials, and he at once resigned.

Those on the fence are the postal workers and the street railwaymen, but both of these are expected to return to the international fold.

PREPARE FOR "SURPRISE ATTACK."

ONTARIO GENERAL ELECTION DAY ESTIMATED SOON.

There is scarcely a doubt but that at any moment now the Ontario Government is ready to spring the election on the people. The date for the Provincial general election is set in order to push through a rush campaign and catch its opponents unawares in an evident desire to suppress publicity and give as little opportunity as possible for the discussion of public questions.

It is therefore up to every local branch of the Independent Labor Party to lose no time in getting into the election fight at the earliest possible moment. Where campaigns are to be launched they should be launched immediately and the political machinery of the party put into prompt action. Every day now the most encouraging news is being received by the Provincial secretary of the I. L. P. All over the province the party is extremely active, demands for speakers and literature are pouring in and the outlook is very encouraging indeed. The popular sentiment of an entire province is being aroused and Labor should put up not an election campaign, but a great Provincial crusade.

The Provincial executive of the I. L. P. is now on the job to aid wherever possible its many branches in the province in the great battle ahead for Labor representation. Literature will be ready for release in ample time for the campaign.

It is urged that secretaries of the local branches should get in touch with the Provincial secretary at once. As has been said, no time must be wasted, every movement must be made to count; the hour of opportunity has come and full advantage must be taken of it.

If in need of information of any kind write the Provincial secretary at once. Forward communications to Joseph T. Marks, Labor Temple, 167 Church St., Toronto, Ont. Send them in right away.

WINNIPEG TRADES COUNCIL WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN "PROTEST" STRIKE.

The efforts of the One Big Union and Central Defense Committee of Winnipeg to promote a general strike on September 17 as a protest against the action of the Canadian federal authorities to the arrested Winnipeg strike leaders, received a wholesome setback at the hands of the Trades and Labor Council of Winnipeg which has repudiated the action of its own executive in countenancing the movement.

The Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council took the same stand with regard to the attempted boycott on the National Industrial Council to be held in Victoria Museum, September 15.

The O. B. U. and the executive of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council issued a circular letter to all laboring men, whether organized or not, to strike on September 17 if the Winnipeg strike leaders were not released on bail. This step on the part of its executive has been discredited by the Council sitting as a whole.

Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, stated this morning that instead of obeying the order from the O. B. U. to boycott the National Industrial Council, the western delegates have reiterated their determination to attend and notification has been received that some have already started east.

The O. B. U. movement in the west is steadily losing ground, the saner and reasoning element taking a firm stand with regard to the whole situation. The step taken by the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council, besides being a refusal to countenance the action of the O. B. U. in ordering a general strike, takes the character of a direct ultimatum to that organization as a whole.

BILL TO PREVENT POLICE ORGANIZING.

The Minister of Justice, in the House, on Monday, presented a bill to prohibit members of the Dominion Police and of the Northwest Mounted Police from belonging to trade unions.

The bill continues in force the provisions of an order-in-council, to the same effect, passed under the War Measures Act. The bill was read a first time.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYES IN CONVENTION.

Definite action by the end of this week on the threatened strike is expected of the convention of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and Railway Shop Laborers, which opened its sessions at Detroit on Monday, with more than 2,000 delegates from Canada, the United States and Pan-American Canal Zone present.

The membership has already voted power to the executive committee to call a continent-wide strike of the 600,000 men in these crafts unless wage demands and working agreements asked of the railway administration of the United States and Canadian Government are granted.

The convention, after hearing the report of the national committee which presented the demands of the brotherhood to Director-General of Railroads W. D. Hines, will discuss the wage question from every angle, including its relationship to living costs, and likely will take decisive action on the proposed strike. Sentiment of the convention is overwhelmingly in favor of a walkout unless the demands are granted.

HULL TRADES COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS.

The Hull Trades and Labor Council elected officers for the next six months at its regular meeting on Monday night as follows:

President, C. Paradis; vice-president, A. Sincennes; corresponding secretary, A. Boulay; treasurer, O. Hebert; executive committee, A. Sincennes, C. Paradis, O. Hebert, J. Varner, W. Beaudin; organizing committee, O. Hebert, C. Paradis, A. Sincennes, W. Beaudin; sergeant-at-arms, A. Lacelle; auditors, W. Beaudin and G. Marenger.

A special committee to consider placing candidates in the Hull municipal field was named and a programme will be arranged.

The council will be represented at the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress convention at Hamilton by F. Zuana and President Paradis as delegates.

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LEAGUE

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SYDNEY STEEL WORKERS HAVE OWN TROUBLES.

Steel workers will not meddle in the famous Mooney case and have refused officially to ally themselves with the protest meetings that are being arranged at Sydney, N.S., in the interests of the California labor man now serving a sentence of life imprisonment for his alleged connection with a bomb plot in San Francisco.

Robert E. Blackstone, a protest lecturer, who is touring America interesting labor men on Mooney's behalf, spoke on Sunday to a packed audience at King's theatre, Glace Bay. Members of the Steel Workers' Union were asked to attend, but took no notice of the gathering officially as they say there are enough labor problems to be settled in Cape Breton without interfering with outside troubles.

TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes Will Convene at Ottawa.

The tenth annual convention of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes will be held in Ottawa opening on Monday, September 29, immediately following the parent body convention, the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. As the convention "call" indicates many important matters will come before the convention and it is expected that a large delegation will assemble at the convention. Following is the convention "call" issued by the grand president, A. R. Mosher:

"The tenth meeting of Grand Division will be held in the city of Ottawa, in St. George's Hall, Metcalfe street, between Laurier avenue and Gloucester street, commencing Monday, September 29, 1919, at 10 a.m., and will continue in session from day to day until all business brought before the meeting has been dealt with.

It is the duty of every Division to be represented at the meeting of Grand Division and we hope that when the roll is called, all Divisions, without exception, will have their delegates on hand.

It is only by the fullest participation in such meetings, where the policy and law of our brotherhood are determined, that we can obtain and best reflect the opinions of our members.

Among the amendments to our constitution which will be offered at the forthcoming convention, will be the substitution of biennial or triennial meetings of Grand Division for annual meetings. If this amendment carries, as I believe it will, there will be no convention next year and it may be three years before any convention is held. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that all Divisions be represented on this occasion, so that the most careful and beneficial plans for the next two or three years are made. There will undoubtedly be many other proposed amendments to the constitution and considerable other important business transacted.

"The industrial situation in Canada today is one that demands the most thoughtful and careful consideration of every citizen and particularly every member of organized Labor.

"It is expected that every local Division will fully appreciate the magnitude of the problems that face us, and do their share in helping to solve them.

"Your attention is drawn to article 38, page 29 of the constitution for proposed amendments to constitution, also article 98, page 50 for number of delegates that your Division is entitled to at Grand Division meeting.

"For the purpose of arriving at the number of members in good standing, it must be remembered that only those fully paid up in both dues and assessments can be counted."

TRADES CONGRESS CONVENTION.

Despite the war which has been in progress with the "Reds" and "Secessionists" during the past summer, the 35th annual convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which convenes at Hamilton on Monday, September 22, promises to be the largest in so far as attendance is concerned in the history of organized labor in the Dominion. Applications for credentials for delegates have come in from all parts of Canada, and few indeed are the unions that will not be represented.

Many important matters will come up for discussion and action. Since the Quebec convention, the war has been concluded and in the reconstruction the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress has taken no little part and the future policy of the Congress will be decided at the convention. The recent immigration amendments will no doubt come under severe criticism, and the Government's attitude during the recent general strikes will also be aired. All points to a lively time at the Ambitious City.

A list of the Ottawa delegates appears elsewhere in this issue.

WORKERS' LIVES SACRIFICED FOR PROFITS.

Sworn evidence at the inquest, at Port Colborne on Friday last, into the deaths of victims of the elevator explosion brought some startling revelations of how the elevators were operated so that the owners would not entail financial loss, but no regard was given to the lives of the workers.

Mr. T. S. Harvey, mechanical superintendent of the elevator, said that while dust fans were in operation at the time the leads to the various lofts were closed, the only lead open was to the scales. He never had the leads open in taking in grain except by special slides. He said that had the leads been open 59 to 60 per cent. of the dust from the grain would have been taken away, thus very materially lessening the danger of an explosion.

"The grain we were receiving came from Chicago and was pretty dusty," said Harvey. "American grain is usually much more dusty than our own Canadian wheat." He added that the orders against fanning dust from grain emanated from the desire on the part of the shippers to avoid loss in weight.

"So by not having the leads to fans open, the lives of these eight men were probably sacrificed," observed Crown Attorney Cowper, of Welland. Harvey admitted that the danger of an explosion was increased.

"And to avoid loss in weight of grain somebody takes a high chance?"

"Yes."

Harvey's theory of the cause of the explosion was dust swimming in the air, to which sparks from the burning motor became attached.