

## Industrial Relations

With the announcement that a commission is to be named to investigate possibilities for what practically means co-operative operation of industries in this Dominion, the report of the British Industrial Council is opportune. By this means an analysis of the duties of the new commission can be gained particularly, if, as is surmised, somewhat similar lines may be followed to work out satisfactory recommendations.

Owing to the fact that the Right Hon. J. H. Whitley was the originator of this nature are generally termed the Whitley plan, being presented as a report of the Reconstruction Committee on relations between employers and employees.

The terms of reference to the Subcommittee were:

(1) To make and consider suggestions for securing a permanent improvement in the relations between employers and workpeople.

(2) To recommend means for securing industrial conditions affecting the relations between employers and workpeople which are generally better than those which obtain at present.

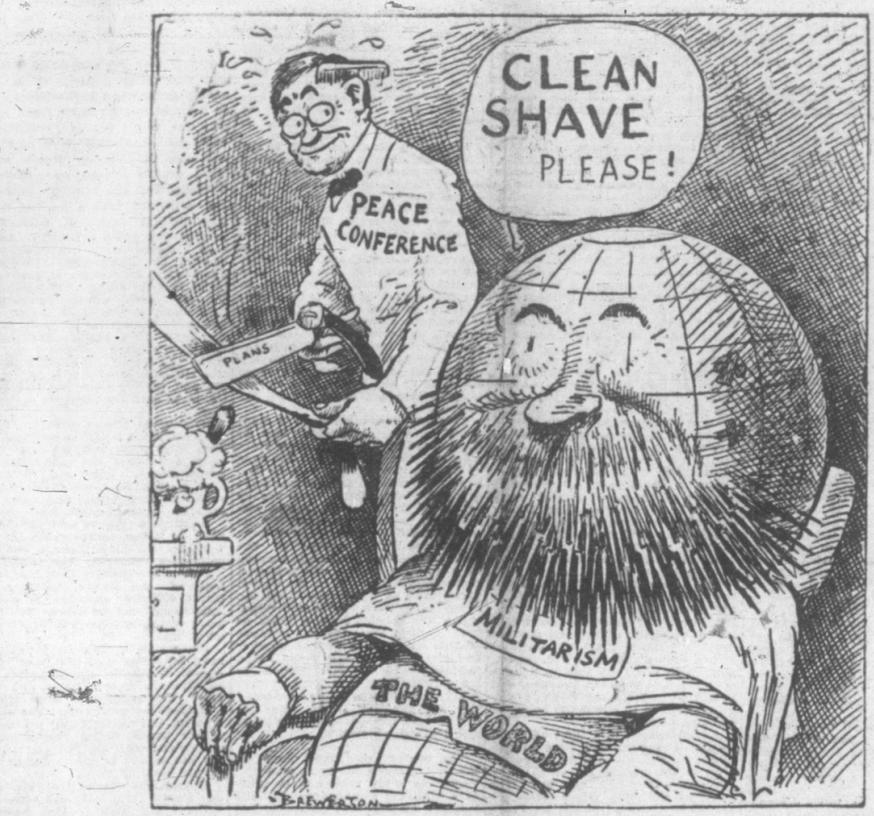
After a general consideration of our duties in relation to the matters referred to us, we decided first to address ourselves to the problem of establishing permanent improvement in the relations between employers and employees in the main industries of the country, in which there exist representative organizations on both sides.

The present report accordingly deals more especially with these trades. We are proceeding with the consideration of the problems connected with the industries which are less well organized, but we believe it to be of the highest importance that proposals should be made and discussed before they are put into effect.

The circumstances of the present time are admitted on all sides to offer a great opportunity for effecting a permanent improvement in the relations between employers and employees, while failure to utilize the opportunity may involve the nation in grave industrial difficulties at the end of the war. It is generally allowed that the war almost enforced some reconstruction of industry, and in considering the subject before us, we have kept in view the need for securing in the development of reconstruction, the largest possible measure of co-operation between employers and employees.

In the interests of the community it is vital that after the war, the co-operation of all classes be maintained, and more especially with regard to the relations between employers and workpeople. It is essential that any proposals put forward should be such as to secure a higher standard of comfort generally, and involve the enlistment of their own share in the responsibility for the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done.

The better utilization of the practical knowledge and experience of the workpeople, (ii) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done, (iii) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done, (iv) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done, (v) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done, (vi) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done, (vii) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done, (viii) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done, (ix) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done, (x) Means for the more equitable sharing of the fruits of the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is done.



## A Big Job for the Allied Barbers' Unions to Clean Up the Face of the Earth, the Removal of Militarism, Autocracy, Anarchy and Violence is Necessary.

### FROM COAST TO COAST

#### NOVA SCOTIA MINERS INTERVIEW GOVERNMENT

Headed by C. C. Dans, of New Glasgow, on behalf of the Acadia miners, Government representatives were interviewed at Ottawa. It was stated that 400 miners were unemployed and the 1,500 working were on half time. Hon. A. J. McLean and Mr. J. Bell, deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, represented the Government at the interview.

#### WINNIPEG CIVIC WORKERS REACH AGREEMENT

All points of dispute between the city and its employees were settled amicably at a meeting of the wage committee today. The new wage schedules and working conditions will go into effect May 1, when the present contracts between the city and the unions expire.

#### MONTREAL BARBERS ARE SHORTENING HOURS

Continued efforts by the organized barbers and their colleagues has been effective in the introduction of a new city by-law approved by the administration commission, whereby barber shops are to be closed an hour earlier on every working night of the week.

#### MANITOBA TO LIMIT WAITERS' HOURS

It has been announced by officials of the Manitoba Wage Board that a reduction in the hours of waitress and male help employed in city restaurants has been ordered. Many of the restaurants had worked waitresses 60 to 70 hours per week, and some even eighty hours.

#### BRANTFORD-BLACKSMITHS ON STRIKE

The employees of the blacksmith department of the Plow works Brantford, Ont., are on strike. About 80 men, it is said, are involved. The trouble, it is stated, arose over a recalcitrant member of the blacksmith's union, who refused after breaking the union rules, to pay a fine imposed by the union.

#### REPORT STATES FOOD PRICES SHOW LOWERING TENDENCY

The Department of Labor's weekly food price budget was again lower at the middle of March, the cost of the 29 items of foods included averaging 13.95 in some 60 cities as compared with 13.41 at the middle of February, and 13.78 in January.

#### CALGARY MINE OFFICIAL WITH THE COUNTER

As announced exclusively in the Canadian Labor Press that Mr. Robert Livett, Int. District 18, United Mine Workers of America, stationed at Calgary, was strongly opposed to the One Big Union movement. He stated that he has fully confirmed the statement.

#### TORONTO TAILOR OUT FOR A. F. OF L.

Jas. Watt, of Toronto, is out to represent the Journeymen Barbers at the A. F. of L. convention. His nomination has been largely endorsed by the local barbers.

#### WESTERN AMALGAMATED POSTAL WORKERS' DEPUTATION

The executive officers of the Amalgamated Postal Workers, representing the Western provinces, are in Ottawa, B. C. E. Riley, Saskatoon; F. Sutton and J. A. Erick, Winnipeg; G. Bootman, Calgary.

#### MONTREAL TRADES COUNCIL ENDORSES HOUSING PLAN

Montreal Trades Council have endorsed the new housing plan being put forward by the Government through the civic administration. President Foster explained its importance to labor because if four millions were to be spent the workers of the city had a vital interest in getting good homes built that could be bought on easy terms and for reasonable money.

#### FINDING POSITIONS FOR RETURNING WORKERS

Mr. T. A. Stevenson, former secretary of the Toronto Trades Council, and now Assistant Director of the Department of the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, is much interested in the branch of the Canadian Labor Council for North Cape Breton. This body is affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and admits all crafts to its membership.

#### CARLETON PLACE TO HAVE TRADES COUNCIL

Application for a Trades Council Charter has been applied for from the Dominion Trades Congress for Carleton Place. Some ten international locals will form the council, the latest eligible being the textile workers, with a strength of 250 members.

#### TORONTO ORGANIZER TO MAKE ROUNDS

Org. J. Corcoran, of Toronto, is due to visit the various centers of Ontario and Quebec provinces on behalf of his organization. With the new field opened up by the Brewery workers by the right of jurisdiction the scope for members has been proportionately increased and Organizer Corcoran anticipates an influx into the organization that will show a strength not previously known to this organization.

#### ONTARIO CARPENTERS' ORGANIZER RECOVERING

Organizer James Marsh, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, is now at his home in Niagara Falls, recovering from the serious attack of illness with which he was stricken when on duty at Kitchener.

#### LONDON STREET RAILWAY MEN'S DEMANDS

A new agreement has been presented by the street railway men of London, Ont., to become effective May 1. The men are asking for an advance of ten cents per hour to 40, 43 and 45 cents, according to the length of service. They will not ask the local company for any change in hours at this time, but will join with other unions throughout Canada in asking the Dominion Government for eight-hour day legislation to be made applicable to all electric railways. It is stated the unions are making the recent voluntary adoption of the eight-hour day by the London and Port Stanley railway a precedent for their own demands.

#### NORTH CAPE BRETON, N. S., FORM TRADES COUNCIL

Representatives of the various laboring in enemy countries, even though they are dependent on the efforts of Canada. The limitation of 30 days on medical and hospital services supplied to injured workmen is lifted, so that in future such men will receive free service for the entire period of their illness.

#### LONDON VETERAN RETIRES FROM ACTIVITY

It will be a matter of extreme regret to know that Mr. Joe Dean, known by all as "Old Joe", of London, a former president of the Trades Council, has withdrawn membership from the Journeymen Tailors organizations. This will possibly necessitate his active organization work ceasing, with which Joe has been inseparably connected.

#### ALBERTA'S LABOR M. L. A. ON THE "ONE BIG UNION"

Mr. Alex Ross, M. L. A., of Calgary, labor's representative in the Alberta Legislature, in a special article to the press states his strong opposition to the One Big Union idea. He states that the referendum vote which will be submitted on the One Big Union is an echo from Russia and incidentally with a Bolshevik motive. If we are to improve our organizations, we can only improve them by maintaining the democratic principles which have made the craft unions what they are. He hopes after discussion and reflection the vote on the O. B. U. or I. W. W. will be rejected.

## "One Big Disruption---Not Union" Says Western Official

Robert Livett, Calgary, Alb., International Board Member, District 18, United Mine Workers of America, explains his position and reasons for opposing the so-called "One Big Union," in the following circular:

Dear Sir and Brother: In taking the stand of opposing the so-called "One Big Union" movement, as launched at the Western Conference of Labor, held in Calgary, let me distinctly state, that I am not opposed to industrial unionism, or the ideals and aims of labor as set forth at the conference. I have been a member of the greatest industrial labor organization on this continent for many years, therefore could not logically oppose any real or sincere movement that had for its object the consolidation of all labor forces. I am setting forth some of my reasons for opposing this so-called "One Big Union" movement, which, while it may accomplish a certain amount of good in arousing the membership and impressing upon our international officials the necessity of broadening their views, will certainly never succeed in uniting labor in Western Canada under "One Big Union."

1. I regard it as the same of absurdity to talk of "One Big Union" with a secession of our international affiliations. 2. I cannot regard the present movement anything more than a most deliberate attempt at DISUNION, and at a time when every nerve and effort should be extended to consolidate our forces. You will notice that practically no machinery has been created to carry out the so-called "One Big Union" beyond the "Central Committee" of five, the collection of a 2 per cent. per capita from the various unions, and the taking of what is termed a "referendum ballot." 3. The method of taking this ballot and the absolute powers given the "Central Committee" in counting and tabulating same are something that finds no parallel in the annals of history or industrial unionism. 4. So far as I am able to gather this "Central Committee" can manipulate the vote so as to create a majority or minority, whichever it regards as expedient. 5. That we have not exhausted our possibilities of international industrial unionism, and that all future organizations, whether conceived in Canada or the States, must be international in character and scope—not national.

6. That absolutely no solid or logical argument has even been adduced to prove the ineffectiveness of the international union. All arguments have been directed at the officialdom of same. And it is neither strange nor wonderful that the officials (or "Central Committee") of the so-called "One Big Union" are already receiving their share of criticism. 7. That Industrial Trade Unionism must first start with the organization of the various crafts and trades in each industry. 8. The "One Big Union" movement is not new; it has been tried on this continent before, and failed. It is at present in force in Australia, and I have yet to discover (and the Australian worker, too) that it has secured for him "the full product of his toil," or even a greater share than his Canadian brother enjoys. Further, it would be well to remember that Australia has no United States adjoinment. 9. That the autocratic dictatorship relegated to that body known as the "Central Committee" is such that they may never be called to account for their actions—funds spent or ballots submitted.

I do not wish to make any personal attack upon the individuals comprising the "Central Committee" or those who displayed so much zeal in promoting this movement, but most of these men (until quite recently) regarded the trade union movement and industrial union movement, as something so antiquated and obsolete that they reserved their most scathing sarcasm to condemn it. They never neglected an opportunity to abuse and discredit the officials of any trade organization, while honesty of purpose and sincerity they regarded as so much sentiment and nonsense—except, of course, when they found themselves involved. After years of these tactics we find them out to save the worker through the medium of "One Big Union," ready to take the funds of these unions to propagate their ideas.

I am of the opinion that the last thing they wish to do is to form any union, but that they do most sincerely hope to disrupt our present organization in the foolish belief that "they must disrupt and destroy before they can build." The old moss-grown philosophy of the dismaler, "That conditions must be made worse before they can be made better," personally I have sufficient confidence in the common sense of the worker, who will not be stampeded into pulling down the shack—leaving himself at the mercy of the capitalist elements—until he has built his house. I am a worker—a coal miner; I have worked beside many of the men in this District, and can do so again. I am not a silver-tongued orator or Marxian philosopher, but claim that I am as sincere in my efforts for labor as the promoters of the so-called "One Big Union." I have placed my resignation in the hands of the Executive Board, and I am out to combat this "One Big Union" movement, and defeat the efforts of certain individuals who seem determined to destroy our organization regardless of any suffering or hardship that may result to you and yours.

#### ONTARIO COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENTS

Additions to the scope and regulations of the Workmen's Compensation Act of Ontario are provided in a bill introduced. The principal change is a 50 per cent. increase in the amount of the allowance for a widow with an additional \$7.50 for each child. The allowance was formerly \$20 for the widow and \$5 for each child.

#### TORONTO METAL TRADES COMBINATION

The employers in the iron industry in the City of Toronto have received from the Metal Trades Council a schedule of wages and conditions, with the request that they be put in operation by the first of May. This is the first time that the unions have combined upon a general schedule of conditions. The unions included are pattern-makers, moulders and core-makers, electrical workers, boiler-makers, machinists, blacksmiths and kindred trades. Over 4,000 men are involved. The combination of trades request an 8-hour day or a 44-hour week; overtime in excess of this at the rate of double time; triple time to be paid on all Sundays and legal holidays; night work to be paid at 125 cents per hour over day work; no discrimination against shop committees, and it is requested that all employes shall be members of recognized trade unions.

#### ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES TO USE BUILDING PLAN

According to returns thirteen municipalities have passed bylaws to take advantage of the provisions of the Ontario Housing Act, which allows them to acquire land. The municipalities are: Windsor, Sudbury, Galt, St. Catharines, Fort Williams, Sault Ste. Marie, Ingersoll, Goderich, Hespler, Port Dalhousie, Madoc, and Port Credit. It is estimated that the towns they will acquire will aggregate \$5,000,000.

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