THE BRITISH COLUMBIA

INDUSTRIAL UNITY: STRENGTH. OFFICIAL PAPER: VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL AND B. C.

FIFTH YEAR. NO. 98. No. 709. Watch your address label. VANCOUVER, B. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUA

COAL MINERS' STRIKE BEFORE LABOR COMMISSION AT NANAIMO

The Labor Commission held a sitting in the Provincial Courthouse, Nanaimo, last Monday evening when evidence was given regarding the bringing of strikebreakers from Edmonton to the Cumberland mines. Robert Foster, president of the coal miners, also appeared before the Commission. Charles Smith informed the commission he had been brought from Edmonton under a misrepresentation of affairs at Cumberland. On the representations of Mr. Ferris, who the witness believed was a representative of the coal company, witness visited an employment agency at Edmonton, paid his dollar and was engaged to come to Cumberland and start work. He asked Ferris if there was a strike on at Cumberland and Ferris told him no, but there was a general walkout as the men were taking a holiday, and as far as witness knew there was no strike for an increase of wages. Witness was engaged to work in the mines although he was a cook by trade, and on the way across from Vancouver he met Mr. Pattinson, who told him there was a strike on at Cumberland for higher wages. There were 89 men in the party which left Edmonton for Cumberland and witness was supposed to provide them with food en route, but all they got to eat was bread and cheese, with a little coffee at Field and Mission. The party began to think everything was not on the square when at Mission agents talked of holding the party there until an opportune time presented itself for rushing them through to Vancouver. Upon arrival at Vancouver C. P. R. police took charge of both ends of the car and the party tumbled to the fact that something was wrong. Only fourteen were left in the party upon arrival at Nanaimo and although he had tried to get employment here he was as yet unable to do so.

Mr. John T. James, who was also a member of the party brought down from Edmonton, substantiated the statements made by the previous witness. James stating he was engaged as a mechanic, but upon arirval at Cumberland he was offered work as a helper at $2.30 a day, which he refused. He wished to register a complaint to the commission that the employment agency at Edmonton and Mr. Ferris had mislead him and the company at Cumberland would not assume any responsibility for Ferris' agreement with witness.

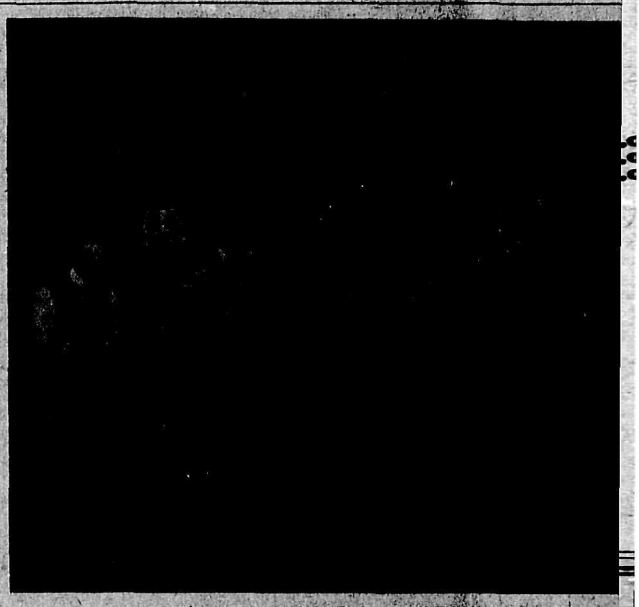
Mr. Robert Foster, president of the United Mine Workers for Vancouver Island, informed the commission that miners of Vancouver Island were victims of discrimination. In the "Jingle Pot" mine of the Vancouver Nanaimo Coal Company two miners had complained to him they worked 10 shifts and only received $29 when they were told if they did not make wages they would be made up to $3.30 a day and other two men who worked 10 shifts and only received $18 were also told they would made up. The only explanation witness could give why the men were not made up was that it rested with the superintendent to say what men were worth, " being no clause in the agreement stating the company should make men up to a certain wage. He had been told by men they were working for less than $2.50 a day, but it seemed to him the men in Nanaimo were afraid to speak for their rights for fear of losing their employment. The majority of the miners on Vancouver Island were members of the United Mine Workers although only a small percentage of the miners in Nanaimo were members of the union. Five months ago the union drew up a schedule for an advance in wages and submitted the same to the operators of the Island, asking for a conference to consider the same, but the union received no reply from any of the operators. The schedule as drafted by the union called for a general advance of 20 per cent, which it was thought the men were entitled to owing to the increased price of living, raise in rents, etc. Timbermen in Nanaimo got $3.30 a day and timbermen's helpers $2.86, which was a very small wage for a married man. Rents in Nanaimo had advanced from 25 to 60 per cent, during the last two years, and the rent of Company houses had also advanced during that time. The price of coal had been advanced by the operators so he saw no reason why wages should not be advanced at least 20 per cent.

Chairman Parson remarked he could not see where the men could have any objections in view of their having signed an agreement which did not expire until September next.

Mr. Foster informed the Commission the local union of Nanaimo had asked him to state to the Commission they were not satisfied with the scale of wages called for in the agreement which they did not consider a legal one. He had sent men who had a grievance to the Committee, but the Committee had refused to act in the matter. He could also prove that miners on the Island were discriminated against. A man named Kenda had got burned in the Cumberland mines and the company refused to pay him compensation. He left Cumberland and after working a short time at South Wellington got a job at the new Reserve mine of the Western Fuel Company. After working there eleven shifts he was told there was no more work for him, but they could not tell him why, but Kenda insisted it was because he had had trouble with other companies on the island. Witness brought up the Kenda case to show the Commission men were victimized on the Island and also to prove his charge, it was a fact that when a driver asked for a job in the local mines he was told he would have to go to the office and sign an agreement whereas previously the driver boss would not hesitate but would tell him to start work in the morning. Witness also charged that the Coal Mines Regulation Act was violated in the local mines, Inspector Newton having found men firing shots in Protection mine who had no certificates, also that firemen had more ground to cover than they could properly attend to. Witness also had had called to his attention violations of the eight hour law which he tried to get Inspector Morgan to take up, but he had refused to do so.

SWEET ARE THE USES OF ADVERTISEMENT.

You wonder why the McBride government is so well supported by the press. The answer can be seen in the item of $88,000 voted by the provincial government for "advertising." $88,000 if judicially spent among the newspapers can do a lot in making them see the beneficence of the present government. To the average newspaper government advertising is like found money, and the average newspaper management will do some pretty low crawling to annex found money. The wage workers of the province have not control of the funds. Their poor pay barely keeps them in the necessaries of life. Hence the newspapers ignore them, snub them. For the management of these sheets know the workers will part with their money to buy the sheets anyway. So the newspapers boom the government and the workers furnish their nickels to the papers and their votes to their masters.



UNION CIGAR MAKERS AT WORK IN VANCOUVER.

The above is an illustration of the interior of the Kurtz Cigar Factory. During last year more than one million union cigars were turned out of this factory, among them being such familiar brands as "Pioneer," etc. The Kurtz was the first white cigar factory in B. C. and was first established in Victoria in 1878. In 1892, Mr. C. L. Behna over t to be the V make

400 MEN STRIKE AT BRITAN

UNION SECRETARY FIRED---MI

All the miners, carpenters and loggers are out on strike from the Britannia mines. For some time previouus to last summer there was friction between the officials of the Britannia mines and the miners. The trouble arose because the mine officials objected to the miners being organized, and because they refused to allow the secretary of the miners to visit the men during the mens' time. Finally matters reached a climax and a board of arbitration was appointed by the Minister of Labor under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act. The board reported in favor of the men, but the company refused to accept the finding of the board, and from then on the miners' secretary was not allowed to visit them because the company would not allow him to go on their property.

Things looked very black for the miners, but anyone who knows anything of the history of the Western Federation of Miners will realize that matters must be very bad indeed if they give up a fight. After the setback of last summer, the miners kept their organization together in secret, and finally, at 4 o'clock on Christmas morning last, they held a meeting and elected officers, among them being Kerr McNeil, who was chosen as secretary. The company learned of their action and trouble again began to brew. Finally, matters again came to a head, and last Tuesday night, Mr. Wilie, the superintendent, told McNeil that his services were no longer required. The men held a special meeting at night. Those who were supposed to go on at 7 p. m. asked permission to lay off until 8 p. m. in order that they might attend the meeing, but they were told that if they did not go on shift they would be fired. The 7 o'clock shift went to the meeting. A committee was appointed to visit Mr. Wilie and ask why McNeil was fired. Wilie replied that he could fire whom he liked, and refused to reinstate McNeil. The committee reported back, and on a vote being taken the miners decided unanimously to strike. The result is that about 400 men quit work, including the carpenters, and the loggers who cut the timber for props, etc., in the mines.

Strikers Meet in Labor Temple.

A preliminary meeting of the striking miners from Britannia was held last Thursday afternoon in the Labor Temple, Vancouver. About 150 men were tenda ing hi Mr. Work Nanai dress the c to th said, and t again worki He ers w and a Arr a kno men ed to inform ies of A n ers w Vanco 24th, The at Ro ver, there, latest be on

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Labor Temple,
Feb. 20th, 1913.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

Credentials were received and delegates seated as follows: Cigar Makers, A. Glandt; Commercial Telegraphers, A. Tennant; Waitresses, P. Brisbane; Bricklayers, D. Trent; Bakers, W. Mackie; Street Railwaymen, W. W. Burrough and W. H. Cottrell; Longshoremen, A. Reed and T. Nixon; Moving Picture Operators, E. Hornby; Lathers, W. McPherson; Steam Engineers, H. Songby.

Executive Committee Report
Rm. 210 Labor Temple,
Feb. 17th, 1913.

The Executive Committee met this evening with the following members present: Benson, Sully, Foxcroft, Midgley, Trotter, Campbell, Wilkinson, Hoover.

Communications—From L. U. 617, U. B. of Carpenters asking for a statement showing why they should continue to pay per capita tax to the Trades and Labor Council. Recommended: That committee of two be appointed to visit the U. B. of Carpenters to explain why they should remain in the Trades and Labor Council Concurred in. Commitee: Wilkinson and McVety.

From Alderman McBeath, re himself and other aldermen addressing the Council on the False Creek question. Recommended: That we concur in request, and that Secretary extend invitation to Mayor Baxter to be present at next meeting of Council. Concurred in.

From Herman Wheeler re high price of living and salaries of municipal officers. Recommended: Filed. Concurred in.

The following bills recommended for payment: E. T. Kingsley, for envelopes, $4.25; James Campbell, for February, $10.00; J. W. Wilkinson, for February, $10.00; J. W. Wilkinson, for stamps, $1.00.

The question of the ability of the Council to finance a permanent secretary or business agent was taken up. The matter was discussed at some length, and the following motion was made and carried: That we recommend to the Council that a business agent be put in the field at a salary of $30.00 per week. Motion, Midgley, Cleveland: That we concur in the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Whilst Delegate Blumberg was speaking the ruling of the chair was appealed by Delegate Kernighan. With Vice-President Manson in the chair, the previous ruling of the chair was sustained.

Whilst Delegate Midgley was speaking, Delegate Blumberg made an observation which the chair called upon him to withdraw, or leave the room. Delegate Blumberg left the room.

Amendment. McVety, McDonald: That the matter be referred back to the committee to bring in a statement showing what increase of per capita tax would be necessary to en-

(Continued on page four)

UNION MEETINGS AT LABOR TEMPLE FOR COMING WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 23—Typographical Union, 2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 24—Glass Workers; Lathers; Electrical Workers, No. 213; Halibut Fishermen; Bro. of Carpenters; Amal. Engineers.

Tuesday, Feb. 25—Sign Painters; Shinglers; Amal. Carpenters; Bricklayers.

Wednesday, Feb. 26—Steam Engineers; Marble Cutters; Metal Trades Council; Amal. Carpenters; Street Railwaymen; Plumbers; Cement Workers.

Thursday, Feb. 27—Garment Workers; Horse Shoers; Marble Cutters' Helpers; Painters; Sheet Metal Workers; Machinists.

Friday, Feb. 28—Structural Iron Workers; Parliamentary Committee; Floor Layers.

Saturday, Feb. 29—Nil.

SPECIAL MEETING TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of the Trades and Labor Council will be held next Thursday night, February 27th, at 8 p.m. Business of the first importance will be brought forward and all delegates should make every effort to be present in the interests of the organizations they represent.

LATHERS, ATTENTION.

An open meeting of the Lathers' Union will be held on Monday next, Feb. 24, in Room 205, Labor Temple, at 8 p. m. to consider the question of wages and conditions for the present year. All members are urged to put in an appearance and non-union men are cordially invited to attend.

VICTOR R. MIDGLEY,
President.
THOS. ANDERSON,
Secretary.

HALIBUT FISHERMEN.

The Halibut Fishermen report that the B. C. Packers' Association, one of the firms with whom they have had trouble at New Westminster, have agreed to recognize the union, and to pay one cent and a quarter per pound for all fish caught. The men have accepted those terms and will man the boats of the company. It is expected that a settlement will be reached in Vancouver during the next few days.

BATHE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Berlin.—It cost Berlin $28 for each child in the public schools for 1912, exclusive of the maintenance of buildings and the salaries of instructors. Among the items listed were 900,000 baths for children at a cost of 2½ cents each. More than $34,000 was spent in feeding poor children who came to school without their breakfast or lunch.

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THE B. C. FEDERATIONIST

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FRIDAY.....FEBRUARY 21, 1913

HEROES, LIMELIGHT AND BRITISH HUMBUG.

The account of the disaster which has befallen the Scott antarctic expedition is now even as a tale that is told.

The story came with crushing simplicity of detail, and no one with any imagination will question the grit and bravery shown by the intrepid little band which has perished in that icebound desolation. But the antics of the British public over the incident raise comparisons in the mind of thinking people. For some reason the British have gathered to themselves a reputation for being phlegmatic and very restrained in moments of disaster and calamity, but the lack of balance in judgment which has been shown over the Scott affair is characteristic of them at such times.

The self-sacrifice of Scott and his companions is without flaw, but does it excel in quality the heroism of a navvy who drops his shovel and dives into a gas-ridden sewer to drag out a fellow-workman who has been overpowered by the fumes? And again, is it greater heroism than that which is shown every time there is a coal mine explosion and men clamor for the chance of being allowed to go down into the mine to bring out their dead and injured comrades? These men do not ask to be allowed to join in the work of rescue because they are ignorant of the risk they are running. They ask with a full, practical knowledge of the dangers, and often pay for their heroism with their lives; and if it be true that "greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend," then the miners are entitled to as much honor as society can show to their memory and their dependents.

Society cannot live a day of its life without the miner, but when a hundred or two miners are killed we do not find the British public holding national memorial services and discussing the design of statues to perpetuate their memory. The British are always funny, if viewed from the correct angle, but never funnier than at such times as these. They do not mind weeping for their dead—providing their dead are persons of enough eminence to ensure that the whole world will be there to witness the national grief. To weep over the thousand obscure heroes of their mines, mills, factories and workshops would only be waste of time for nobody would be watching—and this applies nt only to the British but to every one of the "great" nations.

To read the ordinary newspapers one would think that human bravery and pluck were the especial attributes of one particular class in the community. And it was a tell-tale touch of Scott's where, in his diary, he speaks of Capt. Oates going out to die "like an English gentleman." It must be a very strong sense of "class" which makes a man write thus under conditions so appallingly natural that all men are just men—and no more. After a long residence in England the very term "English gentleman" is one which gives rise to confusion. G. B. Shaw offers a definition through the mouth of John Tanner in his play, "Man and Superman." Tanner is held up by a person who informs him that he is a brigand who makes his living by robbing the rich. Tanner at once says that he feels they have much in common as he himself is an English gentleman, and that he makes his living by robbing the poor. And he wasn't much of a liar either.

The truth is that the "gentlemen" of England are the class that rule England in the interest of their class alone. They control the Press of that country and the avenues of publicity, and they were only too glad to use the bravery of Scott and his fellows to bolster up their decaying prestige. Nothing is too banal for them to do when out on such a mission.

However, that is not the worst feature of the case, for the working people are too dense to see it, and they help the "gentlemen" of England to perpetuate the fallacy that they and their kind are the essential factor in human society. They are so stupid that they think everybody is as good as they are—and if they happen to be "gentlemen," the workers treat them as being their "betters," by handing over to them the might to rule the workers and to take from them the fruits of their labor in return for just enough to keep them "in that position to which it has pleased God to call them." The "classes" are really funny if you can only get an inside view of them; but the "masses" are a tragedy enough to make angels weep—if they happen to be without a sense of humor.

It is high time the workers stopped erecting monuments to their masters, and erected a few to themselves. They must be brought to understand that the only thing which determines the value of any man or class of men to human society is, the work which those men do towards producing the happiness and well-being of mankind. The secrets of the arctic are very valuable for scientific reasons, and on the discoveries of such men as Scott, depends the safety of navigation and a thousand and one things which only a fool would attempt to minimize because of his ignorance, and for that reason the men who give their lives to find out such things to make human life fuller and safer and happier are among the great men of the race.

But those who produce by their labors the daily necessaries of human society, and whose blood has stained the worlds commerce for ages are no less heroes—even thoough they do not die in the limelight, and without a world to mourn their loss.

Thousands of deeds of surpassing heroism are performed by working men and women every year in the dull round of industrial life, and their bodies are carried broken and bleeding from the commercial arena, to be buried, unhonored, unsung, with no monument to mark the grave, and no tablet to record their deeds; indeed, in many cases "no man knoweth the place unto this day."

A BRIEFLY DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF GREAT BOOKS AND MEN, FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS.

Haeckel, Ernst (born 1834), German biologist and philosopher. He was one of the first and one of the most enthusiastic followers of Darwin, and soon after the appearance of "Origin of Species" he published (in 1866) a most remarkable work, "General Morphology," followed by the "Natural History of Creation," in which he made the first attempt to find out the different stages of evolution from the simplest organisms up to man. In his later years he wrote two works, widely circulated now, "Monism as a Link between Religion and Science," and "The Riddle of the Universe," in which he cast aside the religious dualism which opposes the heavens to the earth, the soul to the body, and so on but instead of coming to a purely dynamic conception of the universe, as might have been expected from his previous works, he came to the metaphysical (Hegelian) conception of the "Spirit" being an emanation of "Matter."

Hegel, Georg Wilhelm (1770-1831), a German philosopher, whose ideas exercised in Germany a very deep influence on the thought of the nineteenth century during the period of reaction after the defeat of the Great French Revolution. His philosophical system divides itself into three cycles of thought. The first is Logic—the science of the "Idea in itself" (Idee an sich). In the second part, the Philosophy of Nature, the Idea is treated in its "being," as something that has taken the form of its contradiction—i.e., of Nature and its beings and phenomena. And in its third part, the Philosophy of the Mind, the process is described by which the Idea, which in Logic was the "Idea in itself," and in Nature the "Idea out of itself" (Idee ausser sich), now appears as "The Mind"—as the "Idea in and for itself" (Idee an und fur sich). These three forms of the Idea are known as the thesis, the antithesis, and the synthesis. The evil which this philosophy has done in driving scientific research out of the sound ways it had opened by the end of the eighteenth century, and giving a new authority both to the Biblical interpretation of Nature and to the reign of sweeping generalisations based upon the use of metaphysical "words" having a vague and floating sense—can be best prepared by the end of the eighteenth century were delayed in appearing for half a century; and also when we see the influence of this philosophy in political matters—the Hegelians maintaining that "all that exists is reasonable," and thus excusing the worst forms of political and religious reaction.

Helmholtz, Hermann-Ludwig (1821-1894), a great German physiologist and physicist. Has done very much for developing and spreading the mechanical comprehension of all physiological activity, and the idea of the unity of physical forces.

Herzen, Alexander (1813-1870), Russian political writer. After having been interned in an eastern province, left Russia and went to Italy and France, where he was friendly with all advanced Socialists and Radicals. After the defeat of the Revolution of 1848, aided Proudhon in starting the newspaper, Le Peuple. Expelled from France, went to England, where he founded the first "Free Russian Press," and at the end of the "fifties" began to publish a Russian paper, Kolokol (The Bell), in collaboration with his great friend Ogareff and Turgueneff, and later on with Bakunin. This paper, in which Herzen (in an admirable style) energetically fought for the abolition of serfdom and laid bare all the horrors of the absolute power, won a great reputation and had a great influence in Russia at the time of the liberation of the serfs. In 1863 when the Polish uprising began, Herzen and Bakunin warmly took up its defense. With the return of reaction the same year, the Kolokol's influence came to an end. On account of his wide knowledge of history and his philosophical training, Hersen was one of the best political writers of his time in Europe; and his "Letters from France and Italy" and "From the Other Bank" ("De l'autre rive"), written after the defeat of the movements of 1848, are real works of art, apart from their political meaning; the same applies to his autobiography, "Past and Thoughts."

Hobbes, Thomas (1588-1679), one of the most original of English political writers and philosophers. His chief works were: "Leviathan," "De Cive," "De Corpore Politico." Right, he maintained, is force: there is nothing that would be right or wrong in itself. He considered the savages as creatures continually struggling with each other, and saw in the fear that men had of each other, and in the necessity of getting out of the misery of their primitive conditions, the chief cause of the origin of the State. Consequently, he was a fierce champion of the absolute power of kings, who had, according to his assertions, established peace among the wild stems, and thus allowed them to reach better conditions. On the other hand, he was led to formulate an absolutely irreligious, materialistic conception of the Universe.

Holbach, Paul (1723-1789), French philosopher, one of the Encyclopaedists, who worked to establish a comprehensible system of knowledge of Nature basis. He did it in his principal work, "Systeme de la Nature." In his other works, "La Morale Universelle" and "La Politique Naturelle," he demonstrated that religion is not only useless, but is noxious for public morality and the happiness of the people.

Hutcheson, Francis (1694-1747), one of the chief representatives of the so-called Scotch philosophical school, which based its system of ethics on the principle of mutual sympathy. He endeavored to prove that although we divide the motives by which our will is affected into egoistic and altruistic motives, nevertheless we approve only the latter and the actions inspired by them. This is the consequence of a "moral sense" with which Nature has endowed us. He developed these ideas in his works: "Enquiry into the Origins of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue," "Essay on Nature," and "Conduct of Passions and Affections."

Huxley, Thomas (1825-1895), English biologist, especially known for the gallant defence he made of Darwin's theory was wildly assailed on all sides. Chief works: "Man's Place in Nature" (1863) and "Comparative Anatomy." It consists of the following:—(1) By observation and experiment we try to gain a knowledge of the phenomena which we propose to study. (2) We discuss the accumulated facts, and see if they do not lead (Latin, inducere) to some generalization, or to some hypothesis which would link together the mass of facts (e.g., the hypothesis which Laplace made to explain the facts offered by the structure of our solar system; or Darwin's hypothesis of descent, by evolution from a common stock, of all the plants and animal species which exist or have existed in past geological periods on the earth). (3) Then we deduce conclusions from this hypothesis (we make deductions), leading us to foresee new facts; and these conclusions must prove to be correct, if the induction—the generalization—was correct. (4) We compare our deductions with the facts already accumulated. If necessary, new observations and experiments are made, in order to ascertain whether our hypothesis is in accordance with reality, and the hypothesis is either rejected or modified, until we find one which agrees with the present state of our knowledge. A hypothesis becomes a theory only after such a verification has been made; and it may be considered as a natural law only after it has stood the above test, and the cause, the reason of the hypothesis, has been discovered. Thus we describe Newton's induction of universal gravitation as a proved theory, because it has been confirmed by an enormous mass of facts, many of which seemed to be contradictory at first sight. And although we often speak also of the law of gravitation, this way of speaking is not quite correct, as the cause of this universal fact of gravitation is not yet discovered: it is only foreseen.

Laplace, Pierre (1749-1827), one of the greatest astronomers and mathematicians of all ages. His chief works are: "Exposition of a System of the Universe," in which he explained the probable, purely physical origin of our solar system out of a mass of incandescent gaseous matter; and "Treatise of Celestial Mechanics." He solved all problems of astronomy purely by a physical analysis.

(Continued next week.)

MINERS BLUDGEONED IN NEW ZEALAND

Miners in the New Zealand town of Waihi are on strike, and the following account from the "Maoriland Worker" serves to show that even in that country, which has been called an ideal place for the workers to live, conditions are much the same as elsewhere.

"On Wednesday and Thursday, November 6 and 7, a conference of the Mineowners' Association took place at Waihi, which was attended by all the company's prominent officials; Commissioner of Police Cullen is also reported to have been present.

"That a change of tactics had been decided on at the conference was apparent on Friday afternoon, when the scabs, from both mines, in company with all the mine officials, marched down the main street of Waihi past the Miners' Hall, instead of proceeding home by their usual route across the fields.

"The same procedure was gone through on Saturday, and in the afternoon the scabs, strengthened by the Waikino contingent, started to walk in procession up and down Seddon street.

"At the head of the motley crew marched a huge Maori known as the 'Snakecharmer,' and becoming elated, owing to such pride of place this poor, misguided savage started to shout defiance at the groups of strikers who were scattered here and there along the street.

"As a result, one of the boys accommodated the redoubtable 'Snake-charmer' and made him measure his length on the pavement a couple of times, and but for police intervention our dusky friend would have indulged in an afternoon nap.

"In all, about a dozen incidents of this kind took placee, and in all cases save one the police saved a scab from a hiding.

That was all for the first day. Peace reigned all day Sunday, the strikers holding their usual peaceful meeting in their hall. What happened on Monday is told by Herb. Kennedy, acting president of the Miners' Union, who, having seen for himself in the lurid realities of lawless class war, does not mince his words in telling about it.

Scabs' Brutality.

"On Monday morning," he says; "the toughs were again driven to the post office, and once more marched past the strikers' pickets under police protection. They had only gone a few paces beyond, when a shift-boss called out, 'Turn round here, boys.' They marched back, in a body numbering over 100, to where about 40 strikers were standing. Suddenly a big, half-breed Maori spat in the face of a miner named Elsiegood, who knocked him down on the spot, whereupon six or seven men sprang on him, and tried to drag him away from his mates. Elsiegood knocked down three in succession, but was felled at last from behind by a policeman's club.

"Fights were going on all around. An ex-prize fighter set on a striker named Cornick, put a revolver to his ear, and kicked him repeatedly. A constable followed another man down an alley, and cut a gash in his lips—which it took three stitches to close—with a vicious fish-blow. The strikers finally dispersed, and fought their way in small groups to their houses, the toughs meanwhile smashing windows in the hall under repeated police encouragement."

How Young Evans was Murdered.

"The next day the scabs were given a day off by the company to wind up their devilish work. And see how well they did it.

"The Miners' Hall was rushed early in the day. Only one or two men were there to defend it. One of them, a young miner named Evans, who wrote for several workers' papers, and was known throughout the district as a quiet, level-headed chap, was smashed over the head by a bloody constable's baton, and died almost at once. The thugs said he fired a revolver, but men on the spot swear that the only shot fired came from the scabs themselves.

"The hall was then looted, and the miners' store was treated the same way. Little groups of scabs scoured the town and beat up every striker they saw, giving them 48 hours to get out of town. Their flag was burned, and the motto, 'Workers of the World Unite,' was dragged through the streets and pitched into the bonfire. Wild scenes lasted till late in the night."

Waihi men are now scattered all over the district, and the strike appears for the moment to be broken up. The Massey government, with whose aid and under whose protection the Waihi outrages have been consistently planned, is a "Liberal" government. So is New Zealand the "land of social peace." So is the devil a monk.

TRADES CONGRESS REPORT.

President Watters, of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, reports that the Minister of Labor, owing to the various complaints from the West regarding the deplorable conditions in the construction camps, has decided to appoint a resident inspector in the West to report on the conditions to the department, and hopes thereby to be able to compel the contractors to keep the camps fit places of habitation for the workmen.

Regarding the many complaints received re the alien labor law, the Minister informs President Watters that, following the established practice of the department it is not a matter for departmental interference, but a question for the civil law. On central bodies and unions, therefore, falls the onus of entering action and proving its case against this statute.

Reply has also been received relative to the proposition presented to the Dominion government to establishing a pension for mothers. The Minister of Justice, in conjunction with the Minister of Labor, has taken the matter up and is prosecuting inquiries in various ways with the hope of having some useful legislation framed if possible for this worthy object.

Relative to the request of the executive of the Trades Congress for an investigation into the operation of the Iron and Steel corporation, the matter rests on the point of jurisdiction. Premier Borden maintains it is a provincial matter. The question has been brought before the provincial authorities in Nova Scotia by the Nova Scotia executive, which is also in doubt. President Watters has submitted the proposition to Premier Borden for a ruling on the question of jurisdiction, which is awaited now with interest.

Do you attend your union meeting, or do you stay away and then kick because something passes that does not meet with your approval?

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

The law of cause and effect applied to good public speaking shows that expression is the result of impression. The mind must take in before it can give out. It can not express—i. e., squeeze out—anything with which it has not been impressed.

The application of this law forms the basis of fundamental rules for good—i. e., true—public speaking. It demands a thorough understanding of the material to be presented which is only gained by a complete knowledge of the subject and an analysis of the thought and the feeling. The speaker must know all the elements, factors, conditions and circumstances determining the specific aspect of the truth he presents as well as the general truth.

This searching study results in personal conviction—i. e., satisfied by proof—the first essential. Personal conviction grows into aim which is the desire to extend the knowledge acquired—the second essential. Aim expands into purpose and that purpose in public speaking is to inform, to convince, to move the listener—the third essential.

The last essential results expressively in directness—the right attitude toward the listener coming from purpose. The second essential results expressively in dignity, poise, mental balance—the right attitude toward self coming from absolute conviction, strengthened by the realization of the truth to be presented to the degree of positiveness that you can do the thing you set out to do because you want to do it.

Concentration, the process of focusing all the brain force at command to dwell on each idea until it develops into a thought, the thinking all around that thought, and holding it until it dominating influence. Expression is the natural and necessary outcome of impression born of sufficient concentration. The agents of the mind—i. e., voice and body—made free by training, will serve adequate expression but the controlling center is to learn TO THINK.

Many other things help make good public speaking. The study of detail, moods, proportion, contrast, climax, styles of delivery, forms of discourse, bodily training and vocal technique and the employment of stress, pitch, volume and pause are all useful. But these things put on from the outside if there is nothing on the inside, accomplish nothing.

In the final analysis it is not thinking how you do, or even realizing why you do but the primarily strong desire TO DO because you know what it is that will make you reach the heights in public speaking. Heights which mean not only development, knowledge, control, mastery, but self-effacement in the power of the message itself will discover for you in yourself un-dreamed of as yet capabilities and potentialities.

It might be well to remember that knockers are always busy.

UNION DIRECTORY

Cards inserted for $1.00 a Month

B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR—Meets in annual convention in January. Executive officers, 1913-14: President, Christian Siverty; vice-presidents, J. Kavanagh, J. Ferris, A. Watchman, G. A. Burnes, J. W. Gray, Jas. Cuthbertson, J. J. Taylor; sec.-treas., V. R. Midgley, Box 1044, Vancouver.

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.

LABOR TEMPLE COMPANY, LTD.—Directors: Fred A. Hoover, J. H. McVety, James Brown, Edward Lothian, James Campbell, J. W. Wilkinson, R. P. Pettipiece, John McMillan Murdock McKenzie. Managing director, J. H. McVety, Room 211. Sey. 6360.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL—Meets second Monday in month. President, E. Jarman; vice-president, George Mowat; secretary, A. H. England, P. O. Box 66.

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, H. McEwen, Room 209, Labor Temple. Branches meet every Tuesday and Wednesday in Room 202.

BAKERS' AND CONFECTIONERS' Local No. 468—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' LEAGUE NO. 676—Meets first and third Sundays of each month, 2.30 p.m., Room 306. President, Walter Laurie; secretary, Wm. Mottishaw, Yale Hotel; treasurer, Chas. Lear.

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. 1330.

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 36, Cedar Cottage; financial secretary, J. A. Dickieson; treasurer, Robt. Lindsay; conductor, A. Conahor; 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 215. Sey. 8799.

BROTHERHOOD OF BOILER MAKERS and Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, Vancouver Lodge No. 104—Meets first and third Mondays, 8 p.m. President, F. Barclay, 353 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, Kurtz Cigar Factory; treasurer, S. W. Johnson.

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.

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 1008 Burrard street.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS', LOCAL NO. 631 (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. 2248.

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. Cowyer; vice-president, F. English; secretary, C. F. Ward; treasurer, D. Evans.

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 1185—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 8; 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.

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, Box 173, City Heights P.O.; financial secretary, Fred A. Hoover, 2409 Clark drive.

STEAM ENGINEERS, INTERNATIONAL Local 897—Meets every Wednesday, 8 p.m., Room 201, Labor Temple. President, F. Blumberg; financial secretary, Wm. Byatt, 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. Hooken, P. O. Box 503; financial secretary, L. Kakely, P. O. Box 503.

TILE LAYERS' AND HELPERS', Local No. 62—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, 2:30 p.m. President, W. S. Armstrong; vice-president, G. W. Palmer; secretary-treasurer, R. H. Neelands, P.O. Box 66.

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 303, Victoria, B. C.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF CARpenters and Joiners, Victoria Branch. Meets every Thursday, 8 p.m., Labor Hall, Johnson St., Victoria. Business Agent, H. J. Sheen. 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, B. D. Grant, P. O. Box 934. 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. 1625—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 Varcol, 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.

Suit Special at $15

We hold and can maintain by proof of service as well as style, that men who buy suits at Spencer's will get a fuller measure of value and satisfaction than any smaller or less experienced store can give.
Today has arrived a new lot of suits with special features that we have marked to sell at $15.00. You will be surprised at the smart styles and smart worthy looking fabrics. Lots of the popular red browns in tweeds, other tweeds as well in grey and green mixtures and worsteds, too, for those who want them.

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These are coats that no man need be afraid to don. They look well, the materials are good, they are well made, and not skimped in any way.
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Two of the best patterns are grey and brown diagonals; others are small designs in brown and various subdued two-color effects in dark tone. Every coat is lined with a strong twill lining; two-way collars.

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Do you know that Tungsten lamps give three times the amount of light obtained from a carbon lamp with the same consumption of current?
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AT 75c A PAIR—Women's block silk boot hose, with high spliced heel, double sole and toe. These have seamless feet.

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AT $1.50 AND $2.00—Onyx silk hose in high grade qualities, in the following shades—pink, sky, champagne, light and dark grey, purplpe, wisteria, old rose king's blue gold, tan, white or black. These have reinforced heels, double sole, toe and lisle thread top.

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During January

We will hold our regular sale. This will be our seventh January sale, and as before we will try and clear out all

Fall and Winter Goods

Our prices will enable you to save enough on an outfit to start a bank account. Hoping to see you sometime during the month, and wishing you a Happy New Year

Campbell's Clothing Man **CHAMBERS** 23 Hastings St. East

JAMES STARK & SONS LIMITED

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February House-Furnishing Sale Now In Progress

200 Brussels Squares at From 10 to 33 1-3 p.c. Off Regular

The value of our Brussels Squares is admitted, for service, design and coloring, at regular prices, but when we hitch them to these little February sale prices they should move in a hurry. If you can use a Brussels Square don't miss seeing these:

Size	4.6x 9x6,	sale price.... $5.75
Size	6.9x 9.0,	sale price....$11.50
Size	9.0x 9.0,	sale price....$15.25
Size	9.0x10.6,	sale price....$17.50
Size	9.0x12.0,	sale price....$19.75
Size	11.3x12.0,	sale price....$23.50
Size	11.3x13.6,	sale price....$25.50

—Fourth floor

125 Axminster Hearth Rugs $1.39

Woven of best quality yarns, with deep pile and firm back, nice patterns. Will do nicely in any room. Size 27x54 inches. Regular $2.50 value. February sale price $1.39
—Fourth floor

English Wilton Carpets Regular 2.00 sewn and laid yd. $1.49

This offering includes ten very artistic and useful patterns for living and dining room, in liberal quantities. Some have borders to match. Regular $2.00. February sale price, per yard..........$1.49
—Fourth floor

Ten "Fed" Sub. Cards for $7.50
ORDER TODAY PAY WHEN SOLD

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Two-piece overall suits, specially suitable for boys taking a course of manual training. Sizes 26 to 34. Made of stout black denim, cut full and strongly put together.

Price Per Suit, any size $180

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TERMS: Residence on the land for at least two years; improvements to the extent of $2.50 per acre; payment of $40 at the end of two years, and the balance of $160 (i.e. $120) in 3 annual instalments of $40, with interest at 6%

For Further Information Apply to

Deputy Minister of Lands, Victoria, B. C.
Secretary, Bureau of Provincial Information, Victoria

AMONG THE SOCIALISTS

BY SOCIALISTS

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

B. C. Executive Committee

Vancouver, Feb. 16, 1913.

Committee met at 2215 Pender St. E. Present: Matthews, Rahim, Karnie, Cassidy, and Secretary. Rahim in the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting adopted as read.

Correspondence—Quarterly report ending Dec. 31, 1912, from Local Nakusp, B. C., No. 74; 13 members in good standing, regular business and propaganda meetings. Filed.

From J. J. Robinson, Ladysmith, B.C., expressing approval and promising support to the new paper. Filed.

From Wm. B. Embree, Erickson, B. C., re application for charter. Secretary reported forms forwarded. Endorsed and filed.

From Paul Anderson, Sec. Local Vancouver No. 58 (Lettish), stating it to be impossible to get a meeting for Com. J. R. Knight in Barnet, but would endeavor to arrange one in Port Moody. Filed.

From C. M. O'Brien, giving date of Com. J. R. Knight's arrival on the coast as Mar. 18, next, when a meeting will be held at Whonnock. Filed.

Financial Report

Receipts—
Local Vancouver No. 45 (Finnish) stamps $5.00
Local Victoria No. 2, supplies .... .75

$5.75

Expenses—P. O. Stamps $1.00
Adjournment to March 2.

J. H. BURROUGH, Sec.

Dominion Executive Committee

Convened as above.

Present, Matthews, Rahim, Karnie, Cassidy, and Secretary. Rahim in the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting adopted as read.

Correspondence.—From John Holin, N. Gabriola, B. C., with $2 for Subsidy fund. Filed.

From Wm. Devoy, Organizer, Local Lethbridge, No. 13, Alta., inquiring as to duties of organizer. Secretary reported letter answered. Filed.

From Philip Faughnan, acting Secretary for Ontario and Quebec, with financial report and enclosing $8 for stamps and payment on acct. Filed.

From same, as Secretary of Local Montreal, No. 1, with quarterly report for period ending Dec. 31, 1912, and news of the movement. The news of the early production of a new paper received with satisfaction. 54 members in good standing. Filed.

From Walter F. Harris, Red Deer, Alta., enclosing copies of resolutions criticising Alta. Exec. Committee, passed at a convention in Red Deer Provincial Riding Jan. 18th last. Secretary reported having replied to the effect that it was a matter to be settled by the Alberta comrades themselves. Endorsed and filed.

From W. S. Pitzer, Goldburg, Sask., with order for literature. Secretary reported having turned it over to Local Vancouver No. 1 to fill. Endorsed and filed.

From Fred Rivers, Coal Hurst, Alta., with 25 cents for Western Clarion. Turned to Subsidy fund. Endorsed and filed.

From Local Victoria B. C., No. 2, enclosing $10 gof Subsidy fund and 75c for supplies received, with promise of more aid if paper strikes the right note. Filed.

From H. G. Hills, Victoria, B. C., with $5 for Subsidy fund. Filed.

From Harry Otto, Roseisle, Man., with $1 for Subsidy fund, and asking for information on various matters. Secretary reported answer forwarded. Endorsed and filed.

From Snyder E. Gase, Redditt, Ont., with promise of aid to Subsidy fund, and expressing approval of action of the Executive. Enquires as to Winnipeg Local. Reported answered. Filed.

From Horace Collingwood, North Battleford, Sask., enclosing $1 for sub. to new paper, $1 for 25c bundle for 4 weeks, $1 for Subsidy fund, and $1 for dues for 1913. Guarantees $1 additional in March and April for Subsidy fund, if "right goods." Secretary reported sub. money turned over to Com. Matthews. Endorsed and filed.

From Local Calgary, Alta., No. 4, with copy of resolution passed on Feb. 8th last, disapproving of action of the D. E. C., in regard to the production of a party organ, on account of same being owned by a private individual. Secretary reported his answer, action endorsed, and Secretary instructed to write Local Calgary No. 4 and explain in detail the nature of the problem the D. E. C. had to solve.

From L. T. English, editor of Alberta Federationist, in reply to request of Secretary to publish circular letter re new paper, stating that he would do so if same met with the approval of the Alta Exec. Committee. Filed.

Financial Report

Receipts—
P. Faughnan (Ont. & Que.) ....$ 8.00
H. Collingwood, dues 1.00
Subsidy Fund 23.00

$32.00

Expenses—
Expressage to Lethbridge, Feb. 4 .64

J. H. BURROUGH.

SUBSIDY FUND

(For the production of an official organ to carry the endorsation of the S. P. of C. $50 each week for 13 weeks required. To appear on or about March 1 next.

Previously acknowledged $20.95

British Columbia

Local Gibson's Landing No. 94	$3.75	
Local Victoria No. 2	10.00	
H. G. Hills, Victoria	5.00	
John Holm, North Gabriola	2.00	
		20.75

Alberta

Fred Rivers, Coal Hurst	$0.25	
		.20

Manitoba

Harry Otto, Roseisle	$1.00	
		1.00

Saskatchewan

Horace Collingwood, N. Battle ford	$1.00	
		1.00

Total to date, Feb. 16 ....$42.95

In addition to the monthly assessment of 25c assumed by Local Vancouver No. 1, the surplus funds from propaganda meetings on March 2 and 16 are to be turned over to the Subsidy fund. Comrade E. T. Kingsley will speak on both occasions.

JAIL FOR TYPO. SECRETARY.

They send union men to jail for less crimes than dynamiting in Russia. The secretary of the Typographical Society of the Baltic provinces was recently condemned to a month's imprisonment for the terrible crime of sending out a circular containing a list of questions concerning the conditions of labor, such as amount of wages, number of hours worked per week, whether day or night work, and the rate paid for Sunday work. Such are the dangers and difficulties of labor officials in the czar's domain.

"When I was shipwrecked in South America," said Captain Bowsprit, "I came across a tribe of wild women who had no tongues.'

"Mercy!" cried one of the listeners of the fair sex. "How could they talk?"

"They couldn't!" snapped the old salt. "That's what made 'em wild."

SAM LANDERS "SNOOZING" AGAIN.

Sam Landers is the Editor of "The Labor News," of Hamilton, Ontario, and beyond the fact that he is Sammy Landers he is not a bad sort. But the somewhat soporific quality of some of his literary output has earned for his well-meaning sheet the name "Labor Snooze." We are not necessarily in accord with that description, but the issue of February 17th, 1913, will not help matters. We are therein told that John Nelson is the managing editor of the Victoria Times. As a matter of fact, John Nelson is manager of the "News-Advertiser," of Vancouver, and has been for some years now. We only mention the correction out of the wealth of our charity, and with all the deference and modesty for which the "Snooze" has always given us credit.

SAM GOMPERS.

Samuel Gompers was born in Spitalfields, London, England, on January 27, 1850. His parents were originally natives of Holland. At the age of 10 years and 3 months he began work in a cigar factory, having selected the trade of cigar making as a means of earning his livelihood. This was not the first time, though, he had gone to work, for he had worked several months in a shoe factory before this; but this is when he began his life work as a cigar maker. In 1863, accompanied by his parents, he came to America, and settled in New York city. He had been in America a little more than a year when the Cigar Makers' International union was formed, and there being no age requirements or limitations, he became a member. Although the organization now numbers more than forty thousand, and each member counts his membership in numerical order, Mr. Gompers' membership due card is No. 1, a fact of which he is very proud.

Samuel attended school from his sixth to his tenth year, then was apprenticed to a shoemaker; but, disliking the work, he learned the trade of his father, and while working as a cigar maker he attended evening school for four years.

This appears to have been the extent of his instruction in any school. He came to the United States when 13 years old, settled in New York city, and in time became a naturalized citizen of the United States. His present home is in Washington, but he maintains his citizenship in New York city.

In a sketch of his life approved by himself, he says of his father that he "was a cigarmaker, an industrious workman, a kind father and a man of remarkable memory." He declares of his mother that she "was a woman of excellent antecedents, her parents being highly educated," and through her influence on his intellectual and moral life he was led to study and to seek to benefit his fellow men.

"THESE MY LITTLE ONES."

Underwear, shirtwaists and bed and table-linen are extensively hand-embroidered by home workers in tenements. By home-working tenement children nuts are picked and sorted, bristles put in hairbrushes, artificial flowers made, paper cigarette tubes rolled—and licked when the paste happens to dry too soon! A physician in the New York infirmary for Women and Children testifies to finding contagious diseases in seventy-nine tenements where home work was carried on. In two hundred and four inspected homes one-quarter of the workers were between five and ten years of age; nearly half were under fourteen. Of the children, one-fourth work after school five hours or more a day. Three-quarters of these home-working families earn less than ten cents an hour altogether. The only time some of the home-working children have for any play is at night; their only place to play is the street —a poor combination!

THE PEACE MAKERS

"Will there be, indeed, more wars?" Yes, undoubtedly.

"What shall be done about it?"

There are two things to be doen, by the mother, right away: Think about war and talk about war with other mothers and the boys—also with the girls.

. . . . . .

Mother, is your five-year-old son strong, healthy and handsome? Yes? Well, that is fine. But think of him at the age of twenty in slaughtering clothes, being transformed into a swaggering, armed bully. Mother, if he should be tricked into the army and butchered and his torn corpse should be brought home to you, you would then know what other mothers feel when their boys, whom your son butchers, are brought home to them. Then, perhaps, war would seem quite different—far less "great" and "glorious" to you. You see, mother, in a war some mothers' boys must be butchered. Perhaps a false patriotism has been taught to you, just as a false patriotism is taught your sons. Both the mother and her sons are confused. To get the working class boy ready for war the capitalist must first confuse and trick the mother.

And to this end the capitalists are willing to pay the price that is, willing to pay for the social chloroform, for the false teachings—necessary to beget a slave's blind enthusiasm for the master that betrays him—called patriotism.

The school, even, is invaded.

The capture of the schools by the militarists is one of the most omnius signs of the times. The militarist has long looked with wistful eye at the happy hunting grounds. Parliaments have already been strongly urged to make military drill compulsory in all public schools. The scholar is rapidly transformed into the transcript.

The shameless audacity of using a socializing institution, the school, to cultivate mental malice in the helpless children!

But the child is an easy victim. Even some cheap jingo jingle called patriotic poetry renders the working class the easy, fooled tool of despots. The victimizing of the helpless child is rendered especially easy when the mother, blindfold with flattery, gullibly lends assistance in strangling the child's sociability.

A SCOOL TEACHER CAN MAKE A FOOL AND A MURDERER OF A BOY IN EIGHT OR TEN YEARS WITH POETRY. REMEMBER, THAT POETS AND TEACHERS WHO FURNISH THE WAR-SONG CHLOROFORM FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN USUALLY "SIDE-STEP" WHEN THE STORM BREAKS—NO RIFLE BUSINESS FOR THEM—THEY LET OTHERS "MEET THE STORM" WHICH THEIR POETRY AND TEACHINGS HELPED STIR UP. THE WAR-SONG POET AND THE WAR-SONG SCHOOL TEACHER, IF YOU PLEASE, ARE TO "CULTIVATED" TO BE PATRIOTICALLY BUTCHERED.

Under no circumstances should a working class father and mother keep silent while a public school teacher thrills the children's blood and blasts the glorious sentiments of human brotherhood with recitals of war-tales and fulsome praise of men whose "glory" is red with the blood of tens of thousands of working class men. Such stories and such praise scar and brutalize the social natures of the children as distinctly as a hot branding iron would disfigure their tender faces.

Unkind Remark. Tommy—Pop, what is a free thinker?

Pop—A free thinker, my son, is any man who isn't married.—Philadelphia Record.

WAGE WORKERS' FORUM

PORCUPINE STRIKE NEWS

South Porcupine, Feb. 1, 1913.

To the working class of Canada, and all lovers of liberty:—

On January 1st, 1913, Ivan Trochyn, Hryhori Propir, Milo Jaksic and Adolph Lundberg were sentenced to six months imprisonment at hard labor in the central prison, Toronto, by Magistrate Thomas Torrence, on a charge of unlawful assembly.

The facts in the case are as follows: On the arrival of train No. 47 from Toronto on December 20th, 1912, the Ontario police boarded the cars and prevented the traveling public from entering, their pretext for doing this was that there were strike breakers aboard, and the strikers may interfere with them. The people who understood the orders of the police remained off the cars. A majority of the people on the station did not understand English, therefore did not understand the orders of the police and were entering the train in the usual manner; the police threw them off the cars, clubbed them unmercifully and placed the four mentioned under arrest.

On December 31st these men were tried; they did not have legal counsel until the previous evening; three of them elected to be tried by judge and jury, this was denied them; they asked to be tried by another magistrate, as Torrence was reported to have said that the next striker coming before him on a charge of unlawful assembly would get the limit, this was also denied; they asked that the cases be transferred to the magistrate of Whitney township where the cases originated, this request was refused.

The illegal and unauthorised action of the police in encroaching on the rights of the traveling public was the sole cause of the disturbance for which four of our fellow-workers are in prison.

The high-handed methods of the Ontario police, the unjust decision of the magistrate, the false accusations made at the trial and the heavy punishment inflicted, reveal a condition which stamps Northern Ontario as the Siberia of Canada.

The undersigned are seeking the co-operation of all who love freedom to protest to the Minister of Justice, and urge him to conduct the fullest investigation into these conditions. We therefore ask you to write to your local member of the Dominion Parliament asking him to bring this matter before the House, so that immediate action may be taken.

If this state of affairs is allowed to pass unnoticed the working class of Canada will be subjected to the iron heel of police oppression when they seek to improve their condition.

Workers of Canada, act at once, so these victims may be free.

Porcupine Miners' Union, No. 145, W. F. of M.

JAMES DOGUL, Secretary.

THE CRISIS.

European and American capitalism is now confronted with the crisis of its life. The mechanism of industry has become so powerful that it can no longer be utilized under capitalist control in such a manner as to assure social peace, order and well being. Unless some drastic action be taken in the near future by the class which now especially suffers because of the inability of capitalism to longer administer industry in the interest of social health and peace, capitalist civilization will perish in its own rottenness, the stench from which is even now so nauseating as to make that arising from ancient Roman civilization in its decay scarce worth mentioning in comparison.

If the working-class arises to the situation and takes the action that should be taken, this rotten capitalist regime may be brought to an end and all the social forces worth while turned to the comfort and well being of all, and the consequent uprise of the race to a saner and more decent civilization.

Capitalist dominion over the means of production and the consequent enslavement of labor, must be broken at all hazards. It cannt be broken too soon for the common good of the world's workers. It cannot happen too soon for the good f the race.

These are times fr reflection and study upon the part of working people. These are times in which conclusions should be drawn and action taken accordingly. These are times when slaves should become men. The time lies immediately before us when the enslaved working-class must take the centre of the stage and play its part in the historical process. Decadent capitalism, already self-condemned as a nuisance, must be brushed aside and the earth's resources and the machinery of production made free of access to all, in order to provide for his necessities without paying tribute to rulers, and their cut-throats and assassins, as he has been forced to do for some thousands of years.

Better think it over, Mr. Wage-Slave. These are glorious days awaiting your class in the near future. Will you get in line and do your part?

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES ELECT OFFICERS.

The regular monthly meeting of the Vancouver Allied Printing Trades Council took place Monday evening, Feb. 10th, in the Labor Temple. The following officers were elected for the year 1913: President, Mr. George Mowat (bookbinders); vice-president, Mr. Thomas Hines (pressmen); secretary-treasurer, Mr. F. R. Fleming (printers); executive committee, Messrs. M. E. LePage (photo-engravers), L. E. Dennison (printer), Al Maeurhan (presman), William Bushman (bookbinders), and William Bayley (stereotypers); auditing committee, Messrs. R. H. Neelands (printers) and M. E. LePage (photo-engravers). A committee of three was appointed to draft suitable resolutions to the memory of the late Mr. Robert Glockling, president of the Bookbinders' International Union, whose death took place last week. A copy of these will be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and, also, copies will be sent to the five international unions of the printing trades whose members compose the council, with a view of publication.

Casey's wife was at the hospital, where she had undergone a very serious operation a few days before.

Mrs. Kelly called to enquire as to Mrs. Casey's condition.

"Is she restin' quietly?" Mrs. Kelley asked.

"No, but I am," said Casey.

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Veribrite Furniture Veneer, large size, reg. 50c, now..........35c

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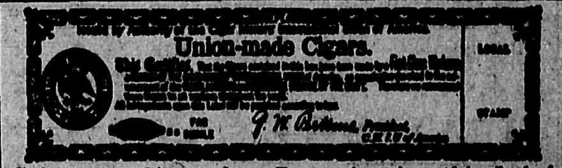

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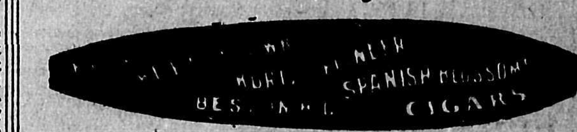

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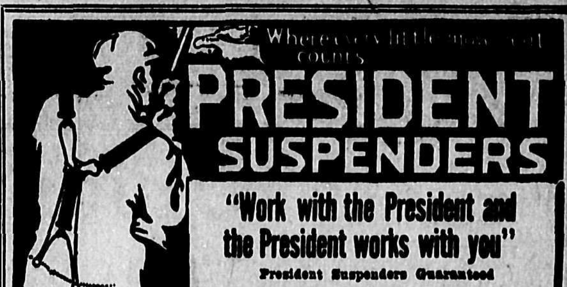

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Socialist Party Directory

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. 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.

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, 102 Hochelaga St. A. Stewart, Organiser.

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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MACHINISTS' STRIKE ON G. T. P. SETTLED

(By R. S. Ward)

The machinists and boilermakers on the G. T. P. came out on strike on October 10, 1911, in an endeavor to force this company to grant them the same conditions of employment as our members enjoyed on other roads operating in the same territory, namely, the C. P. R. and C. N. R. The G. T. P. is a new road with about 2,000 miles of railway in operation in Western Canada. It is controlled by the G. T. R., which company has always bitterly fought every effort on the part of our members to secure an agreement similar to what we have with other roads in the same territory. To secure conditions of employment on these two roads is the great fight before the machinists of this country today, as we realize that if reasonable progress is to be made we must endeavor to bring about a uniformity of conditions in given territories.

The strike on the G. T. P. was a part of this fight and to what extent it will help us to secure the desired results, only time will show. But having in mind the fact that this company has never before made what might be termed an agreement with its machinists, we are of the opinion that the terms upon which the strike was settled will prove a great victory for the men.

The G. T. P. receives a large amount of financial assistance from the Dominion Government and during the strike organized labor throughout Canada vigorously protested against any further grants being made to them by the Government until the company had come to an agreement with the men. This protest did us a lot of good as the following will show.

In the fourteenth month of the strike a convention was held in the city of Winnipeg, composed of representatives from all points on the line where we had men on strike, and representatives from the boilermakers and machinists of the C. P. R. and C. N. R. At this convention it was decided to continue the strike to the bitter end and arrangements were made to carry it on. While still in session a wire was received from the Minister of Labor asking that a committee proceed to Ottawa, as there were questions under discussion between the Government and the company that made a settlement of the strike probable. Accordingly, Bro. J. P. Merrigan, First Vice-President of the Boilermakers; Bros. J. A. Moran, of Edmonton; Wm. Renton, of Rivers; Chas. E. Shaw, of Graham, and myself proceeded to Ottawa. Upon our arrival we had several interviews with the Minister of Labor and the Minister of Public Works, both of whom assured us of the government's support. In Ottawa we also had an interview with Mr. Wainwright, vice-president of the G. T. R., in the Minister of Labor's office. This, however, was only an informal talk, as Mr. Wainwright had no power to settle anything, but it had a good effect in paving the way for a settlement. Arrangements were then made to meet Mr. Chamberlain, President of the G. T. R. and G. T. P., in Montreal, December 12. This the committee did and after being in conference all afternoon and failing to arrive at an agreement, we adjourned to meet again in the morning. In the morning better progress was made and after a discussion of two hours an agreement was arrived at. The full text of this agreement is embodied in the two letters written by Mr. E. J. Chamberlain, President of the G. T. R., to Mr. M. Donaldson, vice-president and general manager of the G. T. P., of which the following is a copy:

Montreal, December 6, 1912.

Mr. M. Donaldson,
Vice President and General Manager.
Dear Sir:

Now that we have arranged to open shops at Transcona, and to relieve the irritation on the minister of labor relative to the old Machinists' strike, I desire you to take back promptly and cheerfully any of the old men who are willing to return, who are not guilty of any violence, and you need not look too closely into that question. I would like to have this done cheerfully and pleasantly and see that there is no humiliation urged upon the men. I presume you will find it necessary to remove quite a number of men from Rivers, retaining a much smaller force than you have had at that point. I would recommend moving the new men to Transcona and giving the old employees who have homes at Rivers an opportunity to work there, so far as consistent with the requirements of the company.

E. J. CHAMBERLAIN,
President.

December 13, 1912.

Mr. M. Donaldson,
Vice President and General Manager.
Dear Sir:

Referring to my letter to you of December 6, reopening Transcona shops and return of machinists and boilermakers.

Representatives of the old employees have been here today, and I have agreed, with them as follows:

Reinstatement of strikers shall only apply to those who make application for reinstatement within thirty days.

In the event of employees having a grievance, they may in the usual way present their case to the foreman, but should an adjustment not be reached, the aggrieved party or a committee of employees representing him may present his case to higher officials.

Present rates of pay and rules will prevail. It is understood that present rates for first-class meachanics and boilermakers are 45 cents per hour Rivers and East, and 47½ cents West of Rivers.

I have also agreed that next spring, say May or June, if a majority of the men employed by the company in these crafts are not satisfied with their conditions of employment, you will meet a committee for the purpose of arranging the terms of an agreement, and failing to arrive at such an agreement, you will submit the question at issue to a board of conciliation appointed under the Industrial Disputes Act, and that the company will agree to accept the decision of the board, provided the men will also agree to accept such decision.

I again wish to urge upon you now that the men have decided to return to our employ, that you urge upon the mechanical department that all foremen be instructed that the returning employees must be treated in such manner as not to bring to their mind past disagreements with the company.

Yours truly,
E. J. CHAMBERLAIN,
President.

The first letter contains the basis upon which the company first endeavored to get the men to declare the strike off. This was not satisfactory to the men and was refused by them. The second letter is the result of further conference, a copy of which signed by the president of the G. T. R., was sent to the Minister of Labor, and also given to the committee.

Strange, but true, we are in this case indebted to the Government for the active assistance they gave the committee in carrying on the negotiations, and it is not likely that so satisfactory a settlement could have been made at this time if it were not for the pressure brought to bear on the company by the Government.

The negotiations were carried on in the most cordial manner, and there will not be any trouble if a reasonable effort is made by other officials to carry out the terms of the settlement in the spirit that it was made.

Up to the present we have no complaint to make as to the manner in which the company is carrying out the settlement. Quite a number of the men are back to work, and we are assured that all that have applied will be back within a week. Some delay was caused in taking the men back by some hitch which occurred that delayed the opening of the Transcona shops. This has been overcome and the shops will be in full swing January 20, after which no doubt quite a number of machinists will be required in addition to the srikers.

In conclusion, I might add that the men who remained on strike for over fourteen months deserve great credit for their splendid fight in the interest of the trade. The liberal manner in which our working brothers contributed to the strike is well worth mention, about $30,000 having been subscribed. It is this combination that makes it possible to win a strike: Money versus organization with staying powers.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

(Continued from Page 1.)

Altogether it was a damning showing up of the land policy of the government so praised by Ross and the minister sat under it with an uneasy scowl on his face, once being goaded to interrupt.

Among the bills introduced a first time this week was an act to introduce an eight-hour day for all workers by J. Place.

(Monday Afternoon Session, Feb. 17.)

The chief event was Parker's speech on the railway policy of the government. He said that the railroads were two marvellous Canadians, Mackenzie getting such a hold on the province, particularly the C. N. R., that in ten years' time we would find a commission being appointed to find out the valuation of this road, which these two marvellous Canadian, Mackenzie and Mann, had loaded on to the province.

Something had occurred behind locked doors a few years back, and it seemed that the C. N. R. had found the government so easy, and had hypnotized them so thoroughly that the government would do anything for them; these two marvels couldn't even build a ferry slip themselves, but had to get government aid. The Premier had led them into a wilderness of prosperity, when describing the workshops and terminals to be built, but it was on a par with the guff he handed out to the electors at the last election.

It was humiliating to find clause after clause in the bill aimed to assist these Canadaian Northern people, and there was no excuse for this being a public charity on their behalf.

A large number of suffragettes were present at this session, but created no trouble and the services of the two policemen imported into the gallery were not needed.

Later, when the Canadian Northern bill was in committee, Parker Williams objected, that there was no provision for the proper payment of the men. In the railroad camps men were obliged to take ten per cent of their checks in order to have them cashed. The Premier promised to look into it, and endeavor to have this righted.

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1.)

able the Council to have a business agent placed in the field, and that the matter be referred to a referendum of the unions. Amendment carried. At this time the following members of the City Council entered the room, and were given the floor of the Council for the purpose of speaking about the proposed agreement between the City and the Canadian Northern Railway Company: Messrs. McMaster, McBeath, Hepburn, Kirkpatrick and Cameron. Mr. Cottrell was also present representing the Board of Trade. This order of business occupied considerable time, President Benson thanked the Councillors for their attendance.

Motion: That when we adjourn we adjourn to meet again next Thursday, February 27th. Carried.

Motion: That time of adjournment be extended fifteen minutes. Carried.

Audit Committee Report

We, your auditors, beg to report that we have examined the books of the Trades and Labor Council and find the same to be correct and well kept.

We further certify that all our requirements as auditors have been complied with and in our opinion the balance sheet is drawn up so as to set forth the true financial position of the Council as disclosed by the books at December 31st, 1912.

We recommend that an increase of five dollars per month be made to the salary of the financial secretary.

(Sgd.) F. BLUMBERG,
W. J. PIPES,
Auditors.

Motion: That we concur in the report.

Amendment: That report be laid on the table until next meeting. Amendment carried.

Parliamentary Committee Report

Clause 3.—Recommended that the Secretary of the Council issue an invitation through the press to workers in unorganized industries inviting them to send information as to any grievance they may have, the same to be treated confidentially.

Motion: That we concur. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11.15 p.m.

HERE LIETH THE BODY

Since the days of the Tower of Babel every great work of human hands has demanded a toll of human life. Always a no inconsiderable percentage of the toielrs has died by accident or succumb to physical strain. The story never varies. It is told by the palaces and defences of Babylon, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Parthenon of Athens and the Coliseum of Rome. It is told today by every skyscraper of every commercial center of every country in Christendom. The worker in stone and iron gives blood as well as labor that monuments of civilization may rise while he drops and dies and is forgotten.

And now, at last, something has happened to convince the multitude that the workers are a part of the monuments of civilization. From one of the concrete pillars of the recently erected power dam across the Mississippi river at Keokuk, Iowa, protrudes a human hand. Beyond that hand lies the body of a laborer who disappeared several weeks ago. His body cannot be moved without destroying an important portion of the dam, and therefore it must lie imbedded in the cement for many decades or centuries, which will pass before the dam yields to the action of the elements.

Never had labor a finer monument. Never was there an object lession more likely to impress on the world the truth that every great work of even civilization is built with the flesh and blood of the toilers.

STATE OWNED UTILITIES IN AUSTRALIA.

By H. L. Haddon.

Mr. H. L. Haddon was, until recently, a member of the Vancouver Trades ad Labor Council, and will be remembered by many as a member of the Machinists' Union in Vancouver. His article, which follows, gives much interesting information, gathered at urst hand.

A great diversity of opinion exists as to the comparative merits or demerits of government anl private owned public utilities. In Canada we have had little opportunity of comparing the two at close range owing to the fact that the government owned service is almost an unknown quantity, and the insolated examples, such as the Intercolonial Railway, owing to the overwhelming influences of surrounding private enterprise, do not offer fair subjects for comparison. As is well known, most of the great public utilities which in Canada are controlled by private corporations are in Australia run by the government. These include the railways, tramways, telephones and telegraphs, and other less important services. I purpose in this article to state a few facts, the result of observations and inquiries I have made regarding the utilities referred to, which may, perhaps, assist readers of the "Fed" in deciding which control—governmental or private—is calculated to give them the better service. It might be well to point out, at the start, that Australia has a population of but four and a half millions, and, in consequence, things are not attempted on so grand a scale as on the North American continent. Nor, indeed, is there that demand for up-to-dateness which is inseparable from such a vast and wealthy population as that of America. The aim of the Australian government is to provide services adequate and sufficient for the needs of the country, and to improve and increase these services as the growth of population demands it. If we keep these facts in mind, we shall make our comparisons between government and private owned utilities one of general principles rather than of cases.

Telephone and Telegraphs.

The telephones and telegraphs are, in Australia, controlled by the federal government, and constitute a branch of the postal department. Both phone and telegraph services have been extended wonderfully during the last few years, and even the remote interior districts are now well served. The telephone in particular is revolutionizing conditions for settlers in the sparsely populated districts. The high rates charged for telephones—$15 a year and one cent toll—are accounted for by the fact that lines are being extended to many thinly settled districts where they prove a boon to the people, but not a source of revenue. The phone has become as indispensable in the country town as in the capital—on the farm as in the office. Pay stations are in pretty general use in the cities, similar to those with which we are familiar, except that pennies are used instead of nickels. The equipment in use is not so up-to-date as that seen in many American and Canadian cities, but it has been standarized by the federal authorities, with the result that in every town and every state the same instruments and the same system of operation are in vogue. This unification of the service strikes me as the best feature of the telephone system. Phones operated under the one head connect all towns throughout the states, and trunk lines give splendid long distance service between the capitals. The feature of competition is eliminated by this method, and with it the bugbear of dual systems; but there are also noticeable certain shortcomings in the perfection of the service which are often remedied by competing companies. This, to a certain extent, may also be said of the telegraph service, though the public appear to be eminently satisfied with this section, both as regards the actual service and charges. The latter appear by comparison to be very moderate, and are as follows:—City and suburban, 12c for sixteen words; within the state, 18c for sixteen words; interstate, 25c for sixteen words, with two cents extra for every additional word in each case.

Tramways.

The tramways are as a general thing owned by the state governments and not by the municipalities. Owing to the peculiar concentration of the population into the cities, only a few of the latter have street railway systems, and of these only two or three can be classed as really up-to-date in equipment. The services in general, however, are satisfactory from a public point of view. They pay fairly well, though the public convenience appear to be a prior consideration to profits. The tramway system of Sydney is the most comprehensive and complete in the commonwealth, and, indeed, compares more than favorably with anything I have seen abroad. The cars are rather smaller than the ordinary American cars, and are mostly of the open type. The service is fast and frequent, and, except during exceptionally heavy traffic, there is invariably plenty of seeting accommodation. Trailers and extra cars are put on as fast as traffic demands, and "hang-on" straps are not used. The transfer system is not in vogue here. Fares are paid according to distance travelled, and routes are divided into penny sections, a two cent section averaging two to three miles. This system of charges is cheaper for short distances, but the long distance passenger would be favored by the five cent transfer method.

The Railways.

But it is of the railways that I wish to speak in particular, for I believe these constitute the most important public utility in Australia or any other country. The first thing that strikes me when I compare the Australian railways with those of the United States or Canada is that the former are a very small concern. The scale of operations, the size of the trains—indeed, everything connected with them—give one the impression that they are too insignificant for comparison. A few figures will illustrate this. The locomotives used are from 80 to 120 tons, with working pressures of 130 to 180 pounds. The weights of passenger trains range from 260 to 300 tons, and of the cars, from 25 to 45 tons. Freight or "goods" trains vary from 500 to 900 tons, the capacity of individual "trucks" being 10 to 35 tons. Nor do the trains compare with those of America in the matter of appointment. There is none of that luxury of travel which American dollars can buy on American roads. There are no parlor cars, no rear-end observation cars, no private apartment Pullmans. Diners are used in rare cases only. The trains here are not "one piece," that is, there is no continuous thoroughfare throughout the length of the train. On the contrary, they are made up of cars with individual compartments, opening either direct on to the platform or into aisles running along one side of the "carriages." The sleepers, by reason of their size, are not nearly so roomy or luxurious as the American cars. Tickets are collected and refreshments taken—except on certain special trains—at stations where stops are made for the purpose; and instead of our pompous conductor and brakesmen there is a "guard," who rides in a compartment of his own at the rear end of the train. Added to all these shortcomings is the inconvenience caused by the necessity of changing trains at the state boundaries, owing to the fact that each state has a different gauge of road. The railways are owned by the states governments, who unfortunately did not foresee their error at the time of construction. The federal government is taking steps towards the establishment of a uniform gauge, but until that is accomplished the condition will remain most unsatisfactory.

Run for Public, not for Profit.

But here the disparity ends. When one has taken time to look deeper, it becomes apparent that these railways are run, not to make dividends, not to cater to millionaires, but to meet the everyday needs of a small, democratic populace; and public opinion says that this purpose is being accomplished. While the aggregate mileage is considerable, the individual distances usually travelled is not great, and the lighter and less cumbersome trains are more suited to conditions. The service, if not luxurious, is frequent and fast, especially in metropolitan districts. At the central station, Sydney, during the recent Christmas holidays, I personally witnessed arrivals and departures of trains (suburban and distance) at the rate of one every half minute, and this average was kept up for twenty-four hours. This, of course, was during abnormal traffic, but I am informed it was not by any means unprecedented. Regular traffic at this station averages one arrival or departure every two minutes. On the main lines connecting the capitals several trains run daily, at average speeds of from 28 miles per hour on all stop trains to 50 miles on the limited expresses, the latter figure being the average for a distance of 600 miles. Traffic on branch lines is of course less frequent and slower. Fares on these railways are moderate. There are but two classes of passengers—first and second—and the rates are four cents and two cents per mile respectively, with extra charge of $2.50 per night for sleeping. Extensive reductions are made for holiday travel, and for workmen and students. Freight rates are moderate, but no definite figures can be given here, as they vary according to commodity, distance and locality. Coal and minerals are alone carried at a flat rate of one cent per mile per ton. The farmer and settler are liberally treated by the railways, rates being reduced in the back country until they barely cover working expenses. During dry seasons, stock are moved to more favorable districts, and seed wheat carried either free of charge or at nominal rates.

Except on isolated branch lines with single daily trains, the railways are operated on the electric tablet system, which makes it impossible for two trains to be in one section at the same time. As a result of this and many other safety precautions, the Australian railways have a most enviable record for freedom from accidents, and the number of fatalities is infinitesimal compared to the American and Canadian roads, even considering the difference in mileage and traffic. The reason for this is, perhaps, that the railways are run as a public convenience rather than as a money-making proposition. Be that as it may, there are indications a plenty that human lives here count for more than financial returns.

There is no denying that state ownership of railways, as of other utilities, is rarely marked by that keen business-like administration so characteristic of well managed private concerns. Officials are more or less hindered by governmental red-tape, and there is apparent a certain conservatism and lack of enterprise which is not seen where the competitive system obtains. The shortcomings in service and equipment to which I have referred indicate this; so does the fact that the railways, as a whole, little more than pay for themselves. Many of the branch lines, as a matter of fact, and some of them indeed are built without any expectation of their proving remunerative. The fact that the requirements of a district call for the construction of a railway is considered sufficient reason for its building; and popular demand is sufficient for the extension and improvement of the system generally. With the private corporation these matters carry no weight. The main consideration is dividends, and the success of any private enterprise is calculated by financial returns only—not by the good it may do to the community. And so we find ourselves considering the question whether it is better for a people to construct and own its own railways and other utilities, and operate them in their own best interests, or to hand over the development of their resources to territorially rewarded corporations for their own enrichment, thereby irrevocably surrendering those things which belong to the mass of the people. Australia has long since decided in favor of state ownership, and if we are to judge by the manner in which the principle is being extended, she is confident that she has decided well and wisely.

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.

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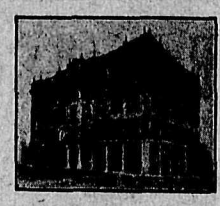

¶ Do not waste your time in taking our advice, but just look at what we do and leave the rest to us. All you have to do is to give us the copy, tell us what you want, and your return will justify your confidence. Why? Because we print so that you will come again.

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