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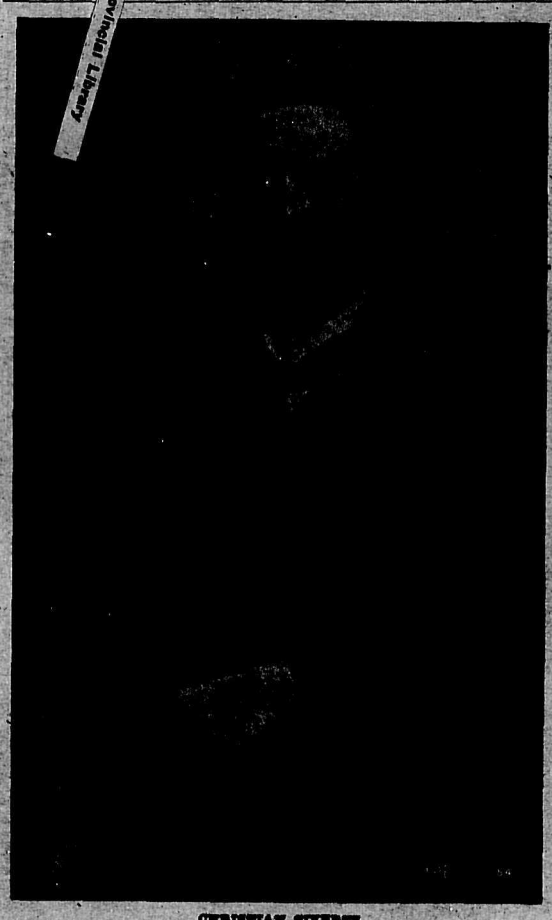

CHRISTIAN SIVERTZ
President B. C. Federation of Labor, Whose Views on Old Age Pension Have Been Sent to Old Age Pensions Committee at Ottawa.

PRES. SIVERTZ ON OLD AGE PENSION

The committee on Old Age Pensions now sitting at Ottawa has written to President Siverts of the B. C. Federation of Labor asking for his views on the question. Following is the reply of President Siverts:

Mr. W. Clouther,
Clerk of Com. on Old Age Pensions,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—Replying to yours of the 25th March, requesting my views on the question of Old Age Pensions, I would have liked to have complied with your request before this, but the limited time at my disposal as well as my desire to interview several parties whom I considered in a position to give me statistical information, which might be useful to the committee, has made this delay necessary.

I have read with deep interest the copy of the preliminary report which you so kindly forwarded with your letter. Many years ago I first had occasion to give some thought to the subject of Old Age Pensions, and since then, I have wholly and unreservedly been in favor of the principle, and such opportunities as I have had to study the process of industrial evolution in recent years, have only gone to confirm my earlier conclusions on the subject, namely: that it is the duty of the State to provide a non-contributary pension to the aged as a matter of right.

My claim for this right is based on the following grounds:

It is a fact that a universal condition of poverty exists among the working classes, as a result of labor being treated as a commodity. Under existing conditions of production labor is employed with the sole aim of bringing profit to the employer. The opportunity to work is given to the lowest bidder, consistent with the first object—profit. The natural result of this competition is, that only the strong and best able, get a chance to toil, leaving the weak and aged to be reduced to destitution and ultimately to become a private burden or a public charge. This condition is the governing principle in modern industry, being the inevitable result of private and corporate control of the various processes of production, which, instead of being prosecuted with regard to the universal right to life and to satisfy human requirements, are only permitted to operate provided profits to the owner can be realized.

The above situation is actively supported and perpetuated by the state first granting control of the means of life to private individuals and corporations and then maintaining immigration efforts, which in turn create a surplus in the labor market, thus accentuating the evils of competition among the workers for the privilege of eking out a living for themselves and rolling up profits for the employer. Not to mention the partisan attitude the State takes, from time to time, in order to protect the values of the concessions granted to the owners.

In the judgment of the writer, the above constitutes a duty on the part of the State to extend such aid as is required to those in need, as it is in the first and last instances responsible for their misery. In connection with the above I wish to emphasize as my view, that the qualifying term, "deserving," should be struck out of the phraseology of the committee, as all that are in need are deserving, so-

(Continued on Page Four.)

Men's Suits

Spring Wear

$15.00

In tweeds and serges, guaranteed indigo dye, and guaranteed to retain their shape. Made with single breasted sacque coat, with three button front and the Bartlett patent pocket, which prevent the coat sagging at the side, and have the popularized seams and double stitched edges. Trousers are medium peg-top style, and have side buckle for adjusting the waist measure. They represent the greatest suit value ever offered. Special for $15.00

Hudson's Bay Stores

CORNER OF GRANVILLE AND GEORGIA

WAR, "PATRIOTISM" AND DIVIDEND

(By J. W. Wilkinson)

The organized labor and socialist movements have consistently opposed war and militarism, and have never ceased to point out that war is engineered by capitalists for their personal profit at the expense of the lives of the workers. For this action we have been lustily condemned by a capitalist press which knows too well that the ignorant masses will believe anything they may as long as it is wrapped up in suitable jingo clap-trap.

At such times as the war spirit is abroad it is sometimes more than a man's life is worth to rear himself on his hind legs and tell the workers they are being fooled. And the godlike scribes of the press bawl forth for the edification of hoodlum mobs the interesting information that we are unpatriotic, that we are against the best interests of the nation, and that unless they want to see the country go to the "demnition bow-wows" the best thing they can do is to exercise that respect which they have for the divine right of free speech which their fathers died for, by throwing us into the nearest creek or horse trough as a salutary lesson for any who should have the temerity to follow our example.

We have said a thousand times that wars are not for the purpose of improving the lot of the workers and if it were not for their appalling stupidity and absolute inability to see that which lies in front of their noses without looking at it cock-eyed, we should have convinced them by now. But their slave antecedents have left the workers with a lusty desire to believe the things which their masters tell thm are true. And in this respect the workers as a whole are mental loafers of the most pitiful kind, because the outcome of their refusal to exercise their minds on this question is, that they and thousands of their kind sacrifice their lives for their neglect.

As a test of our contention, let any living worker try to produce proof of any material advantage which has come to his class as the result of any war which has taken place within his recollection. We will even go further, and when he has searched his own memory let him go to his father, and if he has one, his grandfather too, and ask them to furnish him with arguments for his fool philosophy; and if he or his parternal relatives have enough intelligence to recognize their own interests he will come back like Noah's first dove—without having found one place on which to stand.

But it is really funny to watch the way the workers fall for the same old lies which dribble from the lips of their masters at war time. Even though they may have strangled the wages of the workers down to the lowest possible level upon which they can subsist consistent with ability to keep on producing the maximum amount of profits, yet as soon as they start to mouth their crude exhortations to blood-spilling, the workers hail them as "the bulwarks of our national prestige," and the "godlike guardians of our great and glorious heritage." If there were any proof that real civilization and progress could be attained by war then it might be to some extent justified, but there is none.

Just at the present time, whilst so much talk of war between France and Germany and England is in the air, the same high flown sophistry is being practiced upon the workers of those countries.

The blue-bloused toilers of France are being screwed up to the frenzy pitch by reviving memories of the Sedan shambles, and fair pictures of lost Alsace and Lorraine and the "revanche" has been exalted to an eminence more divine than was the holy sepulchre which inspired the Crusaders to rip up the bellies of the accursed Moslems.

The workers of Germany are exhorted by reminder of Frederick the Great and the imperial aspirations of Bismark and Moltke, which resulted in the federation of the German principalities which have made a fabulous fortune for the daughter of Krupp and have produced the most picturesque advertising agent which has ever sat on a European throne.

Yet behind it all, the real sordidness and ugly details are so thickly crowded that even now the scheming of politicians with money invested in enterprises which profit by war, cannot prevent them from bursting through the thick shell of hypocrisy with which they are encased.

The German newspapers, or at least some of them, whose editors have been forgotten in the distribution of advertising contracts or financial subsidies, are exposing the details of a wretched scheme of graft which is going on in that country in connection with the sale of munitions and other things required for war. The German government has paid $115,000 for a piece of land to be used as an exercise ground at Essen. The owners of the land got $25,000 for it, and some slick patriots in between have "negotiated" the balance.

Now there's a row about it, and perhaps it would be mean to suggest that the people who got the $25,000 are making the row. In addition to that, the facts are being disclosed that the Krupp firm of armament manufacturers are financing war scares in both the French and German newspapers.

These people, and scores more like them in England and elsewhere, the patriots of modern times. So ly do they love progress and civi tion that they are prepared to de Europe in the blood of the poor knighted fools who believe them order to make profits for shareh ers.

Such exposures are invariably nected with all wars. In the trenc of Sebastopol the English starved lack of clothing and food, or die Scutari through fever ridden bed which could not be replaced bec supplies which had been paid for never supplied. And so on thro every great war down to the S African war where thousands of ho and tons of fodder and millions units of rations were sold over over again or were never delivere were rotten, because the patriot commerce wanted profits. Then the white dupes had left 30,000 of carcases to fatten the vultures of veldt in order to make South Af "a white man's country," the commercial patriots swamped place with Chinamen—not bec they were Chinamen, but because were cheap, which counts more all else in the Manchester min Great Britain's ruling class. "So they all, all honorable men."

A hundred other instances migh quoted which have made the mention of war to stink in the nos of all decent thinking people. But they will go on until the people be brought to see and underst This will not be by slobbering s mentalism dribbling from the mo of simpering insipid curates fatuo babbling "Peace on Earth, good towards Men." But by the mas the people—who are the working —becoming intelligent and conse the fact that the life and lot of kind is the same all the world

According to strict interpretatio economic law it may not be money which pays for War. But their bodies into which the death is driven. It is their bodies which the bowels are ripped and blood is spilled. It is their wives are made widows. Their chil made fatherless and a charge on ity. Their homes which are made olate. They pay the price of the whilst their masters sit in the p of power erected on a foundatio fools who died because "having they saw not" and "having ears did not hear."

"Think what he's been.
Think what he's seen.
Think of his pension—
And Gawd save the Queen."

—Kip

PLANS TO BRING LABOR BODIES IN CLOSER RELATION

R. Parm Pettipiece, editor of the B. C. Federationalist, who has just returned from a tour of the east, has been in the city, explaining a comprehensive scheme which he has in hand for cementing and vivifying the different labor organizations throughout the country.

At a mass meeting last Sunday, Mr. Pettipiece explained the programme of operations, and throughout the week, in company with A. Farmilo, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, he has been addressing meetings of the individual trades unions, and personally explaining to the members the value of co-operation and increased interest in the work of the unions.

It is the object of Mr. Pettipiece and his colleagues to create a bond of union between the different provincial federations of labor, and to bring them into closer and more personal touch with the federal labor congress cementing the various organizations into a corporate whole. The project is calculated to maintain interest in the unions at a high pitch, and at the same time, to make possible the dissemination of valuable information regarding conditions of labor and similar matters all over the country.

Mr. Pettipiece has another aim in view—the linking together of the various papers throughout the Dominion, which are devoted exclusively to labor matters. It is proposed to establish a central news agency in Ottawa, to which reports would be sent in weekly by correspondents all over the country, and distributed in magazine section form to the papers taking the service.—Edmonton Daily Capital.

Mr. Pettipiece returned to Vancouver this week and will assume his duties on The Federationist next week.

The special edition of The Alberta Federationist is now well under way and will probably be off the press some time in June, having been delayed somewhat by the destruction of the office of The Morning Albertan last week, in which office the mechanical work was done.

Mr. Fuller, of the Associated Labor Press, and his crew is now in Winnipeg and have begun the work of getting out a Labor Day special edition of The Voice.

The Labor Temple special of the Fort William and Port Arthur Wage-Earner is due to appear this week.

Arrangements for the publication of Messrs. Pettipiece and Fuller's magazine section, to be supplied to the labor press of Canada from Ottawa, is well under way and should be an accomplished fact before the end of the present year.

Special Convention of District 18

According to statements appearing in the Alberta newspapers, a special convention of District 18 of the United Mine Workers of America is to be held shortly. It is stated that requests for such a convention have been received from a sufficient number of locals to make it constitutional. The object of the convention will be to discuss, among other things, the attitude taken by the officers of the district in connection with the recent elections in Alberta.

Union Label League Notice

All unions are earnestly requested to send delegates to the meetings of the Trade Union Label League, which are held in the Labor Temple on the first and second Tuesdays of each month at 8 p.m. prompt. A. Livingstone, secretary.

BRICKLAYERS TO VOTE ON AFFILIATION WITH A. F. OF L.

For some years the Bricklayers and Masons' International Union has been an isolated organization, as far as its affiliation to the rest of the American labor movement is concerned. On five or six different occasions in the past has a referendum been submitted to affiliate to the American Federation of Labor, only to be defeated.

At the last convention at St. Joseph, Mo, the matter was again ordered referred to the membership, and the vote is now being taken. The officers of the International are in favor of the affiliation, as evidenced by the current number of the bricklayers' official journal, which editorally says:

"The question of affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, as ordered by the St. Joe Convention, will within the next two months be submitted to subordinate unions for another vote. The question is of serious moment to our International Union. A thousand times more so than when submitted at various times in the past. During the past ten years there have been many changes in building construction, until today we are beset on all sides with questions of jurisdiction over certain work. These claims come both from the newer and the older organizations chartered by the A. F. of L., and are a result of the changing of their classification of work, whereby they seek to grab a little more work for themselves at our expense.

"Our affiliation with the American Federation of Labor and Building Trades Department of America will not clear away the jurisdictional troubles that have been and are now being forced upon us by other trades who attempt to steal from us our various brannches of work and incorporate same in their own classification. These we shall have to adjust ourselves. Affiliation would stop all further encroachments, however, and in the old disputes we would be enabled thereby to protect our rights more even-handed. In other words, the rest of the trades would not be pitted against us, and this would be something gained, and a very important gain in so far as the position of the involved employer is concerned.

"If affiliation is again turned down by our union, there is only one other recourse for us, and that is that the next convention empower its executive officers to form, say, with five structural trades, an offensive and defensive alliance. Which shall it be? In our opinion affiliation is the proper procedure. We belong to and should be an active part of the great American labor movement."

Lathers Are Organizing

The local lathers are making great efforts to improve the poor conditions under which they have been working for the past year. J. B. Bowen, organizer for the Lathers' Union, and first vice-president of the California State Building Trades Council, is now in the city endeavoring to put the lathers back on their former basis. The initiation fee has been reduced to $2.50 and the charter is open for two weeks at that rate as an inducement for backsliders and those who have never belonged to the union to join up. The regular meeting of the lathers will take place in the Labor Temple next Monday, April 28th, at 8 p.m., when all lathers will be welcome. This effort of the lathers concerns the material interests of the non-union men just as much as it does those who are members, for it resolves itself into a straight question of wages.

NEW WESTMINSTER TO INAUG ATE DAY LABOR

Mayor Gray of New Westmin makes the statement that he hope a few days to announce that the council has decided that in futur city work will in future be carried by day instead of contract labor.

Sewer work, cement sidewalks the grading of all streets, inclu those on which permanent paving be laid, are included in the day bor programme which, the m states, has been favorably conside by the council. Two or three mo must elapse before this can be ranged for.

While the day work plan will tail the purchase of plant, his wor states that it is not the intentio incur any large initial expense in connection. A small outlay will su for a beginning and the nucleus formed can be added to from tim time as required in the prosecu of the work. The natural savin the difference between the actual of the work and the contractor's pr it is expected should provide the fu for a complete city plant.

BUTTE MINERS KILLED

Five men were killed in an acci last Wednesday at the Leonard m an Amalgamated Copper prope when William Peters, engineer, control of one of the big hoisting gines, which flew to pieces, cau one cage, on which were four m to drop 2200 feet, and another cage which were eight miners, to drop feet. Seven men sustained injur none of which is believed will r fatally.

The accident was one of the most markable in the history of the B camp. The first cage, which fell feet, descended so fast that it bul the sides of the shaft outward tow the other compartment, tending choke that shaft and retard the fal the second cage.

The heavy wire cable, flapping a tail to a kite, flipped over into second compartment, and tangling the falling cage in that compartm also tended to check its fall, aff ing the dogs a chance slightly to tard its fall. The first cage started fall from the surface, and every aboard was killed and crushed to unrecognizable mass. The second c started at the 1,400 level an inst after the first cage had flashed leaving a streak of friction fire.

Every injured man aboard the ca sustained broken legs. The bodies th four aboard the first cage to were taken out piecemeal, it be necessary to saw off legs and arms order to liberate the bodies from debris of the cage.

LYNCH FOR PUBLIC PRINTE

It is announced that President son has practically decided to na James M. Lynch, president of International Typographical Uni as public printer and to have c plete charge of the big governm printery in Washington.

Mr. Lynch is probably the b known printer in the States tod He has served 16 years as the c executive of the powerful print organization.

Miners Meeting at Nanaimo

A mass meeting of all trade uni ists will be held in the Opera Ho Nanaimo, on Sunday evening next 8 p.m., to consider how the min and others of Nanaimo can best operate with the miners of Ladysm when they hold their May Day dem stration and sports at Ladysmith

The essential thing is that we should grasp the tremendous advantage which organized labor has in these new countries by being in on the ground floor. And it is not for us to be wasting time counting our hosts or exchanging boquets, but to be out among the uninformed workers spreading a knowledge of what the movement means to them and their class.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

A lesson that every union man should take to heart is the fact that the success of the labor movement depends on the individual effort of its members. It is just in proportion as the average member takes an interest in his organization that it will progress or retrogade. The man who seldom attends a meeting of the union, who is always backward in his dues, and only knows by hearsay as to what is transpiring, is really of more use outside the organization than in. It is the man who recognizes that he owes a duty to his union, who encourages the officers by his presence and who takes an interest in the proceedings, that aids in the work and makes progress not only possible but assured. Every man has his own part to perform and his own duty to carry out, no other member can do it for him. If he absents himself from the meeting there is a vacant seat and one less in attendance. Every member should be a factor and count; there is no life in an organization whose members are dead or sleeping. If it is worth while to do one's share in making it a success. Every union is just exactly what its members make it, it will be dead or alive, progressive or impotent, just in proportion as its members recognize their responsibilities and honestly live up to them.

Sydney, N. S., unionists are among the latest to tackle the building of a labor temple.

The socialists of Gibson's Landing, B. C., will hold a mass May Day celebration this year.

The Brewery Workers' Union at Seattle is negotiating a new schedule, with prospects good for an amicable settlement.

The payroll of the C. N. R. covering the construction camps throughout British Columbia runs to $1,100,000 for the month of March.

The American Federation of Labor has revoked the charter of Seattle Trades and Labor Council because of its refusal to unseat the (Reid) Electrical Workers' Union.

The presence in Vancouver of several international representatives of the several building trades organizations is to be made good use of. It is the intention of local officers to make an attempt to reorganize a building trades council.

Old Country immigrants are arriving in Vancouver at the rate of about 250 per day. There are at least 5000 men idle already in the building trades alone, despite the stories of wonderful records in the issuance of building permits.

I. W. W. organizers, making their headquarters at Edmonton, in connection with the railroad construction camps in action west of that city, have tipped it off to outside locals that they will probably call a general tie-up within the next month unless better working conditions are forthcoming.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada executive council has decided to refuse the receipt of per capita tax from the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, its charter having been cancelled by the American Federation of Labor. Central labor bodies will probably be asked to unseat any such affiliations.

Following upon the settlement of the general strike at Nelson, B. C., Calgary, Alta., unionists of the building trades unions are discussing the advisability of submitting a mass agreement to the contractors. Two or three preliminary meetings have been held, but as yet no definite action has been taken. The glutted condition of the labor market, consequent upon the arrival of so many from the Old Country during the past few weeks, has increased the competition for what few jobs are going.

ABOUT BELGIAN STRIKE

A general strike in Belgium, under the auspices of the Socialist party, and with the object of forcing the government to substitute manhood suffrage for plural voting, which has been threatened for several weeks began on the 14th. Its primary cause is reported to be the defeat of a Liberal and Socialist coalition in the Parliamentary elections of 1912. Before resorting to the general strike, the Socialists introduced in the new Parliament (the Liberals supporting them) a manhood suffrage bill. As the Clerical majority refused this bill any consideration, and the King declined to intervene, the strike was called. Under the present system every citizen over 25 years of age has one vote. Every citizen over 35 years of age, with one or more children and paying a dollar or more in house tax, has a supplementary vote, as has also a citizen over 25 years old who owns $400 worth of real estate. Two supplementary votes are given to graduates of universities or men who hold office or are ex-officeholders. No person has more than three votes, and failure to vote is a misdemeanor. In 1911 the number of voters was 1,700,000, of whom 995,000 had one vote, 395,000 two votes and 310,000 three votes. Although the strike leaders declared that there would be no violence, troops were ordered out on the 12th. Active or tacit support is being given to the strike by many employers. Some of these declare they will continue their workmen's wages during the strike. Others have contributed to the strike funds or offered to take care of the strikers' children. Clerical newspapers insist that rich Liberals are privately swelling the strike fund. Liberal and Radical clubs in various cities are openly supporting the movement with subscriptions.

The United Mine Workers led in the gain in wages during the recent year, with an increase of $8,000,000, the Western Federation of Miners following with $3,244,500, the boot and shoe workers being third with $2,200,000, and the maintenance of way employees being fourth, they having obtained an increase in wages of $2,000,000.

No years, but worries, makes men old.

The guilty conscience speaks for itself.

THE NEGRO QUESTION IN THE UNITED STATES

The tremendous importance of the negro question in the United States of America is shown in a publication by the negro professor, Burghardt Du Bois, which has been commented on in the "New Yorker Volkszeitung."

According to the statistics given there were about 5,000,000 negro persons in the states in 1863, of whom 4,000,000 had just been freed from slavery. These slaves could be sold exchanged, or given way, were not allowed to learn reading and writing, had neither the right to hold property nor to marry. It was, therefore, very natural that 90 per cent of these negroes were illiterate.

There are today in the United States 10,250,000 negroes, which shows an increase of 105 per cent. The negroes who 50 years ago were absolutely without property in 1910 owned 220,000 farms which were valued at $272,238,000. Whereas in the year 1863, 90 per cent of the negroes in the Southern states were farm workers, today the percentage is only 40; 750,000 are farmers, 70,000 carriers 55,000 railway men, 36,000 miners, 33,000 sawmill workers, 28,000 domestic servants, 21,000 carpenters, 20,000 barbers, 20,000 nurses, 15,000 ministers of religion, 14,000 bricklayers, 13,000 garment workers, 10,000 engineers and stokers, and 2,5000 doctors. The last census reported 2,000,000 colored children in the elementary schools.

Against this extraordinary advance of a race which was 50 years ago oppressed in slavery and ignorance, stands the shameful fact that "equality" for them, for the most part, is still only to be seen on paper. To call a white man a "negro" is a punishable offense, and the courts have decided that a person with the slightest mixture of negro blood shall be treated as a negro. Marriage between negroes and white persons is today forbidden in 26 states, and further legislation is forthcoming to make this prohibition more effective. In the South there are what are known as the "Jim Crow" trains which are only for the use of negroes and which according to court decisions "need not have the same comforts as conveyances for whites"; in hotels, theatres, cemeteries, and "other places of amusement," a sharp line of demarcation between negro and white is drawn. For instance, no negro dare enter the stalls of a New York theatre.

More important is the fact, perhaps, that 5,500,000 negroes, of whom more than half can read and write, and who altogether hold a fortune of $300,000,000, have in no way the right to vote on public questions, though this is granted to every citizen in the Constitution. There are eight regulations in the Southern states by which negroes are prevented from polling. There are: (1) Every voter must be able to read. (2) Every voter must be in possession of certain private means. (3) Poll tax. (4) The voter must give proof of permanent employment. (5) Soldiers, old warriors, and their offspring may vote. (6) The voter must be able to prove his good character. (7) The well known grandfather clause, according to which persons whose forefathers were enfranchised before the freeing of the negroes, may vote. (8) The passage of the Constitution, selected by the election committee. As the reader may recognize, the half of these regulations consists of clauses by which the white man, losing his vote on one would regain it on another, while the colored man is adversely affected by at least one clause. Then there is the base partisanship of the election committee, the final authority, which always decided against the negro.

In Louisiana the population in 1900 consisted of 729,612 whites and 650,804 negroes; of these there were 178,595 whites and 147,348 negroes over 21 years of age; 146,219 whites and 57,086 negroes could read and write, while the illiterates were 32,135 whites and 90,263 colored persons. Eight years later, in 1908, however, there were on the voters' register 153,135 whites and altogether only 1,743 negroes. Although in the year 1900, 57,000 negroes lived in the state who were able to read and write, a number which, there is no question, had increased considerably in 1908, only 1,700 were able to vote.

That is the position the negroes in the Southern states are confronted with today. They are persecuted, worried, and charged with savagery; their cultural development is hindered and they are termed stupid; money is drawn from the colored population for the fitting and upkeep of educational establishments for whites and as far as possible the doors of schools are closed on negro children. As an example, in Virginia the total expenditure on negro schools is 14.7 per cent, although colored persons make up 35 per cent of the population. The same duties devolve on the negroes as on the whites without the former, however, being granted anything like the same rights.

Under such circumstances it must be a tremendous task for the trade unions to organize the negroes. The American Federation of Labor has always argued for the trade union organization of negroes and compelled affiliated trade unions to admit colored persons. However, this has had no effect in many trade unions where opposition to the negro has not been overcome.

WAR STATISTICS

The eighteen countries of South and Central America and Mexico, with a population of 53,924,859 people, have regular armies amounting to 188,954 men, or one soldier to every 298 inhabitants, says the Los Angeles Times.

The United States of America had in the year 1900 a population of 83,026,000, and a regular army of 60,476, or one soldier to every 1370 inhabitants.

Japan and Korea, with a population of 51,176,902, have a regular army of 214,200 men, or one soldier to every 240 people.

There is no reliable statistics concerning China, although its population is estimated at 400,000,000, and its army only 100,000, or one soldier to every 4,000 people.

India has a population of 231,899,507 with a regular army of 75,486, or one soldier to every 3,070 people.

Australia has a population of 4,759,495, and a regular army of 33,058, or one soldier to every 144 people.

Turkey, Bulgaria and Egypt have a population of 38,478,353, with a regular army of 444,994, or one soldier to every 104 inhabitants.

Of European countries peaceful little Switzerland appears to have the largest armed force proportionately. She has one soldier to every 23 people. France has one soldier to every 51 people. Germany and Sweden have each one soldier to every 90 people. The other countries range between 110 people in Russia to 170 people in Great Britain to every soldier.

It costs the people of Great Britain $3.98 per annum per capita of population to maintain her army on a peace footing. It costs France $3.48 per capita, and Germany $2.05 per capita. The cost to the United States is but 94 cents per capita. The reserved force of every European nation is very great in proportion to the number of soldiers in the regular army.

Domestic Servants' Laws in Denmark

A new government bill introduced in Denmark, regulating the conditions of domestic service, allows contracts to be signed only for one year at the longest. On the termination of service the servant shall be entitled to a testimonial. For each servant a room must be provided at least 16 cubic meters in size, and where there are two servants in one room the size must be 25 cubic meters. Domestic servants of school age may not be employed before 6 a.m., and not within three hours previous to school time. The employer shall be responsible for the insurance of servants' effects against fire, and he shall pay the costs of attendance in case of any sickness. The weekly day of rest and daily worktime must be arranged mutually, but it is provided that after 6 months the servant shall be entitled to three days, and after one year seven days leave. Servants shall be answerable for all damage caused by their own faults. Differences in regard to working conditions are to be settled at a special court to be established in every parish. Members of this court will be elected for a term of 6 years by the parish authorities.

Orpheum Next Week

The big attraction for the week will be a local feature, the Vancouver Meistersingers under the direction of Mr. J. M. Morgan. Mr. Pilling, the Orpheum manager, has booked them in addition to the regular six acts and they will doubtless be a great drawing card as the act comprises eighteen of the best singers in this city and vicinity. The program that will be offered comprises the best selections of their extensive repertoire and embraces both semi-classical and popular numbers. Those people who want to enjoy a treat should not fail to hear the Meistersingers, as they will have much to enjoy and in addition to that all of the boys are residents of Vancouver and home talent.

They Don't Live.

Problem: If it takes ten to twelve dollars a week for one girl to keep alive and free, how can a man bring up a family on the same sum or less? —The Masses.

Stirring Times in Otisville.

Job Harriman has again been nominated for mayor by Los Angeles Socialists and is being solidly supported by the union people. The old parties will again combine to keep Harriman out of office. The election takes place May 6.

Men Who Rely on the Spencer Store for Their Spring Suit

will find every preparation made to give them the same sterling value for their money as heretofore. In fact, we have excelled ourselves.

This spring we have found two new factories that have broken into the wholesale world of clothing in Canada, and the old adage of "new brooms sweeping clean" is amply illustrated in the clothing we have received from them.

PARTICULAR MENTION IS MADE OF THE NAVY SERGE SUIT AT $15

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TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets first and third Thursdays. Executive board: H. C. Benson, president; W. Manson, vice-president; J. W. Wilkinson, general secretary, Room 210 Labor Temple; Jas. Campbell, treasurer; W. Foxcroft, statistician; J. Sully, sergeant-at-arms; F. A. Hoover, V. R. Midgley, W. R. Trotter, trustees.

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AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF CARpenters and Joiners—Room 209. Sey. 2908. Business agent, J. A. Key; office hours, 8 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. Secretary of management committee, G. McEwen, Room 209, Labor Temple. Branches meet every Tuesday and Wednesday in Room 209.

BAKERS' AND CONFECtioners' Local No. 46—Meets second and fourth Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. President, J. Kinnaird; corresponding secretary, W. Rogers, Room 220, Labor Temple; financial secretary, F. Robin-

BARBERS' LOCAL, NO. 120—MEETS second Thursday, 8:30 p. m. President, C. Hald; recording secretary, Geo. W. Isaacs; secretary - business agent, C. F. Burkhart, Room 208, Labor Temple. Hours: 11 to 1; 5 to 7 p.m. Sey. 1776.

BARTENDERS' LOCAL NO. 676.—Office Room 208 Labor Temple. Meets first Sunday of each month. President, Wm. Laurie; financial secretary, A. MacDonald, Room 208 Labor Temple. Phone Seymour 1764.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENters and Joiners, Local No. 617.—Meets Monday of each week, 8 p. m. Executive committee meets every Friday, 8 p.m. President, A. Richmond; recording secretary, Arthur Paine, 305 Labor Temple; financial secretary, G. W. Williams, 305 Labor Temple; treasurer, L. W. Deziel, 305 Labor Temple. Phone Sey. 1380.

BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS and Joiners, South Vancouver No. 1208—Meets Ashe's hall, Twenty-first and Fraser Ave., first and third Thursday of each month, 8 p.m. President, W. J. Robertson; vice-president, J. W. Dickieson; recording secretary, Thos. Lindsay, Box 26, Cedar Cottage; financial secretary, J. A. Dickieson; treasurer, Robt. Lindsay; conductor, A. Conaher; warden, E. Hall.

BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS' International Union, Local 97—Meets second and fourth Friday, Labor Temple, 8 p.m. President, J. A. Seeley; secretary, A. W. Oakley, 738 Semlin Drive, phone Sey. 639.

BRICKLAYERS' AND MASONS', NO. 1—Meets every Tuesday, 8 p.m., Room 307. President, James Haslett; corresponding secretary, W. S. Dagnall, Box 53; financial secretary, F. R. Brown; business agent, W. S. Dagnall, Room 715. Sey. 8793.

BOOKBINDERS' LOCAL UNION NO. 105—Meets third Tuesday in every month, in Room 205 Labor Temple. President, F. J. Milne; vice-president, H. Perry; secretary, George Mowat, 515 Dunlevy avenue.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 213.—Meets Room 301, every Monday 8 p.m. President, Fred. Fuller; vice-president, Geo. B. Moulton; recording secretary, A. F. Gibson, Labor Temple; financial secretary, Robt. Robinson; treasurer, Harold T. Johnson; business agent, H. A. Jones, Room 207, Labor Temple.

BROTHERHOOD OF BOILER MAKERS and Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, Vancouver Lodge No. 194—Meets first and third Mondays, 8 p.m. President, F. Barclay, 358 Cordova East; secretary, A. Fraser, 1151 Howe Street.

CIGARMAKERS' LOCAL, NO. 357—Meets first Tuesday each month, 8 p.m. President, Geo. Gerrard; secretary, Robert J. Craig, Kurts Cigar Factory; treasurer, S. W. Johnson.

COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHERS', British Columbia Division, C. P. System, Division No. 1—Meets 10:30 a.m. third Sunday in month, Room 204. Local chairman, J. F. Campbell, Box 432, Vancouver. Local sec.-treas., A. T. Oberg, Box 432, or 1003 Burrard street.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS', LOCAL NO. 621 (Inside Men)—Meet every Friday Room 205 8 p.m. President S. S. Duff; recording secretary, L. R. Salmon; treasurer and business agent, F. L. Estinghausen, Room 202. Sey. 2348.

GLASS WORKERS' LOCAL, NO. 40—Meets second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. President, J. Fox; vice-president, Wm. Thompson; financial secretary, Wm. Worton; secretary, A. O. Hettler, 425 Dufferin street. Telephone, Fairmont 1238.

LONGSHOREMENS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, No. 38 x 52—Meets every Friday evening, 133 Water street. President, G. J. Kelly; secretary, Thos. Nixon, 133 Water street.

MACHINISTS', NO. 182—MEETS SECond and fourth Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. President, Chas. Mattinson; recording secretary, J. Brookes; financial secretary, J. H. McVety. Sey. 6360.

MUSICIANS' MUTUAL PROTECTIVE Union, Local No. 145, A. F. of M.—Meets second Sunday of each month, 640 Robson street. President, J. Bowyer; vice-president, F. English; secretary, C. P. Howett; treasurer, W. Fowler.

OPERATIVE PLASTERERS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, No. 89—Meets first and third Wednesday, O'Brien Hall, 8 p.m. President, G. Dean; corresponding secretary, F. Sumpter; financial secretary, D. Scott; treasurer, I. Tyson; business agent, E. R. Still. Phone Sey. 1514.

PAINTERS', PAPERHANGERS' AND Decorators', Local 138—Meet every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. President H. Murry; financial secretary, F. J. Harris, 1668 Robson St.; recording secretary, Skene Thompson, Sub P. O. No. 8, Box 5; business agent, W. J. Nagle.

STONECUTTERS', VANCOUVER Branch—Meets second Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. President, J. Marshall; corresponding secretary, Wm. Rowan, Box 1047; financial secretary, K. McKenzie.

STEROTYPERS' AND ELECTROTYPers' Union, No. 88, of Vancouver and Victoria—Meets second Wednesday of each month, 4 p.m., Labor Temple. President, Chas. Bayley; recording secretary, Chris Homewood, 249 13th Ave. East.

STREET AND ELECTRIC RAILWAY Employees, Pioneer Division No. 101—Meets Labor Temple, second and fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m., and first and third Wednesdays, 8 p.m. President, H. Schofield; recording secretary, Albert V. Lofting, 68 26th Ave. E., City Heights P.O.; financial secretary, Fred A. Hoover, 2409 Clark drive.

STEAM ENGINEERS, INTERNATIONal Local 397—Meets every Wednesday, 8 p.m., Room 201, Labor Temple. Financial secretary, E. Prendergast, Room 216.

TAILORS, JOURNEYMAN TAILORS' UNION OF AMERICA, Local No. 178—Meetings held first Tuesday in each month, 8 u.m. President, J. T. Ellsworth; recording and corresponding secretary, W. W. Hocken, P. O. Box 503; financial secretary, L. Rakely, P. O. Box 703.

TILE LAYERS' AND HELPERS', LOcal No. 49—Meets first and third Wednesdays each month, 8 p.m. President, J. Kavanagh; secretary, E. A. E. Morrison, 1759 Eleventh Ave. East.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION NO. 226—Meets last Sunday each month, 2 p.m. President, A. E. Robb; vice-president, A. H. England; secretary-treasurer, R. H. Neelands, P.O. Box 66.

VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR Council—Meets first and third Wednesday, Labor Hall, 731 Johnson street, at 8 p.m. President, A. Watchman, secretary, L. H. Norris, Labor Hall, Victoria, B.C.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF CARpenters and Joiners, Victoria Branch. Meets every Thursday, 8 p.m., Labor Hall, Johnson St., Victoria. Business Agent, B. Simmons. Office hours, 8 to 9 a.m., 1:30 to 2:30, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Secretary, A. E. Wrench; office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 2 to 5:30 p.m.; phone 2568. P. O. Box 770, 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, E. D. Grant, P. O. Box 934. The public is invited to attend.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month in Labor Temple, corner of Royal Ave. and Seventh St., at 8 p.m. President, J. L. Hogg, Hankey Blk., Sapperton; Secretary, A. McDonald, 831 Royal Ave., New Westminster.

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 934, New Westminster, B. C.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARpenters, Local Union No. 1523—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.

BARTENDERS' LOCAL 784—MEETS IN Labor Temple, New Westminster, corner Seventh street and Royal avenue, every second Sunday of each month, at 1:30 p.m. President, P. Paulsen; secretary, S. W. Jameson. Visiting brothers invited.

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.

Socialist Party Directory

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Socialist Party of Canada, meets every Sunday, 3 p.m., Finn Hall, 516 Main street. J. H. Burroughs, secretary.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL Executive Committee, Socialist Party of Canada, meets every Sunday, 3 p.m., Finn Hall, 516 Main street. J. H. Burroughs, secretary.

LOCAL SANDON, B.C., NO. 36, 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.

VANCOUVER LETTISH LOCAL NO. 58, S. P. of C.—Holds its business meetings every first Sunday in the month, and educational meetings every third Sunday in the month in Room 211, Labor Temple.

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 Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Dominion Hall, Pender St. Public meetings in Dominion Theatre, Granville St., Sunday evenings. Secretary, O. L. Charlton, City Market, Main street.

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Bi-color Bedford, 44 inches wide, $1 per yard. Comes in alternate cream and black, cream and navy, cream and grey, and cream and brown.

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Handsome suit of light grey Bedford cord. The coat is cut on straight lines with two-button fastening and rounded front, coat collar and black satin revers, three-button fastening, lined with grey satin. Neatly cut skirt, showing pleats on side gores. Price $35.00

Dressy tan suit, made of the new piplin material. The coat shows cut-away front and fancy shaped back, collar and cuffs, smartly trimmed with cream and brown Eponge, two-button fastening, lined with tan messaline. The skirt is made with high waist line and new wide front. Price $40.00

Fancy black and white Bedford cord suit. The coat has a slightly cut-away front, fancy shaped collar and blac ksatin revers, three-button fastening, tailored sleeves with fancy cuffs, lined with grey satin. Four-pieced skirts with panel front and back. Price $30.00

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For Further Information Apply to

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Secretary, Bureau of Provincial Information, Victoria

LABOR DEPARTMENT APPOINTS FEMALE CORRESPONDENTS

During February and March, 1913, action was taken by the Honorable T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, with a view to extending the scope of the matter published in The Labor Gazette, with regard to the conditions of employment obtaining among women workers throughout Canada. Previously the subject of female employment had been dealt with from time to time by the correspondents of The Labor Gazette resident in the several localities of the Dominion having a population of ten thousand and upwards. It was felt, however, that although a considerable amount of material was made available in this way, a more efficient treatment of the subject would be ensured by the appointment in the larger centres of industry of special women correspondents whose duty would be entirely restricted to the continuous observation and periodical reporting of conditions specifically affecting women workers. It is not intended that the new service shall lead to any curtailment in the information sent in through previous channels, but that in the larger centres the new officers will be able to increase materially the amount of statistical and other matter periodically available with regard to these employees.

At the outset it was thought that the additional service should embrace the four largest cities in Canada, namely, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, the more so as these centres are situated at considerable distances from each other and reflect more or less distinct industrial conditions. The appointments made in the several cities were as follows:

Montreal—Miss Gabrielle R. des Isles, 156 Luke street.

Toronto—Miss Edith Elwood, Evangelia Settlement, Queen and River streets.

Winnipeg—Miss Harriet J. Williams, Secretary Grace Church.

Vancouver—Mrs. Rose Carson, Hotel Barron.

Following is the first report of Mrs. R. Carson:

"Women's place in the industrial world in Vancouver is hedged about by so many conditions that it is almost impossible to make any hard and fast statements regarding it. Here, as elsewhere, the majority of women regard their wage-earning as more or less a makeshift matter.

"Women are prone to regard their work only from the standpoint of immediate returns, they begrudge the time spent in learning a gainful occupation, unless it can be used to advantage after marriage—as dressmaking for instance. This trade has no trouble in securing highclass apprentices nor have the milliners any lack of applicants to learn their trade.

"However, girls will enter the stores at fourteen years of age and younger for three dollars a week, knowing that they will have to work for at least two years before they can hope to earn a living wage.

"Woman's lack of interest in her economic future as a wage earner is shown by her lack of interest in trades unions. There is but one exclusive woman's union in Vancouver: "The Waitresses and Lady Cooks Union," with headquarters in the Labor Temple. There are women members of the Garment Workers Union and the Bookbinders Union.

"The greatest need in Vancouver is for well trained hands in all lines of gainful endeavor. The stores want women capable of earning from $18 to $25 a week. Higher efficiency is the cry in the female labor market in Vancouver today.

"The labor problem that vexes the housewife most is the lack of well trained general servants. There is a great demand for the "cook-general," for the family which keeps only one domestic. $30 with board and room is the average wage, although a neat girl who can cook can easily command $35 a month.

"Women as a rule are not well paid in Vancouver, when the high cost of living is considered. Garment workers' wages range from $6 to $15 a week on a nine hour day basis. Laundry workers receive $7 a week for ordinary work, although a good ironer may make as high as $18 a week; this on a basis of an eight hour day. $8 a week is the average factory pay. These girls have the advantage in most factories of a hot drink for luncheon and pleasant lunch rooms. Retail clerks receive from $8 to $25 a week, the average wage being about $10 a week. The wages of telephone operators are from $35 to $45 a month. Waitresses receive $10 a week for an eight hour day and $12 a week for a ten hour day with board.

"Conditions as affecting women wage earners have been good during the month of March in Vancouver, one reason for this being an early Easter, which stimulated the clothing trade and manifested itself in a brisk demand for garment workers, milliners, dressmakers, tailoresses, clerks and seamstresses. Teachers are now being sought by the outlying districts which have school during the warmer months. $60 a month with housing accommodation is the usual wage offered. There is a brisk demand for waitresses in the smaller towns, too with the coming of pleasanter weather.

"One of the most insistent appeals made to the Labor Commission of British Columbia which sat in Vancouver for some ten days was for a law prohibiting the employment of white women by Orientals; it was argued that such employment has a deteriorating effect morally on the women.

"A minimum wage law was also asked for women, different sums, ranging from $9 a week to $12, in the opinions of different persons were the least a woman should be paid for a week's work of fifty-four hours.

"Figures were presented by a representative of the Women's Council to show that a girl or woman could not support herself on less than $7.50 a week. This sum to be expended thus: $5 for board and room—a very small allowance—fifty cents for car fare, fifty cents for laundry, leaving $1.50 a week to cover the cost of all necessary clothing.

"One of the needs of Vancouver is a good boarding house for women wage earners. There are only two such institutions, one having three different hostels being operated by the Y.W.C.A., and one being run by the W.C.T.U."

RULES FOR PEDESTRIANS ON HASTINGS STREET

Rule 1—Pedestrians crossing Hastings street at night shall wear a white light in front and a red light in the rear.

Rule 2—Before turning to the right or left they should give three short blasts on a horn at least three inches in diameter.

Rule 3—When an inexperienced automobile driver is made nervous by a pedestrian he shall indicate the same, and the pedestrian shall hide behind a tree until the automobile has passed.

Rule 4—Pedestrians shall not carry in their pockets any sharp substances which are liable to cut automobile tires.

Rule 5—In dodging automobiles, pedestrians shall not run more than seven miles an hour.

Rule 6—Pedestrians must register at the beginning of each year, and pay a license fee of $20 for the privilege of living. There shall be no rebate if they do not live during the entire year.

Rule 7—Pedestrians shall not be allowed to emit cigar smoke on any street in an offensive or unnecessary manner.

Rule 8—Each pedestrian before receiving his license to walk upon Hastings street must demonstrate before an examining board his skill in dodging, leaping, crawling and extricating himself from machinery.

Rule 9—Pedestrians will be held responsible for all damages done to automobiles, or their occupants, by collision.

Illinois unionists are waging such an aggressive battle for the enactment of labor laws before the Legislature, in which the four socialist members are leading all the other statesmen, that the Illinois Manufacturers' Association has been thrown into a panic and has sent out a hurry call for funds to defeat the labor bills. All business men are called upon to produce $50—$10 initiation fee and $40 for one year's dues—Cleveland Citizen.

In the election for members of Parliament in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the socialists came close to cleaning the whole deck. They gained the senator and two deputies, the radicals electing the third deputy. South America is moving rapidly toward socialism.

Bricklayers Get Raise

The Bricklayers' and Masons' Union of Texas put into effect their $1 a day raise in wages on the first of April. This advance makes the wage scale of the "bricks" $7 per day. The bricklayers in this state are thoroughly organized as a result of steady and persistent work. The state organization has gathered practically all the nonunion bricklayers into the fold.

As long as nations meet on the fields of war—as long as they sustain the relations of savages to each other—as long as they put the laurel and the oak on the brows of those who kill—just so long will citizens resort to violence, and the quarrels be settled by dagger and revolver.—Robert G. Ingersoll.

There is nothing more humorous than a serious man trying to be funny.

TWO PORCUPINE MINERS ARE FREED.

SOUTH PORCUPINE, Ont., April 2.—In the decision which has just been rendered by Judge J. J. Kehoe, in the Fifth Division Court, District of Sudbury, in the cases of William Holowatsky, A. Croft and Peter Cleary, three of the strikers against the Hollinger Mines Company, the Porcupine Miners' Union, Local 145, affiliated with the Western Federation of Miners, considers it has won a signal victory.

The men were convicted on January 21 before Police Magistrate Thomas Torrence of having violated the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act of 197. In the first two cases, Judge Kehoe, to whom the cases were appealed, decided against the Crown and ordered costs to be paid to each of the defendants in the sum of $50. In the last case, the defendant was again found guilty and adjudged to pay $50 costs to the Crown.

Under the act it is a crime for any one to incite a strike while a question of the adjustment of hours, wages or working conditions is under dispute between the contending sides. The defendants were accused of having violated the act.

The court found that the strike against the Hollinger Mines Company was called suddenly, and before negotiations between the mine owners and the men had even been undertaken. Under the circumstances, contended Judge Kehoe, the defendants could not have violated the act as there really was no dispute on. On these grounds Holowatsky and Croft were acquitted. In the case of Cleary, the court found that he had "incited" after the strike had already begun.

Industrial Unionism in Great Britain

Industrial unionism continues to make progress along rational and logical lines in Great Britain. The members of five of the principal trade unions in the tailoring and clothing trades are now voting on the question of amalgamating into one organization under the name of United Garment Workers' Trade Union. The organizations concerned are the Amalgamted Society of Tailors, the Amalgamted Union of Clothiers' Operatives, the Jewish Tailors and Tailor-Clothiers Cutters' Trade Union and the Scottish Operative Tailors and Tailoresses' Trade Union. Another industry in which amalgamation of the existing unions is being sought is that of transportation. A meeting of representatives was held at Hull recently at which the proposition of consolidation was favorably considered and details are being worked out. It is certain that a combined stand will be made for a reduction of hours of labor and the abolition of overtime. The building trades also continue their efforts to combine, although it is officially stated that the Amalgamted Society of Carpenters and Joiners will take no further part at present in the scheme for amalgamation. This action on the part of the carpenters is not expected to interfere very greatly with the general plan laid down.

A man willing to work and unable to find work is, perhaps, the saddest sight that fortune's inequality exhibits under the sun.—Thomas Carlyle.

Some earnest people get religion—others only dyspepsia.

WAGE WORKERS' FORUM

ORGANIZATION

Editor Federationist:

Sir,—One very important factor appertaining to organization, and one which some zealous trade unionists do not realize, is, that there are two forms of organization in the labor movement. The industrial and the political, and that the condition which is favorable to one form of organization is unfavorable to the other.

When trade is brisk and the workers commodity is in demand industrial organization proceeds apace. The conditions are favorable and the workers, being employed more or less steadily can be brought to see the advantage of organizing in order to improve the conditions under which they are employed. The conditions being favorable all organizing work undertaken at such a time is in accord with an understanding of the conditions which make for unity and on that account makes for the greatest measure of success. On the contrary during slack periods such as the one we are passing through the principal work of the trade union business agent is not that of getting new members but rather that of keeping intact the organization as it now exists. During those periods when a considerable number of the workers are unemployed the industrial form of organization meets with but little success. The workers are then trying to find a remedy for the position in which they find themselves placed and the conditions are favorable for political organization.

The conditions which act favorably or otherwise on the industrial organization of individual workers, act in like maner on the formation of central bodies by individual unions.

Those unions which, through slackness in trade, have but a small percentage of their membership working, are now favorably inclined to the formation of new councils or central bodies, as a matter of fact their enthusiasm towards the central body to which they may already be affiliated visibly decreases.

The student of the conditions underlying this lack of enthusiasm for organization does not worry because of this, he realizes that the conditions react upon the local union in exactly the same ratio as they do upon the individual and on that account does not waste his time or patience in a vain attempt to bring into being some particular form of organization to which the conditions existing at that time are absolutely opposed. Instead he busies himself solidifying the particular union to which he may belong in order that in case of a demand for workers, his union will be able to take advantage of such demand to improve their working conditions.

An attempt to explain these conditions to some of the above mentioned zealous trade unionists is sometimes met by the expression "scab philosophy." We do not like the term but must excuse the speaker thereof, for zealous in the movement though he be, sincere as he undoubtedly is, his knowledge of the labor movement and the conditions acting and reacting upon the same is extremely superficial.

J. KAVANAGH.

SOUTH VANCOUVER U. B. CARPENTERS

U. B. Carpenters discussed "The Elements and Ideas of Trade Unionism." Summarised it ran as follows:

The trade union movement has the elements of natural law for a basis and gives its best service to the working classes by observing the laws of natural evolution.

The perfection of the part, rests in its fitness to the whole. Unionism or co-operation is a factor in nature's struggle for liberty.

First is the liberation of the body. That was decided in the signing of the Magna Charter, the anti-slave wars, and the habeas corpus acts, which produced the legal verdict "against the body of an healthy man, the state has no right of assault." The state, however, still relies most upon force to protect individual life and vitality from assault so that national energy may be developed. An appeal to force is the last resort of primitive passion and only bearing an aspect of reason when better sentiments have failed to avert this murderous waste of human energy.

Full liberty of body is only attained when its energy is free to realize the best its soul aspires for.

Liberty of circumstance is the necessary sequel to liberty of body. And here it is that unionism makes it its special province to war against a vicious competitive system in which man robs fellow man of substance honour, and life.

Liberty of mind, of conscience and of soul are struggles in development in coercion and culture.

Those three elements are in the spheres of observation, comparison, and religion and their redemption is by knowledge, altruism and the spirit.

Labor organizations to secure a fighting efficiency take no cognizance of natural law in the redemption of mind, conscience or soul.

Hence there are two types of unionists schools of motive. One that affirms it preaches unionism for what there is in it, and that the end justifies the means.

The other declares unionism to be but a necessary step in organized human progress.

Both schools are unstable. One because of its selfish motives breeding envy, rivalry and sordid depreciation. The other because its powers to co-operate are not as strong as the desire to realize a consistent progressive unionism.

Ideal unionism has to realize the relative claims of the five elements that make for liberty, body, circumstance, mind, conscience and soul.

The ideal unionism therefore cherishes that reverent fidelity that strives for the better life.

ALF ABET.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS

During the month of January, February and March there were 37 new lodges organized, says the Machinists Journal.

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Let every member put his shoulder to the wheel; become an active organizer, and help make this the banner year.

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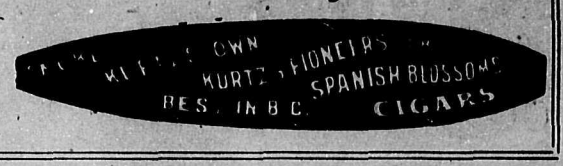

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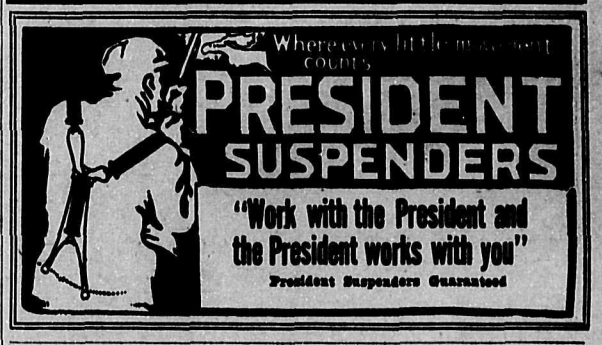

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WOMAN WAGE WORKERS' PROBLEM

By W. R. Trotter.

If we are to judge from the general comment which is now appearing in the press of Canada from east to west in every city, together with the enquiry proceeding in the United States, there is some evidence that the indefinite quantity known as the "public conscience" is to some extent becoming aroused over conditions prevailing in those industries and occupations carried on chiefly by female labor.

Spasms of righteous indignation have affected clerical and other circles, but the laboring men through their councils have not ceased to draw attention to and discuss these matters and when the Labor Commission, appointed by the British Columbia government, held its first sessions in Vancouver, a delegate from the Typographical Union put forward the question as a fit subject for their investigation. The commissioners confessed themselves interested and requested that a representative committee be formed to gather and submit evidence at later sessions.

A committee was formed of representatives from the Trades and Labor Council, the Women's Council and the Board of Trade, which held several sessions, each section gathering its own data and ultimately presenting the evidence individually. The committee, from evidence gathered locally, was satisfied that female labor in Vancouver was often inadequately and in some cases miserably paid. Much of the evidence was naturally of a confidential nature owing to the fact that these people are not organized and under such conditions there is always a danger of discrimination.

The committee agreed that an Act was necessary to regulate hours and to provide a statutory minimum wage and if such provision should give the woman worker an opportunity to pay for board, room and clothing only, it would mean in many cases an advance equal to their present total remuneration.

The Labor Commission is now in possession of the evidence tendered by both employer and employee on this matter, together with suggestions as *to what steps should be taken to* remedy what are admittedly undesirable conditions, for the position of the woman worker has improved little during the time which has passed since the writing of "The Song of the Shirt." In fact the revelations of modern industry in regard to the woman worker form the strongest indictment of the present industrial system.

Friends Will Not Baulk Enquiry

During the present enquiry there was happily very little, if any, introduction of sentiment—but rather the presentation of facts regarding the economic position of the people concerned. What little newspaper discussion ensued was, with possibly one exception, of the same nature. The exception referred to was a letter to the press seeking to misrepresent the stand of those who had instituted the enquiry and to cloud the issue by making it appear that an attack was being made upon someone's morals. I imagine that the assumption of a championship of this sort and the endeavor thus made to misdirect the enquiry will be most obnoxious to those who stand to benefit most by publicity such as is now being sought.

Concealment of facts surrounding the case will not assist the present, or indeed any enquiry, and there is little consolation in knowing that in every city in the "civilized" world at this moment the conditions, as a result of the system, are the same. As Will Crooks would say: "Do not imagine you are any worse than anybody else, and do not think you are any better—you're not!"

Nor will cynical references to the uselessness of efforts of this kind be likely to assist those who most need assistance. Deep-rooted causes may not be understood by many who are fully able to appreciate effects, and if the Labor Commission can be used to uncover some of the economic plague spots of Vancouver there are few who stand to lose. Driven by the enthroned deity of commercialism—industrial competition— the fear that some concession will give an impetus to the business of an opponent prevents "concessions" being made at all, or at least provides the only argument so far advanced by those professedly willing to "concede" improvements in wages, shorter hours, or in fact in any desired direction. Law, then, which shall be equally binding is necessary, and when changes are definitely proposed in the shape of legal enactment we want to hear a reiteration of the same expressions of willingness to improve conditions "if everybody in the business did the same."

The Average Wage Argument

Arguments based on the average wages paid in any establishment are about as convincing as the publication of the city bank clearings to a man unemployed and needy. The salary of a few superintendents and managers might well increase the average or per capita disbursement of any business concern, but the difference between actual wages in the ranks and the average thus obtained is not negotiable security but mythical mathematics.

Ex-Mayor Macdonald of Winnipeg makes the statement that the average wages of the telephone operators in that city is $30 per month, and adds emphatically that no girl can live on such wages. Regarding Calgary, Miss Isabella Earnest, a Pinkerton detective (who had occasion to search that city for an Oklahoma girl) declared that the city blocks were "full of girls who have sold themselves to obtain the bare necessities of life because of the paucity of their wages. Briefly, if they were good, they could not afford to work for the wage they are receiving."

"Hostels" Not a Solution

In Edmonton the Local Council of Women is urging the necessity of the provision of some cheaper housing accommodation for women workers, and has presented a statement regarding conditions there to the City Council. It is somewhat curious that the women should continue to subscribe to a fallacy of this kind as a remedy, and we noticed that some of the members of the Women's Council in Vancouver are possessed of the same idea. The Edmonton Trades Council is vigorously opposing a civic grant for this purpose and doing so directly in the interests of those whom the Women's Council seeks to benefit. We append part of a resolution passed by the Trades Council which covers the ground in this connection:

"Be it resolved, that this Trades and Labor Council strongly protests against the granting of public funds for any purpose which either directly or indirectly will enable or make it possible, for employers of women workers in this city to escape the necessity of paying a wage compatible with the cost of living.

"And be it further resolved, that in view of the allegations made by the Local Council of Women, which we also endorse, as to the condition of women workers in this city, and to the low wages many of them are paid for their services, that we urge upon the City Council the immediate necessity of appointing a civic committee, or commission, to enquire fully into and investigate the industrial conditions affecting the female workers of this city."

Low Wages and Vice

Newspaper readers must be familiar with the mass of evidence which has been collected by a commission now investigating in the United States. Primarily a vice commission, they have been compelled to consider the relation between vice and low wages, and much of the evidence taken can be recommended to the notice of the British Columbia Labor Commission, who in the consideration of low wages will be compelled to take notice of the possibility of the same relations.

Speaking in Chicago, Lieut.-Gov. O'Hara, as chairman of the United States commission, stated:

"Millionaire employers who have testified that they see no connection between low wages and the vice situation either have very little conscience or no conscience at all. That starvation wages have been coined into enormous profits for millionaire employers has been proved conclusively by this investigation. These men can not convince the public that they do not know that low wages are a prime factor to ruining young girls. It is up to them to redeem their reputations as right thinking men by raising the wages of all girl workers in their employ to the bread line they themselves have fixed, $8 a week, without compulsion by state."

That the commissioner after such exhaustive enquiry, should describe $8 per week as merely a "bread line" is in itself significant. With a higher cost of living it must cease to be even that on the Pacific Coast.

The Story of Josephine Pierce

A woman journalist of Chicago, Maude Le Page, recounts a story and makes some comment which is here reproduced:

"I am getting only $6 a week and as I can't live on that I went out on the streets evenings so I could get enough to keep me going."

This was the testimony of Josephine Pierce before Judge Hopkins a few days ago. She said she received $6 a week in the label department of one of the greatest wholesale stores in the world.

"You are the first to tell me a story like this," said Judge Hopkins. "These big firms who do not pay women enough wages to keep body and soul together are directly responsible for the delinquency of you and those like you. I shall not fine you. You have not sinned. You are merely the victim of a system. You are discharged."

Reader, figure a moment with me, please, and let us see just how far you could make $6 reach?

Hall bedroom	$2.50
Seven 10c breakfasts	.70
Seven 15c dinners	1.05
Seven 15c suppers	1.05
Car fare (six days)	.60
Soap	.10
	$6.00

Clothes? Doctor bills? Amusements? Education? Church? Recreation?

Somewhere something is wrong, and after looking at these figures we can not truthfully say we believe the fault lies with the working girl.

She must live! Do you hear me? She must live! It is the call of Nature.

Put some of our big Chicago employers on the witness stand, and if they will tell the truth about themselves and their system of getting money as truthfully as Josephine Pierce did they will be breaking rock the rest of their days."

PRES. SIVERTZ AND PENSIONS.

(Continued from Page One.)

ciety having made them what they are.

The question of Old Age Pensions is, however, only one of the many phases of social evolution to which the State should extend its operation, as long as labor power is treated as any article of commerce, and production is carried on for profit. Compensation for industrial accidents, protection of children by assisting widows, and deserted mothers, hospital service and maintenance of any adult during prolonged sickness, are some of the questions to which the attention of the State will be invited in the near future, more particularly when it has recognized its duty in regard to the aged, by providing pensions.

In British Columbia, as a result of the highly organized state corporate ownership has reached, the conditions of labor, from whose class practically all the aged poor come, is that precariousness of employment? Is the rule in industry, making savings or provision for old age, possible only, to a few of the workers, and utterly impossible to the many? And I believe that the establishing of an Old Age Pension by the government is looked upon by the working people of the province as a duty the State owes to its citizens.

In this city I find that the Home for Old Men, a municipal institution, contains 41 inmates, 38 of whom are 65 or over and all in needy circumstances, the cost being 75c per day average. The Home for Old Women, a semi-public institution, contains 40 inmates, 18 of whom are without support, and over 60. The Friendly Help Society, a voluntary benevolent institution, assisted in one way or another 15 old people during the year ending February, 1913. Outside of these cases, it may be taken for granted, there are cases existing where old people are being taken care of by their grown up children, sharing their scant means with their young families at the cost of that full degree of care and comfort which the future citizen is entitled to in his tender years.

CHRISTIAN SIVERTZ.

VICTORIA LETTER CARRIERS

Next Tuesday evening the concert of the Letter Carriers' Mutual Benefit Association will be given at the Victoria theatre.

Tickets may be obtained from the letter carriers, and all reserved tickets must be exchanged at the box office before 6 p.m. on Tuesday. Owing to the length of the programme the curtain will rise precisely at 8.15. The proceeds will be devoted to the Sick Benefit Fund. President A. J. Bird expects again to see a full house.

More Electricians Killed

Henry H. Fulton and Arthur Wittick, electricians in the employ of the B. C. Electric Railway Co., and working on the high tension transmission lines from the Goldstream auxiliary plant, each received in his body a full charge of 16,000 volts last Monday afternoon. Thus the terrible toll of lives paid by the electricians mounts up. When the labor commission was here a vest mass of highly efficient evidence was laid before them by representatives of the electrical workers and it is almost certain that legislation controlling the slinging of high power wires will be recommended. It is also likely that it will be brought forward by McBride at the next sitting of the legislature for, when the electricians explained to him that the wires hanging near his house might any day fall and deliver such a shock as would put even Richard himself on the blink, he at once sat up and took notice.

Cumberland Scabs Killed

Two strike breaking miners were killed and four others injured in an accident which occurred at No. 8 shaft, Cumberland, last Saturday morning. It is stated that the men were not used to the work of timbering the shaft which they were sinking.

Miners Killed Near Lethbridge

The worst disaster which has ever happened in the mines north of the river at Lethbridge occurred at the Chinook mines last Monday morning. Shortly after the men had gone down on the morning shift a terrible explosion took place killing one miner outright and injuring four others badly enough to make their ultimate fate a matter of uncertainty. The cause of the explosion is thought to be coal damp.

There is nothing so foolish as an old man in love.

All do not sleep who snore.

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On Monday, March 24
Sultan Turkish Baths
Were Opened to the Public
The management feel that they are filling a long-felt want by inaugurating in Vancouver a custom that is followed in all large cities in Canada, United States and Europe, namely, devoting a certain part of the day to the ladies of this city. The Baths will be open every day, except Sunday, from the hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for use of ladies only. During those hours none but lady attendants are in charge of the Baths. Between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 a.m., and all day Sundays, the Baths are open for men only and in charge of male attendants only. We have secured the services of expert lady masseuses, and masseurs of wide experience, who will look after the comfort of our patrons.
Not only have we the Sultan Turkish Bath, but also the Russian system. The dry hot room, one of the main features of a Turkish Bath, has accommodation for over forty at once, the largest on the Pacific Coast. In connection is a steam room, fine marble rubbing slabs, a plunge 40x20, 6½ feet deep, shower baths, 24 single rooms and a palatial lounging room. The management have gone to considerable expense, with only one objective view, the comfort and welfare of their patrons. We invite the public, and especially invite the physicians of Vancouver, to inspect our premises. After having done so, we feel secure in the belief of their patronage.
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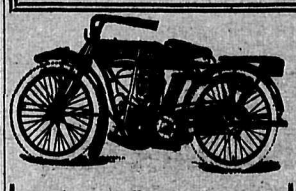
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