THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

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TOILERS OF THE DEEP REVOLT; HALIBUT FISHERMEN ON STRIKE

How many union workmen in Vancouver are eating halibut these days? How many union workmen know that there is a strike going on at the present moment of the halibut fishermen?

A safe answer to the first query would be "A good many," and to the second, "Only a few."

A strike of halibut fishermen has been on since last November 18th. Up to that time the halibut fishermen had been paid one cent per pound for all fish caught by them. This is the price which has been paid for the last seven years, and the fishermen asked for a rise to one and a half cents per pound with the result that they were refused and came on strike.

Previous to seven years ago the fishermen got twenty-five cents for each fish caught, whether large or small. There are two companies operating vessels out of Vancouver, the New England Fish Co. and the Canadian Fishing Co. At New Westminster the B. C. Packers' Association is the only firm involved. The boats operating from Vancouver include five steamers carrying twelve dories each, and five gasoline schooners carrying six to eight dories each. The dories are big boats, wide on the beam, for the purpose of riding rough seas, and two men work from each boat whilst fishing. When the fishing ground is reached, the dory is lowered whilst the steamer slackens speed a little to facilitate launching. The tackle for lowering is kept to hooks at each end of the dory, and the instant the dory touches the water the men must be quick as a flash to unhitch the tackle. Sometimes a man may mistjudge the exact moment, with the possible result that both he and his mate find themselves in the sea, with a chance of being drowned for the sake of trying to make a living catching halibut for a cent a pound. Such things are by no means rare and the fishermen can tell of scores of deeds of surpassing heroism performed just as a matter of course by these hardy toilers of the sea.

The chief fishing grounds for the Canadian boats are Cape Scott, at the extreme northern end of Vancouver Island, the Queen Island grounds still further north, and Rose Spit, which is the favorite spot. During the winter the fish go to the deeper water, and the boats are often forced to seek shelter for days together from the terrible storms which lash themselves on the western shores of Vancouver Island at this season of the year. Indeed, the life of the halibut fisherman is at all times arduous and full of the perils which beset "those that go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business in great waters."

Halibut are caught with fishing gear called trawls. The trawl is a long ground line, about the size of clothes-line rope, with short "gangin" lines hung on it. The big halibut hooks are bent on to the "gangins." The hooks are baited with herring. The ground line of the trawl is about 700 fathoms long and carries about 400 hooks. The trawl is not coiled down in a tub or a basket, as Eastern fishing traditions say it has always been coiled down since the first Gloucester fishing vessel brought the first quintals of fish from the banks of Newfoundland. But on the Pacific Coast, from Cape Flattery to Behring Sea, for a strange reason that no fisherman knows, or for no reason at all, it is coiled down in a "skate," or rather two "skates." A "skate" is a diamond of canvas shaped like the flat fish called a skate, with a rope's end rove into each clew. The coil of trawl is placed between the two, and tied with the rope's ends. The fishermen speak of "skates" of trawl or "skates" of gear. Each dory carries from six to eight "skates," and when the dories leave the ship these "skates" are all baited and ready to set.

The men who are on strike are members of the Halibut Fishermen's Union of the Pacific, which has branches in several cities, including Seattle and Vancouver, from both of which ports the men are now on strike. They are likely to be affiliated with the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council at an early date. In the meantime, any union man who knows that a strike is going on, should not need more than this hint to enable him to decide how much halibut he is going to eat until the halibut fishermen are able to say the trouble is settled to their satisfaction. And incidentally, when you visit your favorite hash foundry, and the ministering sylph should say that they are not able to get halibut, don't grant, just laugh, and say you hope they won't be able to get any till the strike is settled.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 29th

The chief interest today lay in Parker Williams' criticism of the way the Government has acted in the past on the auditing business of the Province. The opposition had pointed out years ago that an audit was necessary, and now things had got so slack even the Government had woke up to it.

He was glad to see that the gluttonous raids on the treasury by favorites were to be stopped; in years gone by the press used to exercise restraint on them, but now they wanted a share along with the rest. He would support the bill.

Private bills referred to Private Bills Committee: To incorporate Pacific Coast Casualty Company; to incorporate city of Armstrong; Municipal Improvement Act (Bowser) read first time; Civil Service Bill, reported progress.

Thursday, January 30th.

The gas factory was awfully dull today. The Civil Service Act, Attachment of Debts Act, Distress Act, Provincial Museum Act, and Auditor-General Act, wound their dreary way through committee of the whole, and the funeral adjourned after an hour's work.

Friday, January 31st.

At last it came, and was disposed of as follows:

Moved by Williams and seconded by Place—

Whereas, for a period of five months, a strike or lockout has existed at the mines of the Canadian Collieries, Vancouver Island;

And whereas, said strike or lockout has resulted in much hardship and financial loss to mine workers and other citizens of Cumberland and Ladysmith;

And whereas, by reason of this closing a shortage of fuel exists in Victoria and Vancouver;

And whereas, the miners believe the question at issue is one affecting the safety of their own lives in the mines;

Therefore be it resolved, That in the opinion of this House, the Government should immediately take steps to determine whether the questions at issue, are questions of safety of the life of the mine workers.

What happened? Mr. Speaker looked at it, hesitated, and finally suggested laying it over till Monday. Being no chicken, Williams promptly objected to the delay; up comes Sir Dick, with an opinion that while he was not opposed to the discussion,

(Continued on page 4).

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION OF TRADES UNIONS IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN WORLD'S PEACE

The attempt which has been made in the Old Country to couple the organized labor movement of Canada with the election trick naval policy of the Tory government of Canada, has brought forth a statement of the views of organized labor in Canada from the Executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Following is the full text of the letter sent to the "Daily Citizen" prefaced by the comments of that newspaper as follows:

"In the letter given below Mr. J. C. Watters, on behalf of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, states the attitude of organized labor in the Dominion towards the offer made by the Canadian government to present the Mother Country three battleships costing £7,000,000.

"The offer has caused a great beating of Imperialist tom-toms. It has been taken to represent the united sentiment of Canadians.

"Mr. Watters dispels the illusion. The offer is nothing more than a party move.

"Organized labor in Canada, Mr. Watters points out, is solidly against the spread of jingoism and the armaments craze.

"Unfortunately the Canadian labor men have not, as yet, a direct vote in the Dominion parliament, but they are anxious to take part in a united empire labor movement in favor of peace.

"British jingoists have exploited the colonies more than enough. It is time to show that the British peoples overseas are not the bloodthirsty ruffians they are often made out to be."

J. C. Watters, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, writes to the Citizen as follows:

In reply to your communication relative to the proposed gift of battleships by the Dominion to the Mother Country, it will best serve the purpose of all concerned to provide you with a statement of facts defining the position of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada thereon.

At each succeeding convention for the last five years the Congress has urged that, since the capitalists of the world create wars, the capitalists themselves should do the fighting. At the Quebec convention of 1909 a strong resolution endorsing international peace and pledging the Congress to work for the establishment of peace between the people of civilized countries was carried unanimously. At the following convention in Fort William this attitude was reaffirmed, while at the Calgary convention of 1911 as a further means of preventing war, a resolution in favor of the general strike was also unanimously adopted.

At the same convention a resolution calling for a closer affiliation and a more definite connection with the workers in the other parts of the Empire with Canada as a means of counteracting the baneful effects being produced by the so-called Imperialists in appealing to the sentiment of the people in order to cloak the ignoble purpose behind it, that of profit-bringing—this to be secured by an exchange of fraternal delegates—was also unanimously adopted. At the Guelph convention of the present year, 1912, by adopting the report of the executive, the Congress is still further committed to the establishment of international peace by instructing its executive to get in touch with the officials of the organized labor movement in Great Britain for the purpose of jointly directing the energies of the workers in Great Britain and in Canada to prevent the spread of the jingo fever and to avert the unspeakable horrors of war.

In addition to being pledged to work for the establishment of international peace, the Congress is also opposed to any naval policy being put into effect in Canada before the people through a referendum vote, decide, first, whether a navy should be established, and second, what the naval policy should be.

At no time, however, has the Congress declared against military or naval armaments by the British Empire as a means of defence against the possibility of aggressive action by one or more highly-developed powers, even though such a possibility is very remote. The viewpoint of the organized workers in Canada is, as far as it is possible to judge from the sentiment in evidence at the convention, that just in proportion to the spread of education, and the crystallization of international working-class solidarity, will the possibility of war be kept further and further in the background until the human race has marched so far away from savagery and in the direction of a higher humanity that the relic of savagery, the possibility of human butchery, dignified by the name of war, can never again overtake the human family.

Apart from a referendum vote of the workers in Canada there is no means of ascertaining just what the sentiment is with regard to the proposed action of the government in making this gift to Great Britain with the conditions attached. It is quite possible that the majority of the workers see in this action an added guarantee of not only preserving the integrity of the Empire, but of insuring the world's peace. Others, again, may support the proposed action of the government on the ground that no harm will result from being prepared for and eventuality, while all the machines manufactured for the destruction of human life will be useless when the day arrives—and it is rapidly drawing near—when the hands of the workers refuse to set these machines in operation, as a result of the awakening and growth of working-class internationalism.

On the other hand, it is very probable that the overwhelming sentiment of the workers is opposed to the expenditure of money for purpose of further armament, as a protest mainly against the spread of jingoism and militarism.

Had we in Canada a parliamentary group of labor representatives in the Dominion house such as you have in the British house the answer to the government would be made in no uncertain tones. Such an answer, we believe, would be consistent with the attitude of the labor representatives in both Great Britain, Germany and other European nations towards the expenditure of money in armaments.

With the ripe experience acquired by the labor group in the British house not alone in domestic affairs but in the world's politics, would it not be well to give us in Canada the benefit of your experience by advising how we can best co-operate with you in maintaining the word's peace?

The workers of Canada desire to lend their quota of assistance to the organized workers of the world in ushering in a better day, and no more practical way suggests itself than to co-operate closely with our working comrades in the Mother Country.

Assuring you of our earnest desire to co-operate with you, and with best wishes for the continued growth and usefulness of your organized labor movement, both industrially and politically.—Fraternally yours,

J. C. WATTERS.
(On behalf of the Executive Council.)

THE CRY OF TOIL.

We have fed you all for a thousand years,
And you hail us still unfed,
Though there's never a dollar of your wealth
But marks the workers' dead.

We have yielded our best to give you rest,
And you lie on a crimson wool;
For, if blood be the price of all your wealth,
Good God! we ha' paid it in full.

There's never a mine blown skyward now
But we're buried alive for you;
There's never a wreck drifts shoreward now
But we are its ghastly crew.

Go reckon our dead by the fogges red,
And the factories where we spin;
If blood be the price of your cursed wealth,
Good God! we ha' paid it in full.

We have fed you all for a thousand years,
For that was our doom, you know;
From the day when you chained us in your fields
To the strike of a week ago.

You ha' eaten our lives and our babies and wives,
And we're told it's your legal share;
But if blood be the price of your lawful wealth,
Good God! we ha' bought it fair.

—RUDYARD KIPLING.

Jerome on Labor Unrest.

The unrest of Labor is the healthiest sign of the age. Blind in itself and maddened by injustice, Labor can, like Samson of old, shatter the temple in its despair, bring the whole social stucture down in ruin and in dust. But, given hope, it will build up, not destroy. Myself, I have no fear of Labor. I see a body of men realising the vastness of the power that has come into their hands, and recognising the duties and responsibilities that it involves—determined to claim for themselves no more than justice and expediency demand; grasping the interdependence in every civilised state of class upon class—wishful, as one of their leaders, in language that other political parties might do well to learn, has said, to regard themselves as citizens first and as members of this or that particular section afterwards. The social revolution has got to come. The duty of every thinking man is to help to prepare the way for it—that it may come upon us, not armed with anger and with hatred, but clothed in reason, bearing promise in its hand.—Jerome K. Jerome.

WIFE WANTED.

Striking Garment Workers May Apply

A farmer in Alberta has written to the striking garment workers in New York asking them to choose him a wife.

"I would like to marry one of the strikers," ran his letter, which was read to a mass meeting of the feminine strikers yesterday at Labor temple by one of their leaders. "There must be some good wives among the thousands of workers out on strike. Here, where I live, there is nothing but married women and children. I am a lonely bachelor, 45 years of age, and I would not object to a widow of 30 with two children. I am six foot tall, weigh 200 pounds, and have not a mark or a scar."

The letter signed by Thomas C. Moore, was received at the union headquarters, and the officials delegated Miss Rose Gratz to read it. She had been in the thick of the strike from the start, having once been arrested during a riot in Harlem. The letter was received with shouts of enthusiasm, and it was said a special committee would be appointed to pass on the merits of volunteers.

UNION MEETINGS AT LABOR TEMPLE FOR COMING WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 9.
Stage Employees.

Monday, Feb. 10.
Glass Workers; Lathers; Electrical Workers, No. 213; Halibut Fishermen; Bro. of Carpenters; Amal. Engineers.

Tuesday, Feb. 11.
Sign Painters; Shinglers; Pressmen; Amal. Carpenters; Stone Cutters; Bricklayers.

Wednesday, Feb. 12.
Stereotypers; Cement Workers; Marble Cutters; Amal. Carpenters; Street Railwaymen; Plumbers; Stationary Engineers.

Thursday, Feb. 13.
Barbers; Horseshoers; Marble Cutters' Helpers; Painters; Sheet Metal Workers; Machinists.

Friday, Feb. 14.
Structural Iron Workers; Parliamentary Committee; Floor Layers.

Saturday, Feb. 15.
Bakers.

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR "B. C. FEDERATIONIST?"

If not, don't let the matter drift.

Drop a post card to "B. C. Federationist," Room 210, Labor Temple, giving particulars of address and trouble.

It might not be the Editor's fault, although there is no reason why you should not blame him on general principles. If he was a man it would be different, but being an editor, well—

TRADES COUNCIL MEETING HELD THURSDAY NIGHT

Labor Temple, Feb. 6th, 1913.

The regular meeting of the Council was called to order this evening at 8 p.m., President Benson in the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting approved after corrections being made in list of Moulders' credentials, and contribution of Tailors to striking Miners.

Credentials.

Street Railwaymen, F. Haigh.
Civic Employees, J. McBath.
Amal. Carpenters, D. Morgan.
Bakers, R. Clements.
Teamsters, A. Thomas.
Garment Workers, Miss McCrae and Mrs. Puddipatt.
Tile-layers, T. A. Grey.
Plumbers, C. L. Bonander.

Communications.

From Moose Carnival Committee asking endorsation of carnival.

Motion: That letter be filed, and Carnival Committee notified that Council has not yet endorsed carnival.

Executive Board Report.

Room 210, Jan. 27th, 1913.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee was called by President Benson this evening at 8 p.m. Present: Benson, Sully, Manson, Hoover, Campbell, Foxcroft, Midgley, Trotter, Wilkinson.

The President explained that he had called the meeting at the request of delegates from five unions, for the purpose of considering what action could be taken to safeguard the interests of the workmen who will be employed on the filling in of False Creek, as outlined in the agreement between the city and the C. N. R.

Recommended: That we condemn the agreement unless a clause calling for the payment of $3.00 per day of eight hours for laborers is inserted.

The Secretary was instructed to notify the City Council of above and to telephone aldermen also.

Motion: That request for a special meeting of the Trades and Labor Council be not acceded to. Carried.

Meeting adjourned 9 p.m.

Proceedings of meeting concurred in.

Room 210, Labor Temple,
Feb. 5th, 1913.

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 8 p.m., the following members being present: Benson, Sully, Midgley, Manson, Foxcroft, Hoover, Wilkinson.

Communication.

From W. M. Dennies, asking leave of absence from Council meeting of Feb. 6th. Referred to Statistician. Concurred in.

From Musicians' Union, acknowledging action of Council re unfair orchestras of Messrs. Franklin and Williamson. Recommendation. Filed. Concurred in.

From City Clerk, acknowledging receipt of our letter re wages and hours of laborers involved in False Creek agreement. Recommendation. Filed. Concurred in.

From Labor Commission, announcing their sittings at Vancouver Court House, March 7th and following days. Recommendation. Filed, and brought to notice of committee appointed to appear before Commission on behalf of Council. Concurred in.

From Musicians' Union, asking for further information re sittings of Labor Commission. Recommendation. Filed. Concurred in.

From J. E. Wilton, Typographical Union, asking for committee to be appointed from Council to co-operate with him and others for the purpose of gathering evidence as to conditions of employment in shops, offices, hotels, etc., to be presented to Labor Commission at its next sitting. Recommendation. Referred to Council. Laid over to New Business.

From Seattle, re tailors being imported from Seattle. Recommendation. Referred to Tailors' Union. Concurred in.

From Board of Works, acknowledging our letter re paying of $2.00 per day for city relief work. Recommendation. Filed. Concurred in.

Bills Recommended for Payment.

Labor Temple Co., for rent	$33.00
Vancouver Province Printing Co.	2.10
World Ptg. and Pub. Co.	1.75
Granville Stationery Co.	.90
V. R. Midgley, expenses as delegate to B. C. Federation of Labor	20.00

Concurred in.

From V. R. Midgley, enclosing check for $300 for 5,000 shares in "B. C. Federationist, Ltd." Recommendation: That communication be received and Council allot 5,000 shares to B. C. Federation of Labor. The Trustees of B. C. Federation of Labor, as named in the communication, are: J. Kavanagh, A. Watchman, and C. Siverts. Concurred in.

Motion: That we hold our future meetings at 7.30 p.m. on meeting nights of the Council, unless business of unusual importance is to be transacted, in which case, President and Secretary shall arrange for special meetings. Carried.

A delegation from Civic Employees appeared before the committee and asked that Council use its influence in conjunction with Civic Employees to have Board of Works give preference to Union Labor. Recommendation: That request be granted. Concurred in.

The Secretary was instructed to obtain from the City Solicitor a copy of the re-drafted wage clause in proposed False Creek agreement.

(Continued on Page 4)

WAGE CLAUSE IS CONCEDED; WORKERS MUST WATCH C.N.R.

For the time being the fight seems to be won. The city council in full session last Monday night changed the wage clause in the proposed agreement between the City and Canadian Northern Railway, and the change now says that the C. N. R. is to pay, or cause to be paid to laborers the same wages for the same hours as are paid to laborers working for the city. Laborers working for the city are paid $3 for eight hours work.

That does not mean that all possibility of trouble is over. On the contrary it means that the workmen will have to keep both eyes open to see that they are not defrauded by some sharp trickery of the C. N. R.

The question arises, "Suppose the C. N. R. refuses to pay the $3 for eight hours when the work starts up, how can they be made to pay?" Well, there is a penalty clause in the agreement whereby the C. N. R. must put up a satisfactory bond to the city before the bed of False Creek is given over to them by the city.

That bond has to be put up to assure the carrying out of the terms of their agreement by the C. N. R.

The wages of the laborers are one of the terms of the agreement, and if the C. N. R. try to pay less than $3 for eight hours, the city council can bring them to terms by the bond which they will hold—that is if the workmen keep their eyes wide open and do not let the Council fall slack on that point. Otherwise they will get little consideration.

When the famous "clause 38" came up on Monday night the significant silence which prevailed in the council chamber was evidence of the fact that the clause was of more than passing moment, and was not going to be passed as it read. A little preliminary mumbling took place, and then Ald. Woodside rose and moved that a wage of $3 per day be paid to laborers by the C. N. R. on this work.

Here indeed was a living issue to be fought for! Three dollars a day seemed right, but no mention was made as to the number of hours the men would have to work for that money. Little wonder that the lawyer of the C. N. R.—E. P. Davis—made no objection.

Then Ald. Ramsay got up and raised the question of hours, and finally moved an amendment that the hours be eight.

Then followed a really delicious piece of political trimming on the part of Ald. Woodside. After the eight hour question had been debated for some time, and he could see that the feeling of the house was going that way, he altered his motion to include the eight hours.

Ultimately a motion prevailed that the C. N. R. shall pay or cause to be paid the same rate of wages for the same hours as are paid by the city, that is, $3 for 8 hours. And the matter ended at that so far as the council is concerned.

It now remains to be seen what the ratepayers will do when the agreement comes to be voted upon by them.

After that, if the agreement is carried, it remains to be seen whether the C. N. R. will try to break the wage clause, and if they do. Whether the council will make them live up to it.

In the council chamber on Monday night were many members of the Trades and Labor Council and the Civic Employees' Union, who watched the antics of some of the "friends of labor" with amusement for most of them, but only disgust for others.

It proved conclusively that in the last analysis the only friends the workers have are themselves, and it would be well that they should remember that fact when they have forgotten all others.

DR. BRYDON JACK LECTURES FOR TRADES COUNCIL

Dr. Brydone Jack, chairman of the Vancouver school board, delivered a lecture on "Technical Education" in the Labor Temple, January 29th, under the auspices of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council.

The doctor made his subject interesting, and it was evident that he had made patient and careful study of the question. During the course of an hour's address he said, among many other things:

The subject of technical education is an exceedingly broad one, and embraces so many subjects and phases of education that it is somewhat difficult to determine just where to start and where to end; moreover it is a subject which has engaged the attention of many educationalists, scientists and others of different nationalities, and so far apparently there is a wide divergence of opinion as to the best means of prosecuting the work.

The question as to whether it is advisable even has been debated, also whether continuation schools, night schools or separate technical schools would best further the object which many consider desirable to attain.

Practically speaking, technical training is an education for industrial purposes. Generally speaking, though, the terms manual training, industrial education, technical education, and vocational education are used, and each term has its special meaning and conveys a definite impression as to what is meant.

It is widely recognised that in any system of primary and secondary education both the hand and the brain should be trained to act together and be of mutual assistance, and in order to obtain the best results we must take into consideration the physical side of education, the national and collective advantage which is derived from the healthy and intelligent upbringing of the children and youth of the people, and the urgency of the need for better and more systematic training for the duties of citizenship, and for home making and family claims—a training which must consist of a sufficiently long course of liberal education, blended towards its end with the practical duties of life, whether in the workshop or the home.

Large numbers of young people of immature mind and incomplete training, without secure possession of the essentials of a general education, drift into temporary occupations that lead nowhere, and when old enough to enter upon some permanent employment they have lost through disuse much of what they learned at school, and frequently have acquired a habit of irregular application that greatly impedes their further progress.

We have every reason to believe that within the near future it is the intention of the government to establish technical schools in British Columbia, but we are unable at the present time to give you any details. I believe they are waiting until the report of the commission on technical schools is published, and they have made some further inquiry into the subject.

There is a distinction between trade schools and technical schools. The technical school is intended to broaden the knowledge of the principles of respective trades or employment, thereby tending to increase the efficiency of the workers, to shorten the hours of work, and to increase the rate of wages.

The trade school should be, to a certain extent, under the supervision of union representatives, and in this way there would be very little danger of their furnishing skilled workmen for the various trades in numbers sufficiently large to affect the labor market and thus bring about a lowering of wages.

The union representatives should have opportunities to watch the state of the market as to the number of persons employed in various trades and the possible dangers of too early and too definite specialisation in schools. This can only be done by keeping in touch with trade requirements, by the help of employers and trade unionists.

The board has discussed the question and has even gone so far as to pass resolutions respecting an advisory committee to the board, consisting of representatives from the Trades and Labor Council, Board of Trade, and other representative associations, to assist them in their work, but nothing definite has as yet been done, because there is no provision in the act for the establishment of such an advisory board, and while it was felt that much benefit would result in taking such course, it was deemed best to postpone definite action pending proper legislative power.

I feel that I cannot close without advising you to study the admirable recommendations of the commission of 1912 on technical schools in Manitoba. They are as follows:

(Continued on page four)

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FRIDAY.....FEBRUARY 7, 1913

AS YOU LIKE IT.

For how many thousands of years there has been some form of working class organization, it would be impossible to tell.

The struggle of the "haves" and the "have nots" would appear—from what we can gather of history after eliminating the names of royal persons and the dates of battles—to be a very old one, indeed.

In all ages, the world's feeding seems to have been closely associated with its fighting, and is still largely so. We keep the products of the super-civilization of our ancestors in museums, lest those things should be damaged by the super-savage methods which we as an improved race find necessary to the begetting of sustenance.

Religion, Art, Science, and Literature are all among the things that matter, but only in a secondary or subsidiary way; and whatever importance they may have vanishes as the mist before the morning sun, in face of the Titanic struggles of men for the bread that perisheth.

Man cannot live by bread alone 'tis true, but if he should be a workman, the necessary variety is supplied in the course of his efforts to find a chance of earning it. So it would ever seem to have been. But as the organized hewers of wood and drawers of water in this year of grace, it is not essential that we should inquire at this moment into what our forbears did in the way of labor organization in the days when all the world's wealth came from handicraft alone.

The industrial system in which we live, and the labor organizations to which we belong, are the direct outcome and growth of the mechanical age of industry. The close of the 18th century witnessed improvements in machinery which turned the quiet banks of purling streams into noisy hives of busy life and commerce.

Close on the heels of that came the mighty all-conquering monster Steam, bearing in its train the factory system which has done more to make nations what they are than ever did books of Holy Writ. The Factory with fortune for master, and slavery from morning sun till dewey eve for thousands of "these my little ones." The Factory which reared statues to the memory of master in the streets of the great textile cities of Northern England; statues every stone of which is built of the petrified blood of children for the perpetuation of the most dearly beloved and greatest of all British gods—Humbug.

The factory system, having once established itself, brought a steady flow of rural workers from the country-side who became the great industrial army of the cities. Out of the iniquities which sprang up side by side with this change, came the rudimentary forms of labor organization as we know it, and which gradually grew in numbers and aspiration as the years went by.

Once the first great struggles for the mere right to combine or organize were over, the worker found himself in a position where the possibilities of his new power seemed almost unlimited. Labor organization grew apace, and the scope of its ambitions was only equalled by the rising opposition of the employers.

During strikes and great industrial conflicts the workers found themselves forbidden to do this and that "because it is against the law." They also discovered that the law was capable of being twisted and turned in so many ways, that after the law had been satisfied, little was left them to fight with. Hurled back on their own ranks, as they were time after time, bitter defeat brought forth the idea that the place where the law was made, was the place where they ought to be, in order that the law might be made by them and for them.

They discovered by bitter experience also, that no matter how much they might like their kind, or how loyal they might wish to be to their trade unions, when it came to sustaining a big strike, the chief enemy was one that none could repulse or deny. His name was Hunger, and though all Right was theirs, yet all Might belonged to him, and more galling to them than all else, their masters knew it, and could safely await the hour when such a simple proposition would bring them, starved in body and broken in spirit, to beg of him the opportunity to earn bread for them and theirs.

So they hied them to the hustings, and the first attempts of the workers to gain redress by political effort was through the medium of the old political parties, and they thereby discovered a new kind of animal—one that could bite at both ends—for though political names might differ, they served equally well to cover the teeth of their masters.

Out of the mass of disgust and disappointment came the notion of electing men of the working class to represent the economic interests of the class. This took practical shape, and partly owing to the fact that the elected themselves were in some cases untrained in the exact science of wealth production, the attempt has been a temporary failure. Moreover, many of those whom they represented were not conscious of the fact that, wrapped up in the bodies of them and their kind, lay the origin of all wealth ever produced for the service of men. It was the purblind leading the blind.

Having delegated their authority to these men, the workers as individuals did not maintain their interest, or trouble much until the plan had failed as it was doomed to do. As a class they have a weakness for delegating their power and authority to other people. Some one brings them into the world. Some one performs the last offices upon them when they leave it. And, up to the present, they have been willing for some one else to administer their affairs whilst they are in the world, not forgetting, however, to complain if the results have not been satisfactory.

Just at present, they are very much in the position of "as you were," and some, rather than admit that the failure of the workers to gain control of political power and use it in the material interest of their class is the fault of the workers, have abandoned the idea of politics and fallen back for strength on the broken reed of industrial power alone.

If the workers are not quite certain themselves as to their best weapon, let them watch the enemy. As long as he can see them struggling for chances of employment which are not plentiful enough to give work to all, he is not afraid of effective revolt. But when he sees them aspiring to lay hands on the law making machinery by which he maintains himself in power and authority, his frantic desire to prevent them should be sufficient proof that they are on the right track.

The truth of the matter is, that the workers are forced to live such narrow and restricted lives that they are for all the world as though they were confined within a circular stockade with a few knot holes round the sides. They take an occasional peep through a hole, and all they can see is just that portion of the outside which lies within the limited compass of their vision, and they make the mistake of thinking it the same all round, only to discover, on attempting to work out the theory, that there is more in the problem than they have seen through their peep-hole. It is the man who climbs to the top of the pole in the middle, and can see the proposition as a whole, who is in any position to form a practicable plan.

However, the temporary tendency of a portion of the working class movement to abandon the idea of ever again hoping to effect beneficial changes in the economic condition of the class by political effort, will surely be followed by that delicious calm which only comes after delirium.

In a country which is only partly settled, and where a large portion of the workers are only transient, with no idea of permanently establishing themselves, and where thousands are employed under conditions which, owing to being far removed from centres of settlement and civilization do not permit those men to acquire political enfranchisement, it is no more than natural that they should look askance at politics as a means of deliverance. They are right in their methods insofar as their methods are suitable to the specialized circumstances of their particular case. But to offer those methods as a solution for the working class problem as a whole, is only knot hole judgment.

"He that in haste would make a mighty fire commenceth it with weak straws," and despite the apparent confusion, the workers are gradually coming to realize that the mad struggle for jobs which mean bread interferes with that wholehearted co-operation between man and man which is necessary to effect abiding changes in the economic interest of the workers.

Each generation by patient effort produces some slight alteration in the social and economic fabric of its time, and the sum total of those changes marks the progress of mankind from primeval slime to the days when he shall have harnessed all forces of Earth and Air to do the bidding of men and women who are free because they have suffered.

THE WIVES OF WORKING MEN.

Have you ever stopped to think that it is from our homes that the next generation of working people come? It is our boys and girls that go forth into the factory, the office and the shop "to earn their own living."

Knowing what your husband's union has done for him and his fellow workers—given them better hours, better pay and better working conditions—why is it you do not urge with all your strength upon your son and daughter the advisability of joining a union as soon as they enter the labor world?

Of course, you rather expect your son will eventually join a union because he is in industry to stay, and in order to earn the best wages and working conditions it is to his advantage to belong to a union.

But what of your daughter? When you send her out for a position you figure she is only working a few short years (till she marries) and her salary is not of much importance.

How do you figure this? Does it cost you less to clothe and feed your daughter than it does your son? Is your daughter so much stronger physically that she is able to work ten or fifteen hours for small pay, while your son works only eight hours (if a member of an organization) and for the best pay that collective bargaining can produce?

Have you considered that your daughter, working for less than a living wage, is not only bringing down the salary of self-supporting women who are working all the time, but is also, in many instances, competing with your son and bringing down his wages to a lower standard.

Wherever unionism has entered it has made conditions better, and its powers in this direction are unlimited if you give it proper support.

Do you ask for the union label when you buy your family supplies?

The next time you go shopping and see "cheap goods" on a bargain conter, before you buy stop and consider if they really are cheap.

Isn't it time, for the protection of your home and your family, that you demand the union label and urge upon your daghter the vital necessity of joining a union?

Activity is the secret of success in the endeavor to organize the non-union men and women. Faith in the ultimate success is half of the battle gained; it is hard work which will accomplish results.

General Strike Madness.

The advocates of the general strike, embracing one industry, and if necessary all industries, ignore the important fact that the lock-out has been one of the most potent weapons of manufacturers' associations to starve working men and women into submission. The general strike in one or more industries would, to all practical purposes, have the same effect as the lock-out. It would, at the same time, relieve employers' associations of the odium in resorting to the harsh measure of trying to gain a point by the inhuman process of slow starvation. The advocates of the general strike are, to say the least, poor and incompetent leaders.

DIRECT ACTION AND ANARCHISM

By Robert Hunter

Direct action and anarchism have much in common. Both lay emphasis on a series of oppositions. Both are anti-parliamentary, anti-patriotic, anti-militarist, anti-vote, anti-dues, anti-insurance, anti-contracts. Both believe in a vague federalism of ill-defined and hastily-grouped workers. These revolutionary unionists declare for the general strike, which is a form of the insurrections urged by the anarchists. The sabotage of the revolutionists bears a striking resemblance to the anarchists' propaganda of the deed, even when it leads to assassination. Leadership is abhorred by both, but an inner circle of daring revolutionists is advocated by both. "We must form," said Bakunine, "not indeed the army of revolution—the army can never be anything but the people—but yet a sort of staff for the revolutionary army . . . . No very great number of such men is requisite. A hundred revolutionists, firmly and seriously bound together, are enough for the international organization of all Europe."

This idea of an inner clique to lead the ignorant and inert mass plays a great part in both the anarchist and syndicalist movements. Bakunine formed a secret society in the midst of the International Workingmen's Association, and after that organisation was abandoned in 1871 the anarchists continued to advocate the same tactics in subsequent conferences. Today we find Pouget, the leader of the French syndicalists, insisting that the enlightened minority in the French labor unions should be the unrestrained guardians of the organisation. He says: "The conscious minority will act without taking account of the obsinate mass or of the unconscious who have not yet been animated by the spirit of revolt and may be considered as human zeros." And Pouget concludes: "Thus appears the enormous difference in method which distinguishes syndicalism from democracy; the latter, by the mechanism of universal suffrage, gives direction to the unconscious . . . . . and stifles the minorities who bear within them the hopes of the future. The syndicalist method gives a result diametrically opposed to this: Impulsion is instilled into the conscious, the rebels, and all favorably inclined are called upon to act and to participate in the movement." The position here taken by Pouget is incorporated into the very constitution of the French Federation of Labor, which makes it possible for a closely organized minority to completely control that organisation. The trade union with a score of members has the same voting power in the federation as the trade union with 10,000 members. Opposition to majority rule has always been as much a cardinal principle of the anarchists as it is of Tammany Hall, and it today stands as the policy and practice of the French unions.

The anarchists in the International fought, as the revolutionary unionists do today, for what is called purely economic action. They had no faith in political parties, in parliamentary methods or, in fact, in any effort to capture public powers. For instance, the anarchist, Bordat, said before the Lyons tribunal in 1893, what most of the revolutionary unionists today would thoroughly assent to. "To send workingmen to a parliament," he declared, "is to act like a mother who would take her daughter to a brothel." "Working class candidates," said Bakunine, "transferred to bourgeois conditions of life and into an atmosphere of completely bourgeoise political ideas, ceasing to be actually workers in order to become statesmen, will become bourgeois, and possibly will become even more bourgeois than the bourgeois themselves. For it is not the men who make positions, but, on the contrary, positions which make the men.' Such have been the criticisms of the anarchists levied against working class political action. Any one who will turn to the literature of revolutionary unionism will find again and again the same thought. In advocating trade union action, however, the anarchists always opposed officials and sought a decentralized federation of groups. The chief purpose of the vague organisation they advocated was little more than to enable the workers to keep in touch with one another and to serve the needs of a quick and widespread insurrection. They believed that the world was on the verge of an upheaval, and that mere agitation would suffice to create a violent revolution that would usher in the new order of society. Parliaments would then disappear, but trade unions were necessary, for, as Professor Hins declared at Basle in 1869, they represented in the germ the organization of the new social system. "Bakunine glorifies," says Plechanoff, "the essentially economic tactics of the old English trade unions, and has not the faintest idea that it was these ver ytactics that made the English workers the tail of the Liberal party."

The revolutionary unionists today believe, as the anarchists always have believed, that the world is ready for a tremendous upheaval. The new order is waiting to be born, and the sole work to be done is to arouse in the people the will to start the revolution. How much like the views of the syndicalists, as given in an earlier paper, are the following declarations of Bakunine and Kropotkin. "The revolution, as we understand it," said Bakunine, "must on its very first day completely and fundamentally destroy the state and all state institutions." The workers must then proceed to the "confiscation of all productive capital and instruments of labor in favor of the associations of laborers, which will use them for collective production."

"The first act of the social revolution," says Kropotkin, "will be a work of destruction. . . . The government will be overthrown first." And following that "the people will also, without waiting for any directions from above, abolish private property by forcible expropriation. . . . The reorganization of production will not be possible in a few days,' especially as the revolution will presumably not break out in all Europe at a time. The people will, consequently, have to take temporary measures to assure themselves, first of all, of food, clothing, and shelter. First, the populace of the insurgent cities will take possession of the dealers' stock of food and of the grain warehouses and slaughterhouses. Volunteers make an inventory of the provisions found and distribute printed tabular statements by the millions. Henceforth, free taking of all that is present in abundance; rations of what has to be measured out, with preference to the sick and weak; a supply for deficiencies by importation from the country (which will come in plenty if we produce things that the farmer needs and put them at his disposal), and also by the inhabitants of the city entering upon the cultivation of the royal parks and meadows in the vicinity. The people will take possession of the dwelling houses in like manner. Again, volunteers make lists of the available dwellings and distribute them. People come together by streets, quarters, districts, and agree about the allotment of the dwellings that were on hand will be first have to be borne are soon to be done away; the artisans of the building trades need only work a few hours a day, and soon the overspacious dwellings that were on hand will be sensibly altered and model houses, entirely new, will be built. The same procedure will be followed with regard to clothing. The people take possession of the great clothiers' establishments and volunteers list the stocks. People take freely what is on hand in abundance, in rations what is limited in quantity. What is lacking is supplied in the shortest of time by the factories with their perfected machines."

I quote the above statements of the two chief anarchists to illustrate the similarity between their view and those advocated by the syndicalists. The latter are extremely vague regarding the actual procedure of the general strike. Some of them believe that th general strike may be solely a peaceable abstention from work. Most of them have, however, been forced in discussion to agree that a peaceable general strike would surely meet with defeat. As Buisson says: "If the general strike remains the revolution of folded arms, if it does not degenerate into violent insurrection, one cannot see how a strike of fifteen, thirty or even sixty days could bring into the industrial form of government and into the present social system changes great enough to determine their fall." To be sure, the revolutionary unionists do not lay so much emphasis on the abolition of government as do the anarchists, but their plan leads to nothing less than that. If the capitalist class is to be locked out—whatever that may mean—one must conclude that the workers intend in some manner without the use of public powers to gain control of the tools of production. In any case, they will be forced, in order to achieve any possible success, to take the factories, the mines, and the mills, and to put the work of production into the hands of the masses. If the state interferes, as it undoubtedly will, in the most vigorous manner, the strikers will be forced to fight the state. In other words, we shall see the general strike become an insurrection and the people without arms carrying on a civil war against the armies of the government. We might, of course, pass over with light hearts much of the above interesting and harmless speculation were it not for the violent and bitter attacks made by both anarchists and syndicalists upon any form of political party action. We can afford to be tolerant toward any positive proposition, and even adverse criticism, except when they menace organisation. When, however, a group of men conspire to create suspicion and to promote distrust of all Socialist party action, we are forced not only to defend ourselves, but even to put the proposals of our opponents under critical analysis. And the general strike of the syndicalists is only the insurrection of the anarchists in disguise.

Indeed, syndicalism, as a whole, has been defined as anarchism in disguise. Certainly the entire forces of anarchism have been turned to the service of the syndicalist movement. Emma Goldman, Alexander Berkman, and other anarchists in New York have recently formed a syndicalist educational league, and from now on, even in this country, every assault made by the anarchists upon the Socialist movement will be labeled "syndicalism" or "direct action." The marriage of anarchism and syndicalism is, of course, a natural and legitimate union, and we must expect to see in the near future under its new guise an extensive growth of anarchist propaganda. So long as the anarchists were excluded from the unions and divorced from every section of the labor movement by the Marxian elements, they could only keep alive their doctrines by individual acts of violence. But in recent years the anarchists have not only gained a strong position in the labor movement of the Latin countries, they have also gained a hearing in other countries through policies which, however, old in their philosophy,, bear new and striking labels.

And it is perhaps inevitable that the views of the anarchists should gain a larger and larger following. Political action is slow, and many of the younger, the more petulant and impulsive, are impatient. Furthermore, the Socialist movement has become so extensive that while it is fundamentally more revolutionary, it no longer appears revolutionary. Its tone is quieter, its reasoning is saner, and its members include a multitude who are no less determined because they are less given to fanaticism. Great halls, theaters, and opera hums are now the common meeting places of the party, and such assemblies have not the irresponsible recklessness of the old talking revolutionists assembled in the back room about the stove. The discussions are kept to well defined points and lead to definite, concrete forms of action, instead of ranging over the entire gamut of human problems and leading to no action whatever. In the little circles of revolutionaries in the early days there was room for every point of view. Freedom of thought was unlimited, the play of wits had no end. Every theory of economics, sociology, ethics, religion, and politics was handled without gloves. It was a never ending day of never ending talk. But the seeds those little circles of sectarians distributed throughout the world are today bearing fruit. Men are settling down to the cold proposition of massing their armies and winning their battles. And philosophies and tactics which consist of endless oppositions and the denunciation of every action of the organized bodies are passed over and ignored. To be sure, celebrated little circles of brilliant men and women, of artists and philosophers, will still hug to their hearts the memory of what they consider the glorious, imperishable act of the assassin or the marvel of a few hungry rioters facing theviolence of the world with flaming rage and hatred, but the labor movement, imperfect as it is, plods along its way educating and organising the millions into the most irresistible power the world has ever known.

Minimum Wage for Ontario Women.

It is expected that a bill providing for the payment of a minimum wage to women will be brought down in the provincial legislature of Ontario very shortly. The various bodies which have been working to this end are agreed that no woman can live on less than $9 per week, and they don't go into any lavish details as to how she can do it even on the $9. What a funny world it is. Well intentioned people go to work to find out the least a woman can make shift on; then try and get it for her. The crowning touch is, that the most active spirits are women.

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TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION NO. 226—Meets last Sunday each month, 2:30 p.m. President, W. S. Armstrong; vice-president, G. W. Palmer; secretary-treasurer, R. H. Neelands, P.O. Box 68.

VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR Council—Meets every first and third Wednesday, Labor Hall, 731 Johnson street, at 8 p.m. President, H. J. Sheen; secretary, Christian Siverts, Box 302, Victoria, B. C.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

NEW WESTMINSTER TRADES & Labor Council—Meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 8 p.m., in Labor Hall. President, R. A. Stoney; financial secretary, J. B. Chockley; general secretary, H. D. Grant, P. O. Box 924. The public is invited to attend.

PLUMBERS' and STEAMFITTERS' Local 495—Meets every second and fourth Friday of month in Labor Hall, 7:30 p.m. President, D. Webster; secretary, A. McLaren, P.O. Box 956, New Westminster, B. C.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARpenters, Local Union No. 1689—Meets every Monday, 8 p.m., Labor Temple, corner Royal Avenue and Seventh street. President, M. C. Schmendt; secretary, A. Walker, Labor Temple, New Westminster, B. C.

MINERS' UNIONS.

KIMBERLEY MINERS' UNION, NO. 100 Western Federation of Miners—Meets Sunday evenings, in Union Hall. President, E. A. Hines; secretary-treasurer, M. P. Villeneuve, Kimberley, B.C.

LADYSMITH MINERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 2388, U. M. W. of A.—Meets Wednesday, Union Hall, 7 p.m. President, Sam Guthrie; secretary, Duncan McKenzie, Ladysmith, B. C.

NANAIMO LOCAL UNION U.M.W. of A.—Meets every Sunday in District Office, Vendome Hotel, at 7:30 p.m. Arthur Jordan, recording secretary, Nanaimo, B. C.

ROSSLAND MINERS' UNION, NO. 38, Western Federation of Miners—Meets every Wednesday evening, in Miners' Union hall. Band and orchestra open for engagement. Theatre for rent. President, Sam Stevens; secretary, Herbert Varcoi, Box 421, Rossland, B. C.

TRAIL MILL AND SMELTERMEN'S Union, No. 105, W. F. of M.—Meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m. President, George Castell; secretary, Frank Campbell, Box 26, Trail, B. C.

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Socialist Party Directory

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Socialist Party of Canada, meets every Sunday, 3 p.m., Finn Hall, 2215 Pender St. East. J. H. Burroughs, secretary.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, meets every Sunday, 3 p.m., Finn Hall, 2215 Pender St. East. J. H. Burroughs, secretary.

LOCAL SANDON, B.C., NO. 26, S. P. OF C. Meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Sandon Miners' Union Hall. Communications to be addressed Drawer K, Sandon, B. C.

LOCAL MOOSEJAW, SASK., No. 1, S. P. of C.—Propaganda meetings every Sunday, 7:30 p. m. in the Trades Hall. Economic class every Sunday, 3 p.m. Secretary, J. Harrison, 142 Hochelaga St. A. Stewart, Organizer.

LOCAL GIBSON'S LANDING, NO. 49, S. P. of C.—Meet first and third Sunday of the month in Socialist Hall. Secretary, J. N. Hintsa, Gibson's Heights, B. C.

LOCAL NELSON, S. P. of C., MEETS every Friday at 8 p.m., in Miners' Hall, Nelson, B. C. I. A. Austin, Secretary.

LOCAL VANCOUVER OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY — Meets for business and propaganda every Thursday at 8 p.m. in Labor Temple. Public meetings in Dominion Theatre, Granville street, Sunday evenings. Secretary, O. L. Charlton, City Market, Main street.

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TRADES COUNCIL MEETING HELD THURSDAY NIGHT

(Continued from Page 1)

The following committees were appointed: Organization Committee, Freckleton, Blumberg, Philpot, Burfoot, Midgley, Hurst, Herritt, McVety, Foxcroft, Sully. Parliamentary Committee, Pipes, Abbs, Burkert, Ferris, Burnham, A. Macdonald, Bartley, Knowles, Mowatt, Kelly, Jones.

Meeting adjourned 9.30 p.m.

Organization Committee report. No report.

Del. McVety reported that he had visited Halibut Fishermen's Union, and that they were likely to become affiliated with Council.

Parliamentary Committee. No report.

Del. McVety reported for Special Committee re False Creek question and interview with Board of Works re paying of $2.00 per day to men engaged on relief works for city. Report received.

Reports of Unions.

McEwen, Amal. Carpenters, Trade quiet. Holding dance February 7th.

Midgley, Lathers. Trade quiet owing to weather. Making new members.

Sully, Civic Employees. Committee from their union had been before Board of Works re working conditions of scavengers. City Engineer not favorable to their union.

Macdonald, Bartenders. Had donated $25.00 to striking miners.

Longshoremen, Kelly and Thomas, Trade quiet. Three men in hospital.

Sprigel, Bakers. Series of social evenings was being held by his union. Membership increasing.

Burfoot, Teamsters. Had initiated seven new members at last meeting. Five more about to join.

Staples, Painters. Trade quiet.

Smith, Horseshoers. They are having organizing campaign. Dance Feb. 28th.

Miss M Crae, Garment Workers. All working. Asked that union men buy union-made garments.

Saxby, Patternmakers. Ten per cent. of their members unemployed. They protested against payment of wages by check.

Williams, U. B. of Carpenters. Trade quiet. Seven new members last meeting. Were preparing for Labor Commission.

Burgess, Molders. They were 100 per cent. organized. Trade quiet.

Motion: That Bro. E. Trainor be given the floor to explain attitude of Board of Works towards their organization. Carried. Bro. Trainor then spoke on the attitude of Board.

Unfinished Business.

Notice of Motion. Alteration of Constitution. Introduced by L. U. 138, Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America:

"That the Charter of Incorporation as set forth on pages 3, 4 and 5 of the Constitution and By-Laws of this Council, be stricken out." Signed, J. Freckleton, E. Staples.

Motion, Freckleton, Staples: That the amendment to the Constitution be adopted as read. Motion lost.

Motion: That Executive Committee take legal advice re the question of boycotting. And also re our Charter of Incorporation. Motion carried.

Motion: That question of extending duties of Secretary be laid on the table for one month.

Amendment: That it be laid on the table until next meeting of the Council. Carried.

Motion: That Excutive Committee bring in report as to finances of Council in relation to foregoing question. Carried.

Motion: That J. McMillan be asked to attend next meeting of Council and report on his visit to Labor Commission. Carried.

Motion: That committee of three be appointed to act with two from Bakers to interview Hospital Board, etc., with reference to having union-made bread used in the various municipal institutions. Carried.

Committee:; Midgley, Brown, McEwen.

Motion: That committee of two be appointed to act with J. E. Wilton in response to his letter. Carried.

The President announced that the President and Secretary would act on behalf of Council in response to letter from J. E. Wilton of Typographical Union re conditions of employment in shops, offices, stores, etc.

COAL MINERS' STRIKE.

Nanaimo, B.C., Feb. 5, 1913.

Editor Federationist:

There appeared in last week's Federationist, under the heading "Premier and Miners' Strike," the resolutions adopted at the convention of the B.C.F. of L., held in Victoria, which were presented to Premier McBride by the officers of the Federation, asking him to use his good offices in bringing about a conference between the contending forces, also the correspondence between Premier McBride and Mr. Coulson. In Mr. Coulson's reply to Premier McBride he says: "At no time have the officials of the company refused to meet in friendly discussion committees of our employees when regularly authorized to meet us on behalf of themselves and their fellow workmen." This statement is not true. The management at Cumberland prior to and after the stoppage did refuse to meet committees of the employees of the company to discuss their grievances. And at Ladysmith on one occasion, when the manager refused to meet a committee who were duly authorised to meet him on behalf of themselves and fellow workmen, he stated positively that it was Coulson's orders that he was to recognize no committees.

This matter, Mr. Editor, has been so fully dealt with in previous issues of the Federationist that it would be needless repetition to again recite them in detail at this time. Suffice it to say that the strike is still on at Cumberland and Ladysmith, the mines are not producing anything like their full capacity, as stated by Coulson, the scarcity of coal in your city and the famine prices prevailing for the same is certain proof that he has failed to make good to break the strike and stamp out the U.M.W. of A. at his mines, as he boasted he would do.—Fraternally yours, ROBERT FOSTER
President Dist. 28 U.M.W. of A.

Scaffold Inspector May be Appointed.

It is stated on good authority, although from an unofficial source, that the city council is about to appoint a scaffolding inspector. This is something which the Trades and Labor Council has been agitating for a long time, and the appointment should have been made ages ago. It is to be hoped that the council will appoint a practical man who knows his business, and not some lick-spittle party-heeler who has grown old in vicious service of the political machines of the city. If such a wretch is appointed, it is safe to say the Trades Council will see to it that he is not allowed to play ducks and drakes with a job which involves the very lives of the workmen of this city.

PROTECT "FOREIGNERS"; OUTRAGE CHILDREN

Bowser Takes Guns From Alien Adults —Young Hands Them to Children.

The "Offensive Weapon Act," introduced by Attorney-General Bowser at the present session of the Legislature provides for punishing by deportation any alien who may be found in possession of weapons.

Mr. Bowser believes that only the police should be permitted to use "direct action" weapons, preferably on the heads of strikers and free speech enthusiasts. He thinks the penalizing of arms carrying is going to bring about a higher regard for law and order and reduce the number injured in the frequent quarrels between the people from Southern Europe.

After all, maybe Mr. Bowser is right in his contention and sincere in his desire to reduce the list of people injured through poor markmanship and worse liquor. In his beliefs he is evidently backed by his colleagues of the cabinet, including the Hon. Dr. Young, Minister of Education, who, like all pedagogues, is a man of peace and very much adverse to any letting of blood, even among the "alien" population of mature years.

But while so tender in his solicitude for full-grown "foreigners," the "eminent" educationalist and saw bones shows no such consideration for the children of tender years entrusted to the care of his department in the schools of the Province.

During the present week, in the Fairview school, a man is being permitted to visit the various rooms, during school hours, addressing the pupils on the glories of militarism. Appearing before the children, some as young as seven years, in the uniform supplied all armed murderers who undertake to kill workers of other countries, with whom they have no quarrel, on behalf of others, this man boasts of his 28 years of service in various armies—pats his sword and other instruments of butchery affectionately, and promises to deck the youngsters out in uniforms and to arrange a sham battle for which 10 cents will be charged as admittance. The "kids" are to be taught how to fight for "their" country—when they must take up arms and kill off as many as possible of their own kind on account of quarrels in which they are not interested and for which they are in no way responsible.

And this is the jingo patriotism so fittingly described by Dr. Johnson as "the last refuge of scoundrels." Surely the definition fits every member of the Department of Education from the Minister down who knowingly or without permit the natural but dormant instincts of savagery to be raised in the breasts of children of such tender years.

What kind of a civilization is it that calls a man who quarrels and kills on his own behalf a murderer and those who kill without a quarrel on behalf of others, heroes, and decorate one with hemp and the others with brass medals.

These are the problems confronting the fathers and mothers of the working class day by day—these are the baneful influences that must be gently but firmly counteracted in the home from the first day the children enter school until they are old enough to think for themselves.

If for no other reason than to secure control of the educational system, a political onslaught on the powers of state is absolutely necessary and bound to be more fruitful of results than any propagation of the "direct action" tactics of the anarchists and syndicalists.

CARPENTERS WANT INCREASE

The carpenters for the last four months have been talking about a rise of wages in the spring, and they are now considering the best ways and means of getting it.

It is about time they took their position seriously, for they are worse off as far as wages go than they were six years ago this coming summer. They were getting $4.25 per day of 8 hours then, and that is what they are getting today.

In the summer of 1907 they had a strike and their wages went up to $4.25 per day. The following January their wages were dropped to $3.50, and the explanation given by the contractors was, the money panic of that year.

Since then they have gradually got back to the $4.25 again, and are very much "as you were."

During this time the price of living has gone up at least 35 per cent., which is equal to a reduction of 35 per cent. in the wages of carpenters since 1907.

It is questionable if the wages of an average carpenter, taken all the year round, amount to much more than $18.00 per week, if that much.

He has to buy and maintain a very expensive outfit of tools, some of which are continually being stolen from him on the various jobs, and to replace these is a constant charge against his wages.

In addition, the competition to hold a job as a real carpenter is becoming keener as each year goes by. It necessitates purchasing the most up-to-date tools in order that he can keep his place in the struggle for existence.

Machinery has displaced thousands of men from the carpenter trade, and now performs about fifty per cent. of the work formerly done by hand. The result is that there is a fierce struggle for the remaining fifty per cent. of the work which is still done by hand labor.

A further result is, that the remaining work is being specialized, and there is a strong tendency on the part of the contractors to have their work done by the piece. This is made easier for them because a great deal of the finish work, which is that part which still has to be done by hand, is turned out according to standardized designs from the factory. Most contractors know to a fraction how long it takes an average carpenter to do certain classes of work, such as hanging doors, laying floor, or fixing base, and woe betide the poor wood butcher who cannot keep his end up alongside the other fellow who has to go his fastest to hold his job in the fierce industrial struggle, where the interests of the workers are identical, or alleged to be.

The joint committee of carpenters is taking the position of the trade very seriously, and has sent out the following letter to Victoria, Seattle, acoma, Calgary, Edmonton, Bellingham, Nanaimo, Portland Spokane, San Francisco, Winnipeg and Everett.

Carpenters' Joint Committee.
Labor Temple
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am instructed by the above to call your attention to the fact that we intend making a demand for $5.00 a day on the first of May.

A joint conference of our delegates to the convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor was held last week at Victoria, and it was resolved to request the Joint Committee or District Councils of the carpenters' organizations, who anticipate making a demand for an increase of wages, to make that demand on the same date, a proceeding which, no doubt, would materially assist us in enforcing our respective demands.

In replying to this, please state wages, conditions, etc., in your city. The wages in Vancouver are $4.25 per eight-hour day, and conditions at the present are moderate. With best wishes for your success and thanking you in anticipation for an early reply, I am, yours in unity,

Secretary.

The replies to this are coming in and will be considered by the carpenters' committee at an early date, and subsequently be submitted to a mass meeting of carpenters to be called for the purpose of deciding what can best be done to secure a rise in wages, which is already long overdue.

Meanwhile the carpenters as individuals will have to get busy. It is no use shoving all the work on to a few men—which is usually the case—and then when the time for a rise comes, jumping on those few men for not having obtained that which can only be got by every union carpenter trying to make at least one more union carpenter.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

yet the resolution was out of order.

Williams entered a hot protest, the Speaker in his turn getting hot under the collar, and in a tone ill befitting such a dignified begowned personage, declared it out of order. Williams appealed, and of course, as was to be expected, the 24 Government members voted solidly to uphold the chair, against the two Opposition members.

The matter does not end there, however, the Newcastle member intending to come to the bat again next week with it worded so as to evade the question of expenditure of public money, on what it was turned down, as only Government men can bring in motions dealing with that subject.

Monday, February 3rd.

Chief interest today centered around the Landlord and Tenant Act, and the Offensive Weapons Act, both of which were the cause of an exchange of opinions between Parker Williams and Bowser.

By way of handing the government a roast on the first mentioned Bill, the Socialist member introduced some photographs of the "residences" of the Cumberland miners, from which they were evicted, and also made no bones about telling the Attorney-General that the sole purpose of the amended Bill was to make it easier to get the slaves out of their hovels, which they had built themselves for the most part. Regarding the Offensive Weapons Act, Bowser appeared very much alarmed at what he termed the large class of undesirable foreigners who came into Canada, and who would shoot on the slightest pretence; also there were too many hold-ups for the public safety, etc., etc.

Williams gave it as his opinion that it would be a good bill if the weapons were to be kept out of everybody's hands, but it seemed to be the intention of the Government to keep them out of the hands of the working class, whom they had every reason to be afraid of.

Tuesday, February 4th.

The Offensive Weapons Act was in the committee stage today, and provided excellent material for the shafts of Parker Williams, a verbal battle between the Newcastle man and Bowser ended in a victory for the former, in the opinion of the spectators, at least. Many flaws were picked in the Bill from a legal standpoint, but undoubtedly the best hit was when the Socialist made an impassioned attack on the whole Bill, as a piece of class legislation, giving power to such cutthroat bums as the special police to search any honest man, who might carry a gun in his defense. If he had his way, he would prohibit the police and everyone else from carrying weapons.

On the second reading of the Landlord and Tenant Act, Williams and Place called for a division, and the Premier helping out, a show of hands took place, Williams creating much laughter by holding his hand up with the machine till he found out his mistake.

The Civil Service Act went through committee and a shower of amendments crossed the floor from Young, Provincial Secretary, arousing the remark from Williams that the Bill wouldn't be known when it was finished.

F. S. F.

WINNIPEG COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS

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Dynamite Special Ordered Early

Representative Victor L. Berger, Socialist congressman from Milwaukee, believes that the federal officials at Indianapolis used "a little too much foresight" in ordering on November 19th—forty days before the ironworkers, charged with the dynamiting conspiracy, were convicted—a special train to take them from Indianapolis to the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth. St. Louis "Labor" reproduced photographic copies of letters, the first dated November 19th, and others dated December 14th and 24th, advising railroad officials that the special train would probably be needed for January 1st. About a week before the jury reported on the case a letter signed by L. L. Kensinger, superintendent of the St. Louis Terminal Company, positively ordered the special train for January 1, or "possibly somewhat sooner." The jury's verdict was rendered on December 31st.

Representative Berger has sent to St. Louis, asking that the originals be forwarded to him, with the idea of asking for a congressional investigation of the "foresight" of the railroad and court officials.

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DR. BRYDON JACK LECTURES FOR TRADES COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1)

Recommendations of Commission on Technical Schools in Manitoba, 1912.

1. That it is desirable that such measure of vocational training as is found possible should be provided for the people of our province.

(a) On account of its value as a means of interesting large numbers of pupils that cannot be held by the purely academic work of the schools.

(b) As a means of a fuller and more rounded development for all classes of children.

(c) As an aid to pupils and parents in discovering capacities and aptitudes to assist in making choice of an occupation.

(d) As an agency for producing vocational efficiency through the development of the activities that are in use in the practical affairs of life.

(e) As a means of elevating the intellectual status of the worker and broadening the range of his interests by giving him an understanding of the scientific principles and natural forces that underlie the operations of his craft.

(f) As a factor contributing to the industrial progress of the community.

(g) As an agency for social betterment through the increased intelligence and wider outlook and enlarged earning power of numbers of trained workers.

2. That the foundation of such training should be laid in the elementary school in suitable courses of hand and eye training leading up to regularly organized industry in higher grades of the elementary and through the secondary school.

3. That vocational and general education should go hand in hand, each in turn contributing to the effectiveness of the other and each recognizing their independence.

4. That at the present stage of our development this can be done more economically and effectively by the modification of existing agencies and the enlargement of their scope than by the establishment of special institutions.

5. That a certain number of the members of the advisory board should be men engaged in the industries, and selected on account of their acquaintance with and interest in the aims and ideals of vocational training, and that school boards be authorized to appoint advisory committees outside of their own members to assist them in the organization and development of the work of vocational education.

6. That school boards be authorized and encouraged to provide such courses in vocational education as will suit the needs of their respective communities.

7. That such provision should include carefully organized evening classes, in which opportunity would be given to men and women engaged in occupations during the day, to improve their general and technical education.

8. That the department of education should appoint an officer familiar with the aims and methods of vocational education, whose duty it would be to advise with and assist school boards in the organization of such work.

9. That grants be made by the provincial government to assist in meeting the cost of equipment and maintenance of approved lines of vocational training.

10. That in any scheme of education looking to increased vocational efficiency, provision must be made for systematic physical education.

11. That provision be made for the preparation and training of teachers to meet the requirements of the new activities of the schools.

12. That when there shall be a sufficiently large number of students requiring higher training than is herein provided for, a technical college shall be established to provide such training.

Tim Sullivan, of Tammany fame, tells of a young philosopheer he encountered not long ago on the street.

This lad was of a diminutive size, and carried under his arm such a load of newspapers that the Hon. Tim was moved to pity.

"Son," asked the Tammanyite, "don't all those papers make you tired?"

"Nope," cheerfully replied the bit of humanity; "I can't read."

The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think than what to think.—Beattie.

LABOUR COMMISSION.

Sittings of the Provincial Labour Commission will be held as follows:—

Nanaimo—Monday, February 17th, at 8 p.m., Court-house.

Cumberland—Wednesday, February 19th, at 8 p.m.

Alberni—Monday, February 24th, at 8 p.m.

Ladysmith—Tuesday, February 25th, at 3.30 p.m.

Steveston—Monday, March 3rd, at 2.30 p.m.

Chilliwack—Tuesday, March 4th, at 2.30 p.m.

New Westminster—Thursday, March 6th, at 11 a.m., City Hall.

Vancouver—Friday, March 7th, at 10 a.m., Court-house.

The Commission is empowered to inquire into all matters affecting the conditions of labour in British Columbia. All persons interested are invited to attend and give evidence.

H. G. PARSON,
Chairman.
F. R. McNamara,
Secretary.

Frank M. Ryan, president of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, was released from Leavenworth prison on Feb. 2nd for $70,000 bail, pending the appeal of the sentence passed upon him. It is expected he will be present at the annual convention of the Iron Workers on Feb. 24th. On his release he was met by Mr. E. Nockles, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, in whose company he journeyd from Kansas City to Chicago.

The United Mine Workers of America now boast of a membership of 386,965.

The United Mine Workers do not believe in "direct action," "sabotage" or "hitting the ballot box with an axe," but still this organization is growing at such a rapid rate, that mine barons are realizing its power, and "direct actionists" are searching for more malignant invectives to give expression to their fanaticism.

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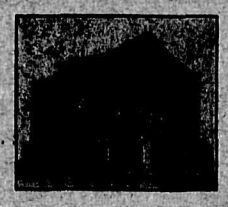
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