

FACE UPWARD

CONFERENCE A REALITY

Following Recommendations of Royal Commission on Industrial Relation Labor and Capital Assemble at Ottawa With Third Group Representing Community Also Present.

The wise men of the east, west, north and south are gathered at Ottawa this week at the first National Industrial Conference, called by the Dominion Government following the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, of which President Tom Moore and John Bruce are members.

Organized labor has some of its best brains at the conference and even the capitalists' press tell us that labor has the best orators. This is to be expected for labor has struggled long for a place in the sun and all its ideas have been gained through practical experience. Just what the outcome will be is not prepared to state, for, at the time of writing, the conference has done little more than debate the question of the "right to work."

However, a clear understanding is bound to follow and many of the old prejudices held by both sides will be washed away.

Sir Robert Borden's message, sent by the Premier, is to be read when the conference opens on Monday. It is to be present, was read by Senator G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, who called the opening session to order and started the conference with the singing of the National Anthem.

Introducing the topic of the labor convention of the Peace Treaty, Senator Robertson called on Sir Arthur Sitton, who was in Paris during the conference and who had written the feature of the treaty.

If an international labor convention is a necessity of the draft made of the proposed convention gave Canada a fair representation in it. The differences of the countries in the condition of labor in the competing countries. Labor conditions in Canada were infinitely better than in the other countries represented at the International Labor Convention.

The City interest in the convention to Canada was that Canada was to meet the labor of these countries not so far advanced.

Hon. Newton W. Rowley, president of the Privy Council, also spoke of the conference at Paris. Men had gone there with conflicting ideas, but resolved to meet one another on a basis of peace.

What Gresham discovered was that where different metals were in circulation as coins and were better than others of the same nominal value, the coins made of the inferior metal tended to drive the other out of circulation. In other words, that cheaper money tends to drive out dearer. It is the same, I believe, with standards in industry.

Canada, in spite of the unrest, had had less industrial warfare since the war than any other country that had participated in the war.

Canada's place as a pioneer in helping to solve the industrial problem was the business of the conference. It was a privilege to have hoped each realized his responsibility and his opportunity.

"Your high and noble call, I wish you God-speed," he said in closing.

My thoughts go back at this moment to a morning now nearly twenty years ago, when at the completion of a year's travel in Europe and industrial conditions in Rome, where I happened to be at the time, notice of a cablegram for which I was asked to call, said Mr. King.

"I will remember the trepidation with which I opened the message, not knowing what intelligence it might contain.

It was from the then Postmaster General of Canada, Sir William Mulock, and was to the effect that the Government of Canada had decided to start a Department of Labor, which was to publish a monthly journal to be known as the "Labor Gazette." The position which I would accept the position of editor.

"Up to that time, I had been contenting myself with an academic career. A few weeks later, I was on my way to Ottawa; and yet a few weeks later was in search of premises in which to commence, under the direction of the Postmaster-General, the organization of the new Federal Department. I well remember the incidents of those first few months, and indeed of those first years, in which the department gradually came to take its place among the other departments of the Government.

"If I refer to the incident, it is that I, the more adequately express my appreciation of the courtesy of the Minister of Labor in inviting me to be present at this gathering and the satisfaction it afforded me, and the close and intimate touch with the work of a department with which for over ten years I have been associated.

"Addressing the House of Commons in London on May 24, 1916, Sir Edward Grey said, referring to the war, 'I care not how often I say it, this war could have been avoided by accepting a conference. Why was the conference not accepted? Because there was no good-will. What a monstrous statement, and yet how true. In the last analysis, this is not also true of every industrial conflict; of every conflict there is a lack of good-will on the part of every conflict there is yet to be.'

"Attitude is everything. Grant good-will and conference between the parties to industry, and there is not one problem the solution of which cannot be worked out satisfactorily. With ill-will and an unwillingness to confer, nothing is possible, and there is no limit to the injury that may be done to an entire industry.

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These words, W. F. O'Connor, vice-chairman of the Board of Commerce, announced on Thursday his inquiry into the high cost of living at Toronto that infractions of the rules which were expected, would result in the arrest of the investigation would mean jail terms for the guilty parties.

36 CENTS FOR A LOAF OF BREAD.

In these days of the high cost of everything most of us are so concerned with the battle of our own domestic bread that we have little time to study the problems which confront our brothers in other lands. The following was taken from a recent issue of the illustrated Sunday World:

"I would not be at all surprised by the spring, the people of this country have to pay 3s. 6d. for the 4 lb. loaf of bread. The economist, told a Hackney audience yesterday.

Why? Short harvests and falling export prices (that is, rising prices for us).

The present price of the 4 lb. loaf is 3s. 6d. and is subsidized to the extent of nearly 500,000 a year.

"You are presumably taking for granted that the subsidy (3d.) will be withdrawn by the 'binet' and other causes will add another sixpence to the price.

During the past few weeks we have had many striking illustrations of how labor is endangered for profits. In Nova Scotia a boy was killed and the jury brought in a verdict in favor of the employer, and that death in this instance could and would have been prevented had the child been enjoying shorter hours.

At the inquest into the death of the boy, the coroner said that the explosion of the elevator at Fort Colborne, one witness said how the plant was operated so that there would be no loss of weight, but a high chance was taken as the plant was operated. An explosion occurred when some seven or eight lives were lost.

A coroner's jury at Galt during the past week in its verdict says: "In our opinion the workers on the road were not sufficiently protected and would recommend that the Grand River Railway Co. should have printed rules and employed men to enforce them."

The jury was empowered to enquire into the death of Charles Bateman, a Grand River Railway Co. porter, who died in the Galt Hospital on Sept. 3, as the result of injuries received the previous day in a collision between a passenger car and the bonding machine just north of Preston.

UNITED MINE WORKERS' CONVENTION.

Nationalization of mines as a general principle was approved by the convention of the United Mine Workers of America, with only one dissenting voice, the sole objector being shouted down when he demanded nationalization as an impossibility. He later explained that he only meant impossible for the present.

The convention voted with the same unanimity for the six-hour day and five-day week in all coal mines, to be incorporated in the demands presented to the mine operators at a joint wage conference at Buffalo, September 22.

The convention went on record against the "One Big Union," I. W. W. and kindred movements, endorsing President Roosevelt's condemnation of these radical tendencies. The question came up during the consideration of the report of the International Executive in re-voicing the charter of the West Coast Union, organized at Winnipeg this summer, was adopted, with only one dissenting vote. It was stated that 95 per cent of the miners' organization.

The convention advocated calling an international mining congress, to be held in London, England, and recommended steps to be taken about a general pension system by legislation.

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MOONEY STRIKE COLLAPSES.

When the last A. F. of L. convention refused to abandon its agitation in favor of a new trial for Thomas J. Mooney and support of the Chicago trial, it was denounced by persons who claim to be "radicals."

But these hotspur cool down in a few weeks, as is indicated by this diplomatic acknowledgment of "defense league" in Chicago.

"That the forces of labor are not now sufficiently united to demand that the Government own the railroads, is a fact which is being demonstrated by the Chicago meeting. Consequently, the call for a general strike was cancelled until a more favorable date."

German delegates may be invited to the International Labor Conference, if the officials of the conference, in their presence. This is decided by the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference.

INVITE GERMANS TO LABOR CONGRESS.

The International Trade Union movement is a progressive movement. Because it is progressive, it has won a great influence in Canada which it could not win if it were a revolutionary movement. There is neither excuse nor possibility of success for revolutions against the Government in this country; for here the people themselves are the Government to the fullest extent that a majority wish to be. If any of our war institutions are oppressive, it is because the majority of our citizens do not realize that fact.

To perpetuate oppression is not in the nature of the Canadian people. When they realize that there is oppression they know that they can sweep it away and that is what they will do.

But their weapon, the decisive weapon of majorities, under democratic forms of government such as ours, is the ballot. In using the ballot the Canadian people may be careless for a time, but they are never reckless. They are progressive and practical.

They will not tolerate the violent methods of social revolutionaries, neither will they be deluded by the "presto change" of social misanthropes.

They want the whole world to progress in democracy, and in aid of that process they are determined to develop it peacefully here. They see the democratic goal, but they also know that they must find and traverse the road to that goal. Step by step they are advancing in democracy, political and industrial. William B. Wilson.

STEEL WORKERS TO STRIKE.

Iron, steel and blast furnace workers of the United States, not working under union agreements, are asked not to strike on September 22 in an appeal issued by William Z. Foster, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor national committee for organizing iron and steel workers.

The appeal, translated into several different languages, and addressed not only to the United States Steel Corporation employees, but to workers of independent companies, has been sent to the 200,000 employees of the various concerns.

The statement, signed by the national committee, was issued shortly after the arrival of Pittsburgh, Pa. from Washington, D. J. Davis, Edward J. Evans, and William Hannan, three of the six members of the national committee of which John Fitzpatrick and Samuel Gompers are members.

"The employers have refused to meet a union committee which wished to present their legitimate demands for the right of collective bargaining, higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions," the appeal says, "therefore it becomes our duty to support the committee's strike, in accordance with the practically unanimous claim vote, by refusing to work in the mills on and after September 22. In the matter of hours the schedule demands a 48 and 44 hour week. This is in the plants there is an 54 hour week in effect, while in other plants there is a 56 hour week effective. They demand that all plants cut their hours down to a uniform basis of 44 to 48 hours.

The new schedule among other demands makes the following: Minimum wage for chief engineers in charge of plant, \$50 per week. Minimum wage for assistant engineers in charge of plant, \$35 per week. Time and one-half for overtime. This rate to be applied to all operators in office buildings, apartment houses, hotels, cold storage and packing plants.

Stationary firemen and oilers in such plants shall receive \$30 in the former case and \$25 per week in the case of others. Coal passers and ash wheelers shall receive \$38 per week. The same conditions as to working hours and overtime.

With respect to portable engineers, master mechanics on construction work shall receive \$50 per week. Engineers on foundation, caissons, open box and retaining walls shall receive \$36 per week, with a 44-hour week with time and a half for overtime. This scale shall apply to all boilers, pumps, cranes, hoists, air compressors, concrete mixers and all engines irrespective of their motive power.

The wages of engineers on excavation work shall be \$45 per week straight time with 44 hours for a week's work. This applies to boilers, pumps, cabs, stone cranes, hoists and all engines, locomotive and cement mixers and all engines.

The wages for pile driving engineers shall be \$39 per week with 44 hours for a week's work. Engineers for handling and setting of steel and men shall receive \$36 per week. Cranes and digger engine operators shall receive \$36 per week. Steam shovel and dredges shall receive \$30 per month, 26 days shall constitute one month, 3 hours each day. Engineers on pile driving shall be paid \$38 per week of 44 hours. The engineer according to the new schedule is obliged to give three days' notice before leaving his position and employer is obliged to do likewise.

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ARTISTS CITY READY FOR ANNUAL CONGRESS

Biggest Assembly of Delegates in History of Organized Labor Expected at 35th Convention on Monday, Sept. 22.

From all parts of the Canadian "front" the labor delegates are moving to their "assembly positions"—the Ambitious City—where the great attack on the Bolsheviki, the I. W. W., the One Big Union, and other secessionists will take place when the 35th Annual Convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress opens its "bombardment" in the Royal Connaught Auditorium, Hamilton, on Monday, September 22.

Despite the efforts of the One Big Union and other secessionists in Western Canada more delegates will assemble at the Ambitious City this year than at any previous convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress.

Since the last convention at Quebec the armed conflict against the Central Powers has brought in a successful and victorious conclusion. In the drafting of the peace treaty in the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress had a voice and the treaty contains a labor charter which when adopted and placed on the table of the Dominion will do much to eliminate the industrial unrest. A Royal Commission on Industrial Relations was appointed last year and as a result of its efforts was the call of the National Industrial Conference at Ottawa this week. The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress had two representatives on this Commission, one of them the Congress chief executive officer.

The Hamilton Trades and Labor Council convention committee has the stage all set for the opening of the 35th annual convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which convenes at the Royal Connaught Hotel Auditorium, Hamilton, next Monday, September 22, says our Hamilton correspondent.

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"Canada's parliament of labor," the biggest assembly of acc'd. delegates in the history of the congress will meet in the city of Hamilton, who since his election in Quebec last September, has unquestionably "filled the bill" capably and well. Since his elevation to the onerous and responsible office of Hamilton, he has assumed up to the standard, which he has filled with the chief executive of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, and has done so with a dignity and ever level head.

As expected, there's been a big rush for reservations in all the city's hotels. Despite the fact that accommodation has been at a premium for the past week, visiting delegates are not being refused. The arrangements have worked like a charm. The members of the committee have worked like trojans lately, with the result that an ample list of private boarding and rooming establishments has been secured, to house the delegates' influx.

Ald. Thomas O'Heir, president of the Trades and Labor Council will meet the delegates at the inaugural session. Mayor Goodenough Booker, will extend a civic welcome in behalf of the citizens, Sir William Healey, will preside at the opening session. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, will also address the opening session. Ald. McIntosh, chairman of the civic reception committee, will also attend.

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Continued on Page Two.

The Ballot is the Revolutionary Method in Democracy.

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VANCOUVER CARPENTERS OFFERED \$6.50 A DAY.

An offer of \$6.50 a day beginning on the first of January, 1920, is being made by the Master Builders' Association of British Columbia to the carpenters, who have asked for increases in pay. The present scale is \$6 a day and the demand is for \$7 a day at once.

CANADIANS OPPOSE O. B. U.

Opposition to the One Big Union plan and to Bolshevistic agitation among labor men was expressed by Canadian Labor Department and labor organization officials whose addresses occupied the entire morning of the convention of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Railway Shop Laborers at Detroit on Thursday last.

Prince Rupert workers will contest every election.

In spite of the fine weather last Sunday, a very good meeting was held at the Prince Rupert Hotel, where the B.C. Federation of Labor, being the speaker. The Northern City is pretty much alive as far as the working class is concerned, and it is the intention to contest every seat, including the office of mayor, at the next municipal election. The provincial and Dominion seats will also be contested. Splendid organization work is being done, and a candidate for the Dominion House will be selected in the next few weeks.

ORILLIA LABOR CANDIDATE.

Mr. J. B. Johnston, reeve of Orillia, was chosen as the standard-bearer of the Independent Labor Party, the United Farmers' Association and the Returned Soldiers, in the forthcoming provincial election at a convention of these three organizations, held at Orillia last week. A joint platform was agreed upon embodying the salient features of the I. L. P. and the U. F. A.

VANCOUVER RAILWAY MEN TO ARBITRATE.

At the mass meeting of the Vancouver Street Electric Railway employees held recently, the offer of the B.C. Electric Railway Company of five cents per hour increase was turned down, and it was decided to ask for a Board of Conciliation. T. J. Coughlan of the Railway Trainmen, will represent the men on the board.

SYDNEY WORKERS MAY GET EMPLOYMENT.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, it is reported, will erect a by-product plant in the near future to cost over two million dollars. The plant will be erected in connection with company's work at Sydney Mines and will necessitate the construction of an additional blast furnace, which will cost in the neighborhood of another million and a half dollars.

Niagara Railway Men Ask Board.

Niagara St. Catharines, and Toronto Railwaymen are going to ask an Arbitration Board to settle their wage question. They now get \$9 per month, and they want a 60-cent increase, according to length of service; but they ask 60 cents an hour for all men who have served a year, 65 cents for all who have served six months, and 70 cents for starters or men who have not served six months.

Guelph Council Proposes Constitutional Change.

At the last regular meeting of the Guelph Trades and Labor Council a notice of motion was given for an amendment to the constitution regarding representation from local unions. At the present time the unions are allowed delegates on the number of members they have. If the amendment is carried every union will be entitled to send three delegates.

VICTORIA LABOR TO HAVE CANDIDATE.

The Federated Labor Party of Victoria has invited E. A. Barnard, of New Westminster, to be a candidate in opposition to Dr. R. F. Toomey, Minister of Agriculture, in the by-election to be held here on October 27th.

Waterloo and Kitchener Independent decided to charter a special coach on the C.P.R. for Saturday night, and it is expected that about forty of the Waterloo delegates will leave for the convention city on the special coach.

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Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

J. A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor. CHAS. LEWIS, Circulation Manager. J. D. SULLIVAN, Business Manager.

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

EXECUTIVE HEAD OF CONGRESS.

VERY general opinion expressed of the year's term of President Tom Moore, as head of the Trades and Labor Congress, has been all to the credit of the incumbent. A murmur here and there has been subdued with the general acclaim on the manner in which he has carried on during his first year's term of office.

Taking hold of the position at the most critical period it has been the lot of the Organized Movement to face, his steadfast, advanced policy to the workers' well-being has been appreciated at full value. Not only has the confidence of the rank and file been maintained by President Moore since he assumed office, but from sections which may have been formerly considered hostile, a perceptible change entirely favorable is now in evidence. The only deduction that may be drawn from this is the fact that the head of Congress has not been a nominal but a real fighting force, practical and result bearing through a keen perception and ability to carry through workers' policies, which in the analysis means Dominion progress.

It can be readily deducted that a president with his energetic temperament was no figurehead of the Mathers' Commission to merely attach his signature to the majority report, but that in the deductions presented therein the Congress president had a large part in the framing of same, assisted by his labor colleague, Mr. J. Bruce.

With the work of the Congress proper every day has brought forth its problems and with the assistance of his colleagues of the executive, two of whom only, Secretary-Treasurer P. M. Draper and Arthur Martel, having previous knowledge of the duties entailed, to say that a generous share of success has been in evidence, is to place a mild term on the work of the Congress president.

In an analysis of the year's term it is apparent that the workers of the Dominion have been exceedingly fortunate in the choice made by representatives at Quebec, September, 1918. His organization, the Brotherhood of Carpenters, by whom he was formerly employed and appreciated, were decidedly the losers when President Moore became the chief executive officer for the Dominion. His success in that sphere being too well known to necessitate review, and in the larger field of his endeavors scope for his administrative ability allowed results that those only intimate with President Moore could have anticipated.

A year's retrospect fortifies previous confidence extended and next week's convention at Hamilton can be expected to renew that confidence in overwhelming manner, the possibility being that President Moore will be acclaimed.

PLAYING CRICKET.

If the team playing cricket could be applied to members of a trade organization the Cobalt miners are certainly entitled to same, they having from the inception of their union in the Silver Belf, dating back to the spring of 1906, played a game as honorable as it is possible for any collective body to present. It was apparent to all save and except the Mine Managers' Association, who taking advantage of the honorable course of the miners' organization, seem to deduct same as a sign of weakness and worked on such a policy.

Organized for nineteen years and with three strike votes to their credit is an exceedingly proud record. It is well worth recording that one of these votes was taken in 1913 on a sympathetic strike to assist the Porcupine mine workers, who were then on strike, but failed to receive endorsement, the line of massed action being contrary to the majority of Cobalt miners' ethics of trade organizations.

With one more recent episode recounted justification for the term to be applied to the miners of Cobalt as playing cricket from inception to the present day will be all sufficient.

This is in connection with the controversy raised in some sections in which the Minister of Labor was involved. The Cobalt Labor News, the union mouthpiece presents both stories in full, that from the Minister of Labor and the other from a newspaper article. The two articles are too lengthy to be here recorded but the spirit of the unionists is evident in the explanatory paragraph which reads as follows:

"As the Minister of Labor has been under fire so much by the mine managers and their newspaper sycophants and apologists, for his efforts to have the local mine operators observe the principles advocated by the Governments of civilized nations in general, Canada, of course, included, we believe it only right to publish the following article from the Welland Tribune, attacking the Minister, and his reply to same, so that local people may be apprised of the real facts of the case."

USELESS TREE.

The ex-Kaiser is cutting up trees in Holland for fuel. There's one useless tree he might cut up—the Family Tree of the Hohenzollerns.

FIRST NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE.

Continued From Page One.

Mr. Henderson said they had come together in the hope that great good would result. He concluded with a word of thanks to those who had addressed the conference.

President Tom Moore, of the Canadian Labor Congress, in seconding Mr. Henderson's motion said he hoped the conclusions of the conference would be of the best for the country. He said the conference had been called, he said, for the purpose of bringing ideas into reality.

"Four years the workers of this country have been attempting to reach the position, which I feel has been reached on this particular occasion, a position in which, on a national basis, on a national scale, we may be able to discuss, frankly, with our cards on the table, facing upwards, all the problems which beset the workers in the following out of his occupation and in securing an opportunity for a full and a good life. These are the problems which we have to face in this conference and I shall have no doubt of the ultimate results of the conference which we are now beginning."

The resolution expressing regret at the illness of Sir Robert Borden was then put by Senator Robertson, who said the Prime Minister since carried with loud applause, and carried with loud applause. Two notable United States labor figures were also heard. Mr. W. Jett Lauck, late secretary of the United States War Labor Board, who had been achieved through co-operation between labor and capital through the instrumentality of that notable organization, and Mr. Warren G. Harding, president of the International Union of Locomotive Engineers, and one of the outstanding personalities in the labor world, made a persuasive plea for unity and good-will.

Mr. Stone expressed his pleasure at being called to speak, and pointed out that Canada and the United States problems were the same, and that the organization he represented was common to both countries. He knew a little about the social unrest that lay smoldering beneath the crust of both countries, and he knew how little would be necessary for this to smoulder into a flame. The industrial problem was more important to the country than even the war.

The first problem to solve was that of the high cost of living. The cost of living, Mr. Stone said, was not sufficient to feed him, and clothe him, and bring up his family properly. It was time war profiteers paid a 20 per cent. increase in wages, if there were a forty per cent. increase in the cost of living. We have seen a dog chasing his tail. The only solution for these questions was a face to face conference, such as that we are having today. He had found that in a conference common ground was often found and solution of problems arrived at by a round table conference.

We in the United States, if we cannot achieve it otherwise, are going to have a law in the statute books that the cost of the production of each article shall be stamped on it. If this is done we can easily trace the article along to the ultimate consumer and find who is making too much profit. The law has run down the ages. "Am I my brother's keeper?" and the cry was never more insistent than today.

Mr. Stone amid applause concluded in conclusion that he hoped a man or woman would soon arise that would put the word "brother" again in the industrial vocabulary. The National Industrial Conference took up the task of translating into practical effect its altruistic professions of yesterday. The first problem encountered was that of unifying and co-ordinating the existing labor laws of the Dominion and of the various Provincial Governments, and after a debate which, although not dramatic, revealed some sharp surface differences, the question was referred to the consideration of a small sub-committee, with instructions to report.

The second problem challenged was that of hours of labor, and when the gathering adjourned for lunch it was still under discussion. Labor was asked to introduce this proposition in debate, and Mr. J. A. McLelland, Montreal, did so.

Arguments in favor of an eight-hour day legislation asked for by labor were based by the speaker on the fact that man was not made to labor, eat and sleep in the manner of the development of his mind and body by the lighter occupations of leisure hours; that the health and comfort of the worker, while of prime interest in the Dominion and life of the worker himself, must also be considered by the employer as an asset of great importance in production. Quoting Mr. McLelland declared that the eight-hour day ruled in many individual industrial enterprises and had been found to increase the health and contentment of the worker, increase his wage and to increase and accelerate production.

An argument advanced by Mr. McLelland for the benefit of the doubtful employer was that legislation would protect the employee who was employed by the employer who stuck to the old idea of long hours. The country law would place all on an equality. Instant opposition to the eight-hour day was expressed by several of the employers' delegates. It was announced that the first address of the afternoon session would be a summing up of points against the eight-hour day. The country law would place all on an equality. Instant opposition to the eight-hour day was expressed by several of the employers' delegates. It was announced that the first address of the afternoon session would be a summing up of points against the eight-hour day. The country law would place all on an equality.

There was a good attendance when the conference opened and many ladies were among those who had seats outside of the brass railing which enclosed the space reserved for the delegates.

LABOR'S REPRESENTATIVES ON MATHERS' COMMISSION



TOM AND JACK.

Following a meeting of committee, Senator Robertson, chairman of the conference, asked the members of the committee to advise the provincial Government's representatives of the time and place of their meetings so that any matters affecting the provinces could be discussed between the Government representatives and the committee.

First business on the order sheet for the morning was the naming of special committees on the recommendations of the joint committee. The employers' delegates and labor delegates had the right to name three members each to a committee. The "third group," representing the "community," was not given representation. The joint committee at first, but the latter recommended this morning that the third group be given two representatives.

The labor members of the committee followed: Consideration of the labor features of the treaty of peace—Labor: Joe Gowan, James Scott, James Winnings, spare—F. McKenzie. Unifying and co-ordinating the existing labor laws of the Dominion Parliament and provincial legislatures—J. A. McLelland, W. B. Hunter, J. A. McKeel, spare—J. W. Frame and T. J. Jackson.

Consideration of recommendations of the Royal Commission on relations respecting hours of labor—E. W. O'Dell, Mike Helena, G. W. W. Fred Dush, spare—A. McDonald. Consideration of minimum wage laws—W. L. Best, J. C. O'Connor, Mackenzie.

Consideration of any other proposals which may be introduced on the relations of employer and employee: J. T. Foster, James Marsh, G. Smith, spare—Major McInnes, J. A. Rousseau.

John W. Bruce, Plumber, speaking on the matter of co-ordinating labor laws of the Dominion and Provincial legislatures, declared that labor had a right to be heard in any legislative assembly. The result was that labor and capital had fought for protective laws, and this resulted in little constructive legislation. This condition was the cause of much of the spirit of discontent. Labor wanted its laws "moved" to the front of the program. A glance at the many differing laws on labor throughout the country would show anyone the necessity of unification. The basis of unification must be civil right, not the claim or privilege of any one class.

Labor, he said, found when capital opposed progressive legislation it based its objections on conditions existing some place outside of the country. The Peace Treaty was designed to standardize labor and conditions of life. Nowhere was standardization and unification more needed than among the provinces with Canada.

Mr. Bruce said he had had to appeal to Governments many times respecting irritating conflicts of law in different provinces that were causing unrest. Irritating delays and other annoying details will be wiped out of workers' compensation had been a topic for legislators for years. There were commissions from every province investigating the Dominion Government Commission could have handled it. The result was a different law in each province. In the case of a railway that was injured in Ontario, Ontario and the other across the line in Quebec were reimbursed differently on principle and extent of compensation.

Lloyd George had declared that there must be a minimum standard of existence in the British Isles. In Canada there were minimum laws in each province, fixing the minimums variously from \$9.50 per week to \$5.

Mining laws showed wide differences in the different provinces. In British Columbia there were good regulations. In New Brunswick conditions were "intolerable," said Mr. Bruce.

If the country found it worth while to have commissions for trade and commerce, railway rates, etc., why not have a commission to legislate for the salvation and improvement of human life?

He proposed that Labor the appointment of a federal commission to unify and originate labor laws—three members from each province and three from the Dominion Government, representing in each three, Government, employers and employees.

John R. Shaw, Woodstock, president of the Canada Furniture Manufacturers, replied for the employers. He declared the idea that legislation could remedy troubles. He also said he declared labor's position. Tom Moore, Dorion Trades and Labor president, declared that he also had served on that commission. He wanted facts and not a vision of labor and employers. The conference was to hear what anyone had to say, irrespective of whether he was employer or employee.

Mr. Moore said that the employers were taking too narrow a view of the word "labor" in talking of "less legislation. Labor, he said, word, itself, to include not only the man who worked with his hands but also the manager and the man whose brains were used. It is better to call the laws under discussion "Industrial condition laws."

EDMONTON STORES TO CLOSE ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS.

Early closing of Edmonton's retail stores on Wednesdays, as favored by the last plebiscite, will shortly be made compulsory by law. The City Council of that city on Monday evening passed a resolution instructing the city solicitor to bring down a draft bylaw for that purpose.

Since the vote was taken in August no action was taken by council to carry the decision into effect. At the special meeting last week Mr. Martin gave notice of motion to require that the Wednesday half-holiday be put into effect in accordance with the plebiscite.

Mr. "Jimmie" Simpson, Typographer Union of Toronto, add editor of the Industrial Banner, called attention to the differing compensation laws—one fixing 55 per cent. compensation for a year; another 100 per cent. It should be the duty of some unit to say which was right. No one could say that a man hurt in Saskatchewan should be paid a man similarly hurt in Ontario should get only 55 per cent.

Mr. Simpson felt all were there to establish a unit and concord. The last time he had seen Mr. Grier was when he was sitting on a railway trestle, in his pyjamas, after a railway wreck. "We established a unit and concord then that should help us now," he said.

Mr. Simpson moved that a matter be referred to its committee with a request for a report in accord with Mr. Bruce's recommendation. This did not suit Mr. Shaw and finally he moved to submit the question to the committee for consideration.

This was carried. The matter under coming up was the royal commission report on hours of labor.

Tom Moore objected to Labor opening for debate each time, but the employers said they would take a turn after this topic.

"We are well able to open the debate," said Mr. McLelland, called on by J. A. McLelland, Montreal, to open.

Mr. McLelland said that the reduction in hours was not to cripple industry. It was obvious they would not want to do such a thing. The reduction was to protect the health and promote the happiness of the worker. Employers in many lines of work had found that an eight-hour day accelerated their output and made their workmen more efficient.

Quoting writings from as far back as 1840, he declared that the general result had been increased output and increased wages for the employee. Mr. McLelland moved that "data be had by sub-judice to the committee on the relations of employer and employee." He proposed to anything but the views of the conference being put before a committee. A slight matter in legislation action for the committee.

Senator Robertson ruled that the matter had not been sufficiently discussed to go before a committee. He preferred to see the discussion more complete rather than that unheeded data be considered by the committee.

Mr. McLelland then continued. "The object in the life of the worker was not only to work, eat and sleep. With a working hour of nine or ten hours on more, the worker did not desire to do anything but sleep when he got home. Illness followed the long working hours and the whole family of the worker suffered. Labor had realized this and had long fought for a shorter day."

The United States Labor Bureau heard 46 industrial physicians who declared that the shorter day made a more efficient working staff. These doctors declared that the more hazardous and unerving the work, the shorter the day should be. Most of the occupations in Canadian industry were hazardous and unerving.

Mr. McLelland declared that the United States equivalent of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association had publicly stated that the eight-hour day was a progressive and improving innovation. Mr. McLelland moved that the eight-hour day be recognized in Canada, as it was in the Peace Treaty, and in legislation in order that the man who gave an eight-hour day might be protected by the law against unfair competition from the man who worked his employees 12 hours.

Mr. M. B. White, spokesman for the employers on the eight-hour day matter, said in part: "There is no law in England standardizing the eight-hour day, but limited hours are applied in certain industries and the 48-hour week as a unit is being adopted in some industries."

"In the United States it is estimated that less than 30 per cent. of all industrial work less than 48 hours per week and there will undoubtedly be the greatest amount of opposition to further reduction. In the Dominion, it is interesting to note that travellers who have recently returned from Germany state that the German people have settled down to the hard tasks which confronts them. They have taken off their coats, gritted their teeth and gone to work. They are prepared to do the hard tasks which returning to industry as rapidly as possible."

Why not regulate the hours of labor in those matters of which require regulation in the workers, but leave employer and employees free to make their own contracts under actual conditions existing in each industry and with regard to domestic and international competition. "I submit that it is hardly a function of government to enforce basic eight-hour day if it can be shown to be merely a practical means of increasing wages. I am inclined to believe that organized labor would oppose a straight eight-hour day."

Continued on Page Three.

QUICK DEATH FOR THE O. B. U.

The wave of ultra-radicalism which has been sweeping over Canada in the ranks of labor seems to have reached a crisis and is now subsiding, declares the Edmonton Free Press. This tendency crystallized in the "one big union" movement.

The "one big union" campaign was launched and organized in the ranks of labor in some cities and districts. In many others it was planned, matured and launched in the strongest terms. There the big general strike was launched and ran its course, involving various other cities. The aftermath of the wave results in Winnipeg labor being in two camps—one still adhering to the new prophet, the other remaining firm or returning to orthodox trade unionism. The secessionists have applied for a "one big union" charter, and from one-quarter to one-third of Winnipeg union men will be found in the "one big union" camp. Two central labor bodies will result and the strength of labor will be minimized. Just that that matter is open.

In Vancouver a similar condition prevails. Calgary Trades and Labor Council is back in the safe and sound position. Edmonton Trades and Labor Council refused to be stampeded into the "one big union" movement and by exercise of foresight performed a task which other central bodies find it necessary to do now.

While the rank and file of the "one big union" advocates have never for one moment countenanced any idea foreign to promoting the best interests of labor and by lawful means, it is generally recognized that some of the national and international leaders had in mind the complete demoralization of all industry, precipitation of chaotic conditions, and the overthrow of the present social organization of society. This does not mean to infer that any acts that may have been done were contrary to the law of the land, or in any way able to be construed to constitute sedition or treason. The history of the Winnipeg strike reveals nothing but an orderly cessation of labor, and to date the position of men arrested on the charge of seditious libel failed to produce evidence to that effect—not that anybody has heard of it.

In conclusion, the Free Press sums up the situation by asserting that the net result of the whole affair in Canada merely proves that the "one big union" idea of general strike, of complete cessation of all industrial activity, is economically unsound, and is not a practical scheme for attaining the desired ends of labor. The general strike is impossible because the other fellow controls the food stores and can eat three square meals a day while labor starves. It is impracticable because all society—including women and children—suffer while the fight is on. And last but not least, it is impossible because the rest of society will not permit it. Neither will the state permit it. If union men persist in refusing to turn a wheel in the remainder of society, they will be the first of a new era. Because of these irrefutable facts the "one big union" was doomed to failure at the onset, and already it is recognized generally not as the "one big union" but as the "one big failure."

Reorganization and readjustment of conditions of the miners in the southern part of Alberta have proceeded very successfully with the result that nearly all the miners are now back at work. It is the observation of D. Rees, international representative of the U.M.W. of A. while at Edmonton recently, who has been endeavoring to secure some settlement between the mine operators and miners in the Edmonton district.

"The main object I have in view is to arrange for the miners to return to work in a body, resuming the work they left when the strike in May was called by their leaders. My attention principally since coming here, has been directed to the Cardiff mines. I regard the situation in this district as being so serious that I have foregone taking at the Ottawa industrial congress, which I should have attended by

virtue of my office as international representative of the U.M.W. of A. "So far as the situation at the Cardiff mines is concerned, I think I had hoped for. I feel that the mine operators there have not manifested the spirit which is in keeping with the times, namely, that spirit which seeks to bring capital and labor together in agreement that we'll tend to their mutual advantage. "The men at the Cardiff mines are all prepared to return to work on the basis of a settlement by the International Union and the Directors of Coal Operations. That there should be no mistake about this on the part of the mine operators whom I interviewed I gave them definite and positive assurance of it. Notwithstanding this assurance from me, however, the mine operators seemingly have the intention of accepting the International Union and its terms. They vow an intention to have no dealings with O.B.U. men. But the men whom I am endeavoring to have taken on have been all accepted by the International and recognized by belonging to that organization. It was on this basis that reorganization in the south became effective and which brought the men back to the mines. "The attitude of the mine operators of the Cardiff coalfield will have a tendency to injure the arrangements whereby capital and labor may be brought closer together. Furthermore, if this attitude is continued it will most assuredly be detrimental to the coal situation generally. I am afraid that their chief purpose is to ignore union conditions and run their mines on a scale of 'ages'."

Mr. Rees has been engaged for some time, together with other international officials in working out the problem brought about by the strike in District 18 last May, and regards the present situation in the south as being very satisfactory.

MINERS OF DISTRICT 18 GETTING BACK TO WORK.

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National Educational Conference

Twelve outstanding addresses by the best known public men and women of Canada, the United States and England. REPRESENTATION is being asked from every public organization in Canada. If any organization is being overlooked let us know. In addition ample provision is being made for individuals who will attend the conference in their own capacity.

Address Any Inquiries to The Convening Committee, 265 ELECTRIC RAILWAY CHAMBERS, Winnipeg, October 20-21-22

Actual Experience The Ontario Temperance Act is Emptying Ontario's Jails

Jail Commitments Before and After Passage of the Act.	
ALL CRIMES	DRUNKENNESS
1915—20,357	1915—6,235
1918—13,242	1918—2,595

From Annual Reports of Inspectors of Prisons 1915 and 1918, and Schedule H, Report of the Board of License Commissioners for Ontario for the year 1918.

ONTARIO'S experience with prohibition under the Ontario Temperance Act since September 16, 1916, has been all the argument any fair-minded man or woman wants, to prove that the Act should neither be repealed nor weakened by Amendments.

Jail Commitments for crimes and offences of all kinds have decreased more than one-third since 1915.

Jail Commitments for drunkenness alone decreased from 6,235 in 1915, the year preceding the Act, to 2,595 in 1918.

Jail Commitments for drunkenness decreased despite the fact that the Act makes drunkenness in public places a "prima facie" offence, punishable by fine or imprisonment, whether accompanied by "disorderliness" or not. A drunken man on the street has become a rare sight.

The number of commitments for drunkenness in Ontario in 1918 was the lowest in seventeen years, although the population of the Province increased by over 500,000.

Some jails received no drunkards in 1918 at all. Others show well nigh unbelievable decreases, notably in the cities and larger towns.

Do you want to see the taste for alcoholic beverages revived, and the population of Ontario's prisons, jails and lock-ups restored?

If you are convinced that drunkenness is undesirable in this Province mark X in the "No" column after each question.

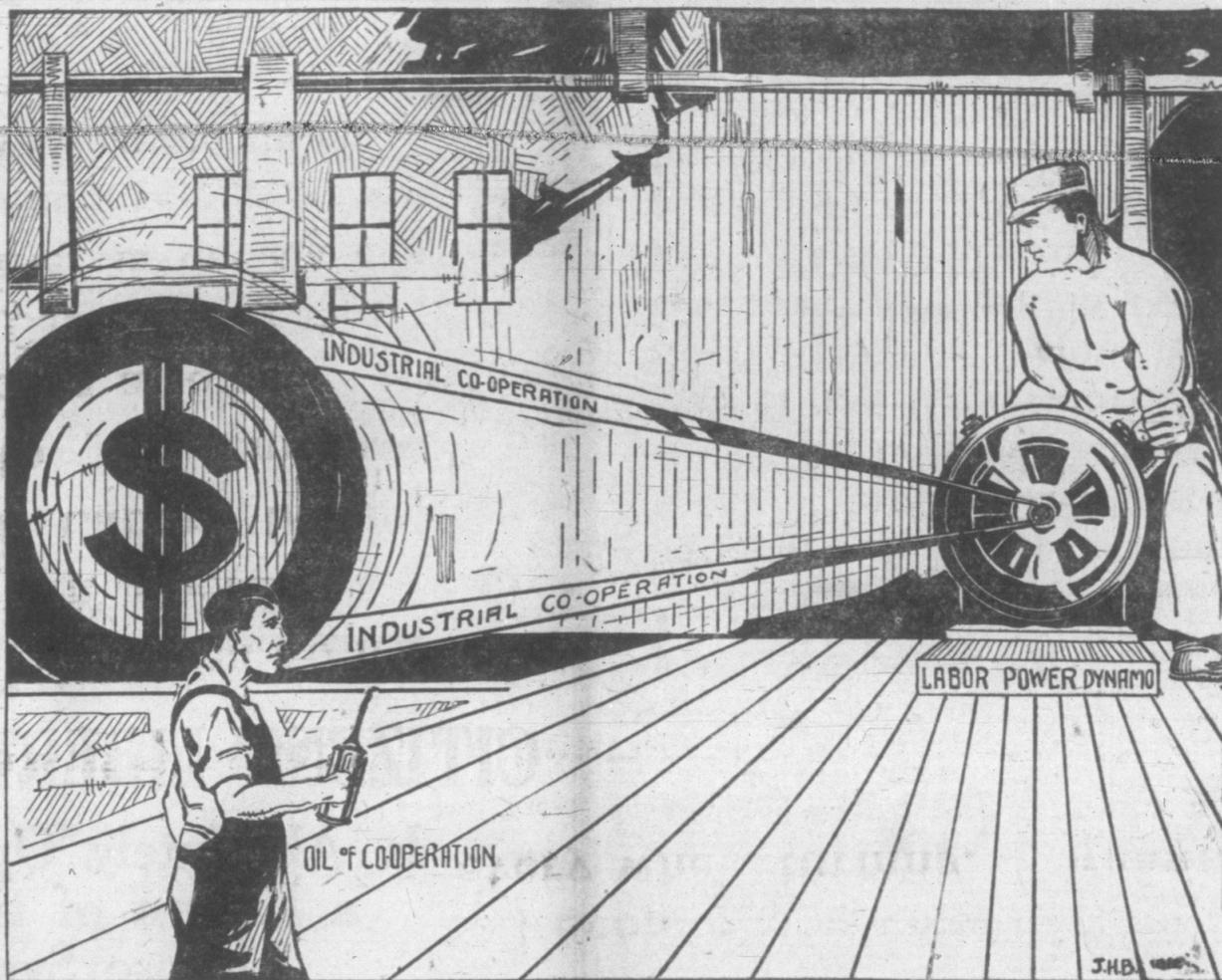
"No."—Four Times—"No!"

Each and every one of the four questions on the ballot paper in this Referendum must be answered or your ballot is "spoiled." And unless you mark X after each question in the "No" column, the Ontario Temperance Act will be spoiled, and years of Temperance progress lost.

Ontario Referendum Committee

JOHN MACDONALD, D. A. DUNLAP, ANDREW S. GRANT
Chairman, Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Secretary
(1001 Excelsior Life Bldg., Toronto)

LABOR'S FUNCTION.



Keep the Machinery Oiled

IN these days of social and economic re-construction it is the Nation's duty to keep every wheel turning. Organized Labor is a big factor in the re-construction and is only too willing to assist production by hearty co-operation with capital.

WITHOUT oil no machine can operate and Organized Labor brings this home to the employer by demanding a closer relation between Capital and Labor so that all industries in Canada can be so utilized as to give a living wage and decent working conditions to the workers and a fair return to Capital on the money invested.

CO-OPERATION is better than lock-outs and strikes which mean hardship for all. Canada has had too many of these in the past because, chiefly, the boss didn't understand the worker and the employe did not consider the employer. However, we have reached a new era in our national and industrial life and unless we apply the oil of Co-operation between Capital and Labor the great industrial machinery will refuse to operate and we shall be face to face with national disaster.