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GARMENT WORKERS PLAN FEDERATION TEXTILE WORKERS

Movements in U.S., Canada, Germany for Federation to Control the Manufacture

New York.—Delegates from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will attend the International Clothing Workers' Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, which will start August 24. Invitations to the congress have been sent to other American organizations of clothing workers, but the Amalgamated and the International probably will be the only ones represented.

The call for the congress was sent out by the temporary bureau of the International Clothing Workers' Federation. The temporary bureau was formed last December at Amsterdam, at the first meeting since the war. President Benjamin Schlesinger of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union attended this meeting as the sole delegate from the United States.

Accompanying the call for the August congress is a draft of rules for the conduct of the International Clothing Workers' Federation. Union of clothing workers are urged to act on these rules and send in amendments or suggestions before July 15.

Plans for the publication of a federation journal to be called The International Clothing Workers and to be printed in French, English, and German, and for the establishment of a permanent bureau, figured in the call, which states as the purpose of the federation:

"The promoting and maintaining of the industrial organization of clothing workers of all countries in a strong and unbreakable federation in order to further the economic and social interests of all clothing workers; the support of such joint national and international action as the circumstances may require in the struggle against the exploitation of labor and the maintaining of international working class solidarity."

As there are movements in the United States, Canada, and Germany for federation of textile workers with clothing workers, to control the manufacture of clothing in all phases, the August congress probably will take some action to admit textile workers. There are nearly 2,000,000 clothing workers and textile workers in the United States and Canada alone, so an international federation will have tremendous power.

SIX THOUSAND MINERS ON STRIKE IN WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston, W. Va.—Refusal of the Williamson Coal Operators' association to treat with the United Mine Workers led to the issuance of an order by District President C. F. Kenly to the six thousand union miners in Mingo county, W. Va., and Pike county, Ky., to refrain from reporting to work on June 30.

CLOTHING WORKERS TO HAVE ATTRACTIVE LABOR BUILDING

New York.—Construction of the central headquarters of the New York Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America at 11th street and Second avenue, which is expected to be the most commodious and attractive labor building in the United States, is about to begin here.

The new headquarters building, which is to be called The Amalgamated Center, will cost about \$1,000,000. There will be seven floors to accommodate offices and meeting halls and a basement for gymnasium and swimming pool and a sub-basement for the heating apparatus and storerooms.

PUBLIC HAS DUTIES AS WELL AS RIGHTS

A. F. of L. Convention Gives Fitting Reply to Claim That Public Has Rights

In favoring the reinstatement of Boston policemen who lost their positions when they struck last September, the A. F. of L. convention gave fitting reply to the claim that "the public has rights."

The trade unionists made an addition to this claim by the statement that while the public has rights it also has duties. By inference the convention took the position that those who talk of "the public's rights" would make a stronger case and strikes would be avoided if the public were alert to its duties where wrong exists and did not wait until it was inconvenienced to talk about its "rights."

It was shown at the convention that the Boston policemen struck after they had exhausted every means of improving intolerable conditions; after they were denied the rights to even join a fraternal organization that had connections outside the police department, and after a social club maintained by them had been dissolved.

The convention declared that conditions before the strike made it impossible to maintain a police force in a democratic country.

"That the Boston policemen's request was fully justified," the convention's resolutions declared, "is indicated by the fact that the men employed to fill their places after the strike were given the wages and other improved conditions which the Boston policemen had requested in a respectful and proper manner."

"The citizens have a right to expect a constant and loyal service on the policeman's part; but the police cannot fulfill their full duty if they are forced to suffer rankling injustice through tyrannical or arbitrary over-officials, or are to be prevented from presenting their claims for higher wages when the welfare of their wives and children makes this an absolute necessity."

"The policemen owe a duty to the public, but the public owe an equivalent duty to those who are employed to wear the policeman's uniform, and the public owe it to themselves to see that no arbitrary, bureaucratic or tyrannical methods are allowed to develop on the part of those who are in direct administrative authority of the police forces."

U.M.W.A. CHARGES PROFITEERING BY COAL OPERATORS

Vice-Pres. Murray Says He Can Prove No Relation Between Labor Costs and Sale Price

Scranton, Pa.—Charges of profiteering by coal owners was made by Vice President Murray of the United Mine Workers at the first session of the anthracite mine wage commission, appointed by the president. The trade unionist informed the commission that the miners would prove this charge and expose the coal owners who are attempting to shift responsibility for present prices and conditions to the miners.

"We can prove from official data," said Mr. Murray, "that there is no relation between labor costs of mining anthracite coal and the exorbitant price which is being exacted from the consumer; or, in other words, that the rates of pay of anthracite mine workers are not the determining factor in fixing the price of coal to the consumer. Our contention will be, and we shall demonstrate its correctness, that by propaganda and misrepresentation the attempt has been made to have the public believe that if the wages of anthracite mine workers or other classes of industrial workers are increased it will bring about another step in the vicious circle of the increased cost of living. Nothing could be further from the truth. This claim, we shall show, is merely the experiment which has been used by coal and other profiteers who have robbed and are robbing the public, to attempt to place the guilt of their crimes upon labor."

"We shall show that the interests of the anthracite workers and other classes of workers are identical with the interests of the public and that both the public and the workers are being exploited."

In urging the commission to declare, by recognition of the United Mine Workers, Vice President Murray showed that the present agreement is between "anthracite operators and 'anthracite mine workers' organizations." No such organization as the latter exists, said the speaker, who told the commission that it was time to throw aside this subterfuge and recognize the organization that is bound to carry out the provisions of an agreement that is made with a mythical organization.

"The musicians' union at Cincinnati, has organized girls employed as piano and organ players in moving picture houses. These girls were paid \$18 and less for a week of seven days. When exhausted they had to pay for a substitute to hold their job. Since the girls have organized several houses have established a \$25 rate. Some managers are objecting and the moving picture operators' union gives notice that their members will be called out if the girls are not accorded justice."

MUSICIANS BACK UP MOVIE GIRLS IN THEIR ORGANIZATION

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AGITATORS FOR OPEN SHOP ARE NOT PRETENDING

Frankly Acknowledge Theory Stands For Individual Bargaining

Washington.—"Open" shop agitators are at last dropping all pretense of friendliness to trade unions—even "if they are run right"—and now frankly acknowledge that their theory stands for individual bargaining.

The chamber of commerce of the United States has taken the lead in the new movement. The chamber is submitting to a referendum of its affiliates a series of so-called "labor principles." Section 2 gives this cleverly phrased explanation of the "open" shop:

"The right of open shop operation, that is the right of employer and employee to enter into and determine the conditions of employment relations with each other is an essential part of the individual right of contract possessed by each of the parties."

The above theory is supported by Judge Gary of the steel trust and other anti-trade unionists who refuse to surrender their power over wage earners. These employers "talk big" on the legal right of individual bargaining, which no one denies. They remain silent, however, on the legal, social and ethical right of workers to act together.

The chamber of commerce has stripped the so-called "open" shop of all pretense, and it now stands, as it always was intended to stand—avowedly anti-trade union.

MACHINISTS RESIST EFFORTS TO DESTROY THEIR SHORTER HOUR

Every power at the command of employers is thrown against striking machinists at Cincinnati, to destroy their shorter hour movement. Injunctions have been issued and damage suits that total staggering sums have been filed against these unionists, all for the purpose of breaking their solidarity. Some of the bosses locked out their employees because they refused to accept the non-union shop, that the employers call "the American plan."

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CAMOUFLAGE WON'T SAVE THE WRECK

Sir Robert Borden's ability to get into a political jam is only excelled by his ability to get "out from under" at the psychological moment. A man of ordinary intelligence cannot be actively engaged in politics without having acquired some knowledge of what is likely to transpire in the political life of a country under given circumstances. And no prophetic vision is required to learn that the present government is the most unpopular Canada has ever experienced. It does not require the skill of the professional politician to divine what will happen to the present administration when it goes to the country. Sir Robert has no desire to be in at the finish.

It is thought to save something from the coming wreck by the application of an art practised in the war, viz., camouflage. And so with a new leader, a new name and a new platform, the old guard will endeavor to carry on. But as the Journal very wisely remarked in Saturday's paper: "Canada itself is not the same country that it was six years ago. Its problems are different, and the temper of its people is different; and that, after all, is sufficient reason for the re-making of its politics." But camouflage will not do, and the Journal is wasting expensive white paper and ink in attempting to make the Canadian people of today believe that a fresh coat of red, white and blue paint is going to make any real change in a discredited political combination.

The "National Liberal and Conservative Party" has nothing new to offer. It is the same combination that has since its inception played fast and loose with the liberties and desires of the people. Under its maladministration free speech and free press has become an unknown quantity. No degree of outward disguise is likely to deceive Canadians at the next election. As the Journal remarked, "the temper of the people is different" and the government they will next elect is likely to be different too.

MANITOBA—GROUP GOVERNMENT—COMPROMISE

The final results in the Manitoba elections show that twenty-one Liberals, eleven Labor men, nine Farmers, Eight Conservatives and four so-called independents are elected to the legislature. Deferred elections in two seats will make up the fifty-five members composing the House.

It will be instantly recognized that no one party can command a working majority in the new legislature, and some kind of group government must necessarily come into being. What will be its nature or composition is subject only to conjecture. But why not an executive Council elected in the same manner that the Winnipeg members were chosen, i.e., by proportional representation? The political interests of the people who compose the population of Manitoba are varied, as the result of the election indicates. It would seem, then, that the administration of the province should represent varied interests. In the new legislature compromise will be necessary. It is conceivable, therefore, that a basis of satisfactory compromise could more easily be arrived at if the executive council was representative of all the groups in the legislature.

And why should there not be compromise in the government of a province or nation? It cannot be denied that different groups of people have different interests. It is difficult to understand, then, why any one or two groups should control the government, while others have no power other than that of criticism. And yet it is impossible to conceive of every group having all its own way. Compromise would therefore seem to be necessary as long as different group interests exist. But in every walk of life compromise does take place and it would be impossible under existing conditions to conduct our economic affairs otherwise. As between individuals or nations compromise has ever been necessary. Why then should we fear necessary compromise in the government of our provinces or our country?

The above is of course based on conditions that now exist. It may be that some day the necessity for compromise will be eliminated, but it would seem that a common ground may only be found by the full political representation of all the groups that now go to make up the social and economic structure of society.

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HOW ABOUT THE MEN IN JAIL?

Three of the men elected to the Manitoba legislature last week are serving prison sentences for "sedition conspiracy," which is presumed to mean conspiracy against "constituted authority." Now what is "constituted authority"? The government, we say. And who is the government? The representatives of the people. And so in reality seditious conspiracy is conspiracy against the people.

But suppose the people approve of the persons who have, according to the law, been guilty of conspiracy against them—what, then? Are the people who show their approval of such men also guilty of "seditious conspiracy"? Or does the approval of the people automatically make the convicted men not guilty? This is a puzzle we'll have to submit to the Hon. "Artful" Meighen.

The fact remains that the people of Winnipeg have chosen three political prisoners as their representatives in the legislature. One other successful candidate had stood trial for seditious utterances. The question that naturally arises is: What is the government going to do about it? If the men are kept in prison they cannot represent the people in the legislature. It would appear, then, that if the members are not released that the government is guilty of "conspiracy" against the people of Winnipeg. And if the elected men are released, and it is inconceivable that they should not be, it surely would not be just or reasonable to keep the other men in prison, they having been convicted on the same charges.

PARADING UNDER FALSE COLORS

The Free Press has been asked why we persistently oppose the so-called One Big Union. It is a fair question, and one that we have no desire to avoid answering. We oppose the O.B.U. because it is founded upon false pretences. It claims to be an organization functioning for the benefit of the workers and has no record of accomplishment to substantiate its claim.

We are willing to take Labor papers as evidence. Glance over any paper controlled by the "international movement" and the reader sees multiplied instances where the workers have gained more wages or better conditions through their international unions. But a careful reading of an O.B.U. paper will fail to reveal anything of the kind. The columns of such papers are used largely to slander and vilify individuals who are really accomplishing something for the work-people of Canada. The Free Press will not be found attacking individuals. But it will be found opposing and condemning any force that is operating under false colors. We are only interested in organization of the workers that will benefit the working class. Any organization that is pretending to do that, and yet can show no evidence of anything but plans to disrupt and disorganize, will continue to receive opposition from this paper and the body it represents.

THE PUBLIC AND ITS RIGHTS

The platform of the Democratic Party is somewhat less ambiguous in its dealing with the relations between Capital and Labor, than that of the Republicans. The declaration of the Democrats is as follows:

"Labor and capital are both entitled to adequate compensation, and each has the right of organization, collective bargaining and speaking through representatives of their own selection, but neither class should take action which jeopardizes the public welfare."

While Mr. Gompers may not doubt be pleased about the party's stand on collective bargaining, there may be some question in his mind as to what the politicians mean when they say: "Neither class should take action which jeopardizes the public welfare." We presume that strikes jeopardize the public welfare, and the "action" in a strike is on the part of the workers. A strike, however, in its final analysis is usually the result, not of action, but of inaction, or the failure of an employer to meet the reasonable demands of his work-people.

We hear considerable about the protection of the public's "rights." But the public has no right to demand that any part of the people should be made to suffer in order that others might not be inconvenienced. If the public has "rights" it also has responsibilities and the only way in which strikes and resultant inconvenience can be eliminated is to remove the cause of strikes. No mandatory order to the workers forbidding them to strike will solve the question. As long as there are members of the employing class who deny to their work-people the right of a living wage and the time for proper leisure, there will be protests on the part of the toilers that no law

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A big stock of Middies in several of the newest styles, pullover effects, etc., will be closed out tomorrow at a sacrifice price. They are nicely made of crepe cloth, ging-ham and drill, in colors of rose, pink, tan, blue and fancy checks. All sizes to 44. Regular values \$2.98 to \$4.98. July Clearance Sale at

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100 Pcs. Wo's Oxfords, Boots & Pumps

This lot consists of a quantity of odd lines and sizes from our regular stock. The season's newest styles are included. Whether you prefer Oxfords, Pumps or Boots, the chances are we can fit you. In black, brown and white; 100 pairs to be closed out tomorrow morning. Regular values to \$16.50. July Clearance Sale.....

\$8.85

Table of Children's Footwear to be cleared

We've loaded a table with a quantity of odd lines in Footwear for children. Included are Running Shoes, Canvas Slippers, Sandals and Boots. A good assortment of sizes. Regular values to \$3.50. Sale Price.....

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will be able to prevent. If the "public" does not wish to be inconvenienced by strikes, it must guarantee to the workers the things for which they strike. And invariably these are just rights that are denied by the employing class of society. Does any person know of a fight for justice or freedom wherein the "public" has not been inconvenienced?

EDITOR'S NOTES

Why didn't they call it the "National Liberal, Conservative, Farmer, Labor and miscellaneous party"?

The workers are entitled to the opportunity for education. We must continue to agitate for a wider use of the country's educational institutions.

Judging by press reports of the proceedings, we would advise Manager Stark to make a strong bid for one of the U.S. party conventions as a midway attraction in 1924.

Says the Halifax Citizen: Lenin's comment and opinions on "Democracy" are certainly not reassuring to say the least, and bring to mind the old adage that "autocracy at best is very little different from autocracy at its worst."

If there should be a federal election this fall, wouldn't it be the proper thing for every trade unionist in this city to be a member of the Labor Party? Think it over, because the party will nominate the Labor candidate and conduct the Labor campaign.

Readers of the Free Press should feel free to make use of its columns. Contributions on any subject of interest to the workers are always welcome. The only kind of contribution we refuse are those containing indefinite charges against, or attacks upon, individuals.

Following the success of Walter Smitten and the local bricklayers in securing a first class agreement in this city, including a wage of \$1.25 per hour, the B.C. organ of the O.B.U. carries a most bitter attack upon Mr. Smitten. All of which is quite characteristic.

CIVIL SERVANTS WILL SOON RECEIVE BACK PAY CHEQUES

Ottawa.—Back pay cheques for 15 months will be paid to civil servants in the next two weeks. The total amount, according to an announcement in the house of commons, will be about \$4,000,000, that being the estimated cost of ante-dating the civil service classifications.

The individual amounts paid will be the difference between a civil servant's former salary and that awarded him by the classification schedules.

It is possible that two cheques will be issued for each person, one covering the year from April 1, 1919 to April 1, 1920, and the other for April May and June, 1920.

About 45,000 cheques will be sent out from the auditor-general's department.

NORRIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL NEXT SESSION

The Winnipeg Evening Free Press says:

"It was stated at the parliament building Tuesday that unofficial conversations between the lieutenant-governor and the provincial cabinet ministers, indicated clearly that Sir James Alkins would not grant another dissolution of the house unless it was rendered necessary by a government defeat or resignation."

"Opinions expressed by members of the cabinet," stated the Free Press, "indicate that the government have decided, at least temporarily, to continue to administer the affairs of the province until the next session when the real strength or weakness of the party can be determined."

New York longshoremen have decided not to call out the deep sea longshoremen in sympathy with the coastwise men but the deep sea men have been warned to be on their guard against handling coastwise goods and the union will raise \$500,000 to break the Merchants Association drive against unionism.

DULUTH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT STARTS CAMPAIGN

The trade union movement has started an organizing campaign, which includes the distribution of much literature, written in the following snappy style:

"No man or woman who works for a wage or salary can afford to go it alone these days. You can't get anywhere as an individual. You are simply lost in the great whirl of big things. We are living in an age of organization, and the worker who does not belong to a trade union is out of step with the times."

"Profiteering, abnormally high prices and other evils of which we complain, are the direct or indirect result of organization and combination among those who control the things you must buy to live and thrive."

"Without organization the wages of workers are subject to rise and fall according to the condition of the so-called labor market, and without regard to the cost of living. Organized labor gives stability to wages and working conditions."

"Think this over. Join a union. If

THOUGHT CANADIAN SOLDIERS SULLEN AND DISSATISFIED

Milwaukee.—"I am afraid I must say that the recent A.F. of L. convention in Montreal accomplished little for labor. At least that was my view of it, and for this reason I believe there is a crucial time confronting organized labor all over America that very few realize," said Frank J. Weber, Trades' Council delegate, upon his return to this city.

I am convinced from all I have been able to observe, that the capitalists are preparing for a concerted attack on national and international trade unions as soon as the newly elected congress comes in. The trouble is that very few labor men suspect what is coming, and this fact was shown in the convention."

Weber brought back some interesting facts about the returned Canadian soldiers. He represented them as sullen and dissatisfied. While they fought for democracy they intimate that they have lost a lot of the democracy they already had in Canada.

there is no union of your trade or calling in this vicinity, why not start one?"

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