

ATRIOTIC HYPOCRISY EXEMPLIFIED BY ORIENTAL POPULATION INCREASE

ARNOLD F. GEORGE TO BE FEDERAL INSPECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Will Arrive in Vancouver Next Week to Assume Duties of New Created Office.

Upon Arnold F. George, the newly appointed inspector of employment agents, who will arrive in Vancouver within a fortnight to assume the duties of his office, will devolve the responsibility for the enforcement of the recent order-in-council governing employment agencies, referred to editorially in this issue of The Federationist.

Under date of May 7, J. H. McVety, acting secretary of Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, addressed a letter to H. H. Stevens, M.P. for this riding, as follows:

"In this morning's paper I notice that an Order-in-Council has been passed, dealing with employment agencies, or at least such employment agencies as deal with immigrants.

As I read this article, which I enclose, this would appear to be a very estimable piece of legislation and one that would go a long way towards stopping the swindle so long perpetrated on a vast number of working men who are out of employment.

During the last 13 months I have listened to the complaints of possibly 500 men, many of whom have been sent as far as Prince Rupert, finding upon their arrival that there was no employment, and never had been. In some cases the expenses of going to the point where employment was said to be available, and returning, men have expended as much as \$50 in fare and expenses, making no allowance whatever for wages lost while in transit.

You have no doubt seen the form of contract used by employment agents, which is for pure devilishness, hard to beat. The only recourse of men swindled in this manner is a civil remedy, a suit for the return of the fee paid, and for damages, and you will readily understand that very few casual laborers floating around the country as they must do in search of employment, can spare the time and the money necessary to secure lawyers and provide witnesses when the case finally comes to trial, and in the majority of cases, as a result, the employment agent escapes completely.

We have gone very fully into some of these cases with our solicitors and with the city prosecutor here, to ascertain if a prosecution for false pretences could not be made to lie, but our advice on every occasion has been unfavorable.

We have attempted to have the provincial government pass legislation that would overcome the evils referred to, and the representatives of organized labor in testifying before the labor commission urge that private employment agencies be completely abolished, and that that work be handled directly by the provincial government.

It seems to me that the scope of this order-in-council is defined largely by the construction the courts will place upon the word "immigrants," and if that construction is sufficiently broad, practically every employment agency in Canada can be brought under the provisions of the order.

Will be obliged if you will secure for me a copy of the order-in-council and also of the immigration act, and whatever information you can secure as to the scope that Mr. Crothers intends the order to cover.

I have no hesitancy in saying that if the act can be construed to cover employment agents generally, that some of those in this city are due for a cleansing in the very near future, and we will be only too pleased to assist in the good work."

Mr. Stevens acknowledged the letter at once and stated that he would take up the question with the immigration department.

This morning Mr. McVety received the following letter from Mr. W. W. Scott, superintendent of immigration, under Ottawa date of May 17:

"Mr. H. H. Stevens, M.P. for Vancouver city, has discussed with the Hon. T. W. Crothers, minister of labor and acting minister of the interior, your letter of the 7th inst., regarding the licensing of labor agencies in Canada.

"In order that you may be fully familiar with the order-in-council, I enclose herewith six copies of P.C. 1028 and P.C. 1064, also copy of the immigration act.

"With reference to your remarks as to the construction which the courts will likely place upon the word 'immigrant,' I think I am safe in saying that no court would attempt to otherwise define it than it is defined in the interpretation clauses of the immigration act under which the order-in-council was passed. In this connection I would refer you to section 2, sub-sections 'D' and 'O' of the immigration act. Briefly stated, the definition of 'immigrant' is any person who comes to Canada with the intention of acquiring Canadian domicile, who does not belong to the non-immigrant classes, and who has resided less than three years in Canada.

"I am satisfied that a strict enforcement of the regulations contained in P.C. 1028 and 1064 will have a very beneficial effect in greatly curtailing, if not entirely eradicating, the unfair treatment which newly arrived immigrants, more especially filipino foreigners, have received at the hands of unscrupulous employment agents. In your official capacity I have no doubt whatever that a large percentage of the cases of unfair treatment will come before you, and I would be pleased at any time to cause a full investigation to be made into any complaints which you may wish to bring either to my attention or to the attention of Mr. Arnold F. George, inspector of employment agents for the province of British Columbia, who will enter upon his duties there in the course of the next fortnight. Mr.

"How many Orientals are there in British Columbia?" is a question being asked in many quarters along the Pacific coast just now, in view of the agitation against land ownership by Japanese in California, coupled with the fact that several hundred Chinese are at this moment scabbing on the striking coal miners at Cumberland on Vancouver Island and practically every big industry in B. C. is increasing its working forces with Orientals while thousands of "British subjects" are vainly searching for jobs, with train loads more being added to the list every week from the old country.

Some time last year it was estimated from the official census that there were 35,000 Orientals in this province made up of 30,000 Chinese, 10,000 Japanese, 2000 Hindus and sundry others. A daily press dispatch from Ottawa the other day said:

"Notwithstanding Premier McBride's repeated declarations for a white British Columbia, the revenues of the Pacific province are profiting more than ever by the immigration of Chinese, the numbers coming in during the past fiscal year being greater than in any preceding year in the history of the country.

"Altogether 7745 Chinese entered, mostly through Vancouver, and nearly all to remain in British Columbia. Of these 387 were admitted as students, merchants, etc. The remainder paid poll-tax at \$500 per capita aggregating \$3,849,442, half of which is paid into the British Columbia treasury.

"The total Chinese population of Canada is now about 30,000, more than two-thirds of whom are in British Columbia."

The Federationist has endeavored to collect a little data on the subject this week. From reliable sources it is estimated that the number of Chinese in B. C. has increased to at least 25,000; the number of Japanese remains about the same, inasmuch as only 400 per year are supposed to be allowed to land on these shores, as the result of an "understanding" arrived at during Mackenzie King's regime as minister of labor at Ottawa. The Hindu population has increased to at least 5000, while every other variety of the species is well represented and their number is being rapidly augmented by unscrupulous railway contractors.

The Federationist appreciates the fact that the exclusion of the Orientals or any other peoples will fail to solve the international labor problem. If the work is not actually done in Canada it will be performed in China or Japan, on the same sort of machinery of modern wealth production and the product imported by good, patriotic flag-waving steamship lines, without even provision for precedence by missionaries and bibles.

But at a time when there is so much bally rot being palmed off as patriotism and imperialism it gives one mental belyache to see thousands of jobless "citizens" roaming about while "our resources" are being "developed" by Asiatics in the employ of the patriots. Damned be such hypocrisy. It would be comedy were it not so infernally tragic.

STREET RAILWAY STRIKE AT PORT ARTHUR-FORT WILLIAM

Here is the story, in a seven-column head of The Wage-Earner, published in the twin cities:

"Professional strike breakers in the employ of the Port Arthur and Fort William municipally owned street railway, by order of the joint board of street railway commissioners, backed by the mayors and most of the aldermen of the twin cities."

Lives Expended in Dollars

Mrs. Vincent secured \$5000 damages this week against the B. C. E. R. Co. in the Supreme Court for the death of her husband, who was employed as a switchman by the company. He was caught between two cars and succumbed to the injuries he received. The defense was that of contributory negligence, but in this the court did not agree, dismissing the appeal. Mr. J. W. DeB. Farris appeared for the respondent, while Mr. L. G. Phillips acted on behalf of the company in all three cases.

Judgment was reserved in the case of a man named Williams, who had been awarded damages by a jury in his action brought on the grounds that owing to switching operations by the company he had been brushed off the steps of an interurban car and injured. The award of \$3000 made by the jury in the action of Gentile vs. B. C. E. R. arising out of injuries sustained by a 18-year-old boy who was struck by an interurban car when getting off a Grandview car, was sustained.

Only a Jobless "Immigrant"

George Deputant, an Austrian laborer, walking from Okanagan Landing to Kelowna, lost his way last Monday. After walking a mile and a half past Okanagan Center he collapsed and remained on the road until today, when he was found by a lumber-jack, and the police motored down for him. He had had no water and only a few soda crackers. He was brought to the Vernon hospital.—Daily press item.

Bowser's Immigration Halls

Augmentation of the provincial lock-up facilities on the British Columbia mainland was further advanced by the award yesterday of contracts for new lock-ups, with residence provisions for the local constable at each, for North Bend, Spence's Bridge and Savona.—Daily press news item.

George's address is not yet definitely decided upon, but you will have no difficulty in reaching him after his arrival by enquiry of Mr. Malcolm R. J. Reid, Dominion Immigration agent, Vancouver."



W. J. FINNER, Member of Vancouver Trades and Labor Council last meeting as President of the Executive Committee, vice J. Kavanagh.

GENERAL FEDERAL ELECTION PREDICTED WITHIN FEW WEEKS

That there may be a federal general election within the next two months seems to be the prevailing opinion in Ottawa political circles.

The Navy Bill, after months of haggling, got past the commons all right, but the Liberals are on top in the dear old senate, and it is probable that it may perform at least one useful service in its life by insisting that the question be referred to what it tantamount to a referendum vote, a position insisted upon by Alphonse Verville, M.P., from the beginning.

Now a veiled threat is made by the Conservatives that if the Liberal senate forces an election on the bill, the old, old skeleton of "Abolition of the Senate" will be dug out of the family closet and—but that's another story.

INTERNATIONAL SEAMEN'S CONVENTION AT SEATTLE ADJOURNED WEDNESDAY

The seventh annual convention of the International Seamen's Union which has been in session in Seattle more than a week adjourned Wednesday, after selecting Boston for the 1914 convention.

The convention decided to make a vigorous campaign for membership during the coming year in anticipation of a large increase in American shipping with the opening of the Panama Canal.

In the election of officers Andrew Furuseth of San Francisco was re-elected president. The executive board was instructed to send Mr. Furuseth to the convention of the International Transport Workers' Federation in London.

Other officers elected were: Vice-presidents, P. Flynn, V. A. Olander, Thomas Conway, H. P. Griffin, P. B. Gill, I. N. Hyler, H. N. Lornsten and E. Steidle; secretary-treasurer, T. A. Hanson; Walter McArthur, editor "Coast Seamen's Journal"; delegates to American Federation of Labor, President Furuseth, John Carney, Earl Norkauser and P. B. Gill.

MEDICINE HAT LABOR TEMPLE AND A. F. OF L. CONVENTION

Medicine Hat, Alta. Trades and Labor council is planning the erection of a labor temple.

Preparations are also being made for the reception and entertainment of delegates to the second annual convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor, to be held in the gas city, commencing the second Friday in July.

Unions Growing in Royal City The population of New Westminster has grown from 12,000 in 1910 to 17,178 in May, 1913. The unionists of the Royal City are keeping pace and organization work is being vigorously pushed forward by the central labor body.

"Prosperity" Assured

During the latter part of 1912, the cost of living in the United States was higher than at any other time during the last 25 years. The bureau of labor statistics has just issued a report on retail prices from 1890 to 1913.

VANCOUVER UNIONISTS SHOULD TAKE HAND IN SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

"At a recent election held in St. Louis, Charles Lambert, president of the Building Trades Council, was elected a member of the school board, for a term of six years. He was the only union man elected upon this board, and will be of much benefit to organized labor.

In Vancouver Trustee Aylke resigned this week, and an election to fill the vacancy will take place soon.

What's the matter with local unionists, through the central labor body, taking a hand in it?

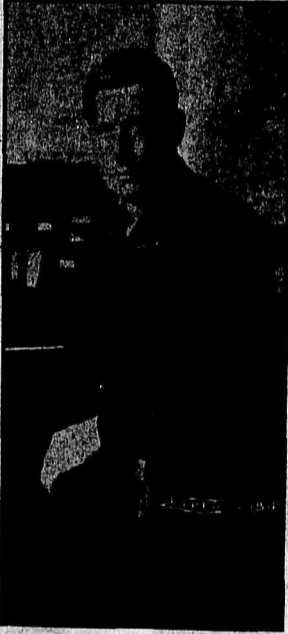
School board affairs during the past year warrant such action. Otherwise there should be no further murmuring about petty graft and cob-built school houses.

AMENDMENT TO FEDERAL ORDER-IN-COUNCIL GOVERNING JOB-SELLING SHARKS

The Federationist received yesterday a copy of an amendment to the recent order-in-council issued by the federal government from the immigration department, covering certain shortcomings in the original order to give some measure of protection to immigrants from unscrupulous and thieving employment bureau sharks. It reads:

Section 14 is hereby repealed and the following section is hereby substituted in lieu thereof: "If any person, firm or company, engaged in the business of an intelligence office, or employment or labor agency, and having business dealings with immigrants, fails to comply with any of the regulations of the foregoing regulations, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding \$100.00 and in default of payment, to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months."

Vancouver Typo Union, No. 226 The regular monthly meeting of Typographical Union, No. 226, will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 25, at 2 o'clock, in Labor Temple, corner Homer and Dunsmuir streets. All members requested to be present.



E. A. JONES, Who This Week Designed as Business Agent of Vancouver Electrical Workers' Union (Ontario) and is Succeeded by W. F. Dunn.

UNION MEETINGS AT LABOR TEMPLE FOR COMING WEEK

Sunday, May 25—Typographical Union, 2:30; Stage Employees, 8 p.m.

Monday, May 26—Amalgamated Engineers; Glass Workers; Lathers; Street Railwaymen's Executive; Electrical Workers No. 213; Teamsters; Bro. of Carpenters.

Tuesday, May 27—Cement Workers; Sign Painters; Barbers; Shinglers; Amalgamated Carpenters; Bricklayers.

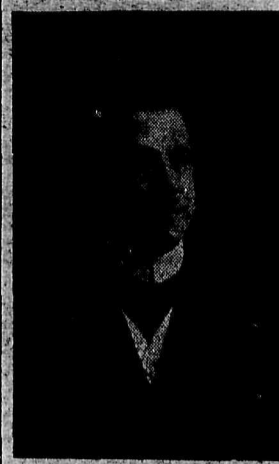
Wednesday, May 28—Home & Domestic Employees; Bookbinders; Marble Cutters; Metal Trades Council; Amalgamated Carpenters; Street Railwaymen, 2:30 p.m.; Plumbers.

Thursday, May 29—Retail Employees; Painters; Sheet Metal Workers.

Friday, May 30—Building Trades Council; Bookbinders' Committee.

Saturday, May 31—Nil.

COAL BARONS MOVING HEAVEN AND EARTH TO STAMPEDE STRIKERS



JAMES MACPHERSON, Well Known Trades Leader of the Organized Labor Movement in Canada, Who May Visit Vancouver Next Week en Route to Portland.

Lacrosse Tomorrow! Tomorrow, May 24, those in Vancouver who have the price will adjourn en masse to the opening lacrosse game of the season at New Westminster. Baseball will have to take a seat in the rear for one day at least.

SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA UNIONISTS WANT CLOSER UNION

Pending the time when it will be possible for the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba unionists to each form a Provincial Federation of Labor, Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council commends the idea of the central labor bodies of those two provinces forming a tentative inter-provincial organization of central labor bodies, in order that a counter move to the formation of the recent Builders' Exchange may be made.

Just why the present provincial executive committees of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada are not utilized for the same purpose, without the added expense of multiplicity of organization, is not clear.

LONGSHOREMEN OFFICIALS IN VANCOUVER THIS WEEK ON NEW WAGE SCHEDULE

T. V. O'Connor, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, with headquarters at Buffalo, N. Y., accompanied by Pacific Coast District President Kean and Sec. Treas. Madsen, has been an official union visitor in Vancouver during the week. The officers were here in connection with the signing up of a new agreement covering wages and working hours on the waterfront, the first of its kind since 1903.

As soon as the agreement is formally accepted by the Victoria membership, it already having been accepted in Vancouver, the schedule will be printed in The Federationist most probably next week, as it is practically certain of adoption all along the Pacific coast.

Who says trade unionism is on the decline in this territory?

Employers' Viewpoint. The employers' viewpoint is possibly expressed in the following excerpt from the daily press:

"The prospect of another longshoremen's strike, which has worried the shipping interests of British Columbia for some months, has diminished with the result of the conference between representatives of the B. C. Marine Association and the International Longshoremen's Association. The meeting resulted in the coming to a satisfactory agreement Monday, representatives of both sides went to Victoria to confer with the Victoria branches of both associations, and if the Victoria people fall in line then the shipping trade of the port will proceed without a hitch this summer, as hard and fast agreements as to wages will be entered into."

Some 3,000,000 persons are enrolled in the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America and the American Society of Equity. According to statistics this shows that about 29 per cent. of those following agricultural pursuits in the United States are members of industrial and economic organizations.

Heavy on Marx Bone-head—I heard 75 per cent of the German army are good marksmen. Socialist—Sure, the last election in Germany showed that the majority of the German army must be Marx men.

NANAIMO, B. C., May 23. Special to the Federationist.—Strike situation unchanged, companies making no attempt to work the mines at Nanaimo, South Wellington or Jinglepot. Fake miners' union started by the scabs at Ladysmith, known as Dominion of Canada Miners' Union. Informants that officials of company are acting as officers of this body; also that they will hold a picnic at Duncan, B. C., on the 24th inst., with company paying all expenses. Men of Nanaimo, Jinglepot and South Wellington completely organized and determined to win this fight. ROBERT FOSTER.

Int. Organizer Farrington, of the U. M. W. of A., passed through Vancouver on Monday, accompanied by Robert Foster, president of District 18, from Nanaimo to the Terminal City, en route to Fernie, where he will officiate as one of the committee to investigate the mixup in the affairs of District 18 on behalf of the international executive board.

Mr. Farrington says the strike situation on Vancouver Island is all that could be desired from the union's viewpoint and that a settlement carrying with it recognition of the U. M. W. of A. is certain.

The sum of \$15,000 has been appropriated by the international toward the strike fund, per week, and this will be ample to give the coal diggers a much-needed holiday. From McBride, now that the miners are on top, is anxious to assist in a settlement, after seven months of ignoring the strikers' claims of violation of the coal mines regulation act.

All efforts on the part of the coal operators to hornswoggle the miners by the formation of a "Canadian" union have failed, and at a big mass meeting held on the "green" last Sunday, the strikers reaffirmed their determination to "stay out all summer" if necessary to enforce their mandate demands.

Other than the Orientals working, contrary to law, at Cumberland, coupled with a few old countrymen recently imported, the mining industry on the island is tied up tight.

The big union is amply prepared for any kind of a struggle necessary to win out and at last the age-long dream of the miners for the establishment of union conditions is soon to become an accomplished fact.

President Foster returned to Nanaimo Tuesday.

NANAIMO, V. I., May 21.—The situation on the island remains much the same as last week, the men of the various camps remaining solid and determined to fight to a finish. The coal corporations and their friends have had many rumors going, such as that the Washington operators had paid the officers of the union a large sum of money to call this strike, thus allowing them to capture the markets hitherto supplied by Vancouver Island. They also prate about the amount of coal coming from Washington to British Columbia every day, and that the financial support promised by the international was only so much talk and nothing to it.

Notwithstanding all these attempts, made to make trouble and cause dissension in the ranks, it is having no effect.

We have been having some good meetings of late, the last one being addressed by Bro. Farrington, on Sunday last, a photo of which will be sent later.

The Dominion government have had an officer of the Labor Department, J. D. McNiven, here for a few days, investigating conditions. It is said he has been busy working among the so-called point committee trying to induce them to make application for a settlement under the Federal Industrial Disputes Act.

This "Act" is so good that at Britannia mines the W. F. of M. have been on strike for several months after having got a favorable decision under it.

The premier of British Columbia, Sir Richard McBride, it is learned, has sent word, since the Nanaimo strike has been in operation (although in an indirect way) that he would be willing to have the Cumberland and Ladysmith dispute settled by arbitration. This after having been appealed to repeatedly by the miners during the past eight months.

We are having considerable trouble watching new arrivals from England and Scotland, these men having had the situation misrepresented to them, in that they were coming to new coal fields, the coal companies advancing their fares, to be repaid when they start work.

We have had several cases tried, before the half-yearly assizes, of men alleged to have broken the law in Cumberland and Ladysmith in the early days of the dispute and although found guilty, according to the evidence given, have suspended sentences from one to three years, provided they do not break the law."

GEO. PETTIGREW.

NANAIMO, V. I., May 22.—The enclosed photo is of a big meeting held Sunday afternoon, May 18, when Bro. Frank Farrington (international representative, U. M. W. of A.), addressed the miners and their wives and children. He put up a splendid talk, telling of the struggles of the U. M. W. of A. in various parts of the American continent, showing how lives had been sacrificed in many of these struggles, including the struggle in West Virginia, which was just over. He told the Nanaimo miners that the international organization would finance the present

CIVIC EMPLOYEES AND BUILDING AND COMMON LABORERS JOIN FORCES

One Last Charter; Last Drive; Increased Membership, Solidarity and Efficiency.

A former secretary of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union, 31 State street, Albany, N. Y., has advised Vancouver local union No. 65 that the executive officers have refused to reinstate the old local here, No. 350. In an official letter to Secretary Trainer, received this week from International Secretary Verson, the latter says:

"You will therefore claim jurisdiction on all that work in the several cities covered by your jurisdiction."

This ruling will clear up several misconceptions among local unionists in the building trades. It also means that the old Civic Employees' Union, chartered in the first place as an A. F. of L. federal union, ceases to exist.

Business Agents John Sully and M. Trainer are busy lining up new members and with the above ruling hope for big things during the next few months. The membership of the local has already reached over the 500 mark, with prospects for doubling that number good.

Funeral Private; No Flowers The dismantling of H. M. C. S. Rainbow is proceeding apace at Esquimalt and within the next two weeks to the "warship" will be handed over to a watch crew while the regular complement of time-exhausted officers and blue-jackets will soon be on their way home to England.

Will Employ 1,000 Men The Portland Cement Construction Company Ltd., announces that it will at once establish an immense plant at Elk creek, near Chilliwack, and that not less than 1,000 men will be employed before the summer is over. The same company is operating a big plant already at Bamberton Works, Todd inlet, near Sidney, Vancouver Island.

Type Seriously Injured Mr. H. G. Barber, a member of Vancouver Typographical Union, was seriously injured in a wreck on the C.P.R. near Calgary yesterday afternoon. Of twenty-nine passengers more or less sufferers through the accident the injuries to Mr. Barber were the most serious and he now lies in the hospital at Calgary in a critical condition through a fracture of the skull.

Hallport Fishermen's Union Secretary Keating of the Hallport Fishermen's Union, who was a visitor in Vancouver during the week, He reports splendid progress in organization work. If ever there was one object lesson in the benefits to be derived from organization the Fishermen's union affords it. From practically an unorganized underpaid bunch of nobodies the fishermen have now organization, agreements with employers carrying increased pay and better working conditions, a few good, energetic officers, and hereafter they will play their part in the world-wide movement of organized wage-workers.

Longshoremen's Convention

After four days' debate over the agreement, proposed by T. W. O'Connor, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, involving cargo handlers of Puget Sound and British Columbia and employees of the Pacific Coast district, the convention of Longshoremen adjourned at San Pedro without accepting the agreement, says the Los Angeles Citizen.

Instead a committee was appointed to confer further with the representatives of the Puget Sound Shipping Association and the Maritime Association of British Columbia, representing the railroads and steamship companies and the stevedores and contractors, with power to close a contract for approximately one year.

The original agreement made last week by President O'Connor at Seattle subject to ratification by the convention, provided for a period of eighteen months and the convention agreed to accept it for one year only.

The best thing around a woman is a man.

strike and had ordered \$15,000 a week to be sent here for that purpose. The 400,000 miners who were members of the U. M. W. of A. had their eyes on this struggle on Vancouver Island, recognizing that our success was theirs, and vice versa. It remained for the miners of Vancouver Island to put up the fight and stand together. All the financial and moral support in the world would be of no avail if they were not prepared to fight to the last ditch. The applause this speech received, makes us justified in saying the men here are prepared and are fighting together for recognition of the union and a general working agreement. They all realize that this fight must be won. If it was lost, hundreds of good union men would have to leave Vancouver Island, which would mean the breaking up of homes and wives which they hold dear and, Mr. Editor, you can take it from me that before anything like this happens, they are going to put up the fight of their lives. The cry of the Canadian miners' organization has had its funny side. The scabs working at the Extension mines are supposed to have organized a Dominion of Canada Miners' Union Local No. 15. I am afraid it should have been No. 23.

The agitation here remains the same. No move as far as can be learned has been made by the mine owners to come to a settlement. Our slogan is, WE ARE OUT TO WIN. That means recognition of the union and no 15 per cent. increase which is being talked about to get the men back to work and then skin them.

A. JORDAN.

We very much appreciate the efforts being made by Vancouver unionists to create a healthy demand for union-labelled products, but they do not go far enough. If Vancouver is to fulfill its destiny as a great industrial centre is must have an increased payroll. This is an imperative necessity. One of the ways this can be accomplished is by demanding not only union-label goods, but Vancouver-made goods. We are not only justified in making this request of wage-workers, who wear overalls and shirts, as a part of the present movement for "local industries," but our goods are the best in the world's market for the money. See that you ask for and insist upon having BUCK BRAND Overalls and Shirts. They fulfill every requirement.

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VANCOUVER, B. C.

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"Unity of Labor: the hope of the world."

112 WATCH THE LABEL ON YOUR PAPER. If this number is on it your subscription expires next issue.

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1913

SUICIDE OR FIGHT?

"An epidemic of suicides," says the daily press, commenting upon the alarming number of persons who have chosen the short route out of an industrial hell during the past few weeks throughout Western Canada.

But after all, it is not more strange or certain than an epidemic of fever where no sewerage system obtains or the first principles of sanitation are not adhered to, as in railway construction camps.

As a matter of fact there are thousands of unfortunate men and women seeking jobs, penniless and in many cases in a strange land and being without money are, needless to say, without friends.

After being turned out by the landlord or boarding house mistress, and having made a day-after-day diligent search for a chance to sell themselves to a boss on the installment plan, the outlook becomes gloomy.

An attack of the "Blues," sometimes referred to by jurists as "temporary insanity," follows, and the victims mentally ask themselves: "What's the use?"

To the men it oftentimes resolves itself into a choice of sudden death or a slow process of starvation with all that that implies.

To the woman it may mean a choice between becoming a plaything for young rich-bloods in a house provided by society for the selling of their bodies, or death.

Who can know the mental agony suffered by the suicide previous to the time when they resolve to end it all?

How many of us would be too cowardly to face such a situation?

In a world dominated by human hyenas and grasping corporations, seeking only to enslave men, women and children, is it any wonder there are suicides?

On the contrary, is it not a seventh wonder there are not more of them? If it were not for the bulging tenacity of the race, persecution instinct within our kind, especially among the working class, fewer persons would stay with the bitter struggle for existence.

Capitalism breeds all sorts of methods of securing a living, as every police court and social institution on earth amply testifies. Almost every married wage-worker in every industrial centre nowadays is compelled to resort to all manner of means to make ends meet, from taking in the proverbial "roomer" to washing dirty linen.

To the single men and women do to earn a living is well known to every tenant of a modern boarding-house or apartment.

A society that is fairly rotten to the core, a social system that breaks up the home and destroys the best intentions and strongest desires to live like human beings can beget nothing but the everyday stories of the daily press.

The fount from which it all springs is the labor market, and so long as men and women consent to make a commodity out of their very life force—ability to work, labor-power—their story will be a continued one.

The organized labor movement is the one buttress against the grinding force of capitalism, and upon its growth and education depends a good deal of what the future has in store for mankind.

None can save the working class except the working class.

If ever there was a time for unionists to take a fresh grip and eternally fulfill their age-long mission that time is now.

Refuse to suicide!

Fight!

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

For the protection of "immigrants," who deal with employment offices, the following federal regulations have been made by order-in-council by the Immigration Department:

1. Every person, firm or company engaged in the business of an intelligence office, or employment or labor agency, and having business dealings with immigrants, shall first obtain license for this purpose from the Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, which license shall be issued without fee upon the Superintendent being satisfied that the applicant is duly complying with the requirements of the Immigration Act and orders in council or regulations passed thereunder.

2. Such license shall not be transferable, and shall be revocable on written order of the Superintendent of Immigration, where the latter has been notified that the holder is not complying with the requirements of the Immigration Act, or of any orders in council or regulations passed thereunder.

3. No person, firm or company engaged in the business of an intelligence office, or employment or labor agency, shall advertise or otherwise make false representations to any immigrant seeking employment as to opportunities, or conditions of employment, with any employer.

4. Every holder of a license under these regulations shall in books provided for that purpose keep the following records of his business, viz.: the full name and address in Canada, and home address, if any elsewhere of every immigrant with whom the holder has dealings; the port and date of the immigrant's arrival in Canada; the name of the steamship or railway by which the immigrant has come to Canada; the name and address of the immigrant's next of kin; together with the name and address of the employer for whom the immigrant is engaged; the nature of the work to be performed; the rate of wages to be paid; the rate of board, all deductions from wages, and other terms of engagement.

5. Such books of record shall be open at all times to inspection by any officer authorized for that purpose by the Superintendent of Immigration.

6. The employment fee chargeable by intelligence offices, employment or labor agencies for their services in securing employment for an immigrant shall not in any case exceed the sum of \$1.00, and the fee shall be paid by the immigrant in advance, and shall be refundable upon arrival at the place where the work was represented to be, to secure the promised employment, at the wages and upon the terms represented at time of payment of fee.

8. No holder of a license under these regulations shall, in addition to the \$1.00 fee above mentioned, charge to any immigrant for transportation to the point where employment is to commence, any sum more than the actual cost of such transportation.

9. No holder of a license under these regulations shall engage for any employer of labor, any immigrant, unless said holder of license has in his possession a written and dated order from the employer of labor setting forth specifically the number of men or women whom it is the employer's desire to engage, and which written order shall also state full particulars as to the nature of the work to be performed, the rate of wages paid, the rate of board, all deductions from wages and other terms of engagement.

By a later amendment this week a ruling has been made providing for further penalties, to include corporations, agents, and in fact all employers.

Upon application to the local officers of the federal immigration department The Federationist has been furnished with an interpretation of the term "immigrant."

It means, Mr. Reed says, any person who has not been in Canada for a period of three years.

Where those who have been here for more than that time can be dealt with by employment agencies as heretofore is not stated.

The order will, however, provide a means of securing much-desired information is certain, inasmuch as certain blank books for the use of employment agencies are furnished and will have to be kept in strict accordance with the law.

The wisdom of abolishing all municipal licenses of employment bureaus, leaving the enforcement of the new regulations in the hands of the federal government, is a step that might well be considered.

We shall see what we shall see.

How would you like to be the business agent?

We are all poets when we read a poem well—Carlyle.

Stay away from Britannia Mines, Howe Sound, B. C. The strike is still on.

We can sing away our cares easier than we can reason them away—Beecher.

Virtue alone is sufficient to make a man great, glorious and happy—Franklin.

Stay away from Britannia Mines, Howe Sound, B. C. The strike is still on.

Patronize the other fellow's label and give him a square deal. Then you can ask for one for yourself.

"No commodity ever brings its full value at a forced sale. Labor is always sold at a forced sale."

The Label League is boosting for the Label Union Card and Shop Cards. If you belong to a craft that uses this symbol of unionism come and join us and help boost.

"To merely think beautiful thoughts is not enough. The hand must be ready to bring about the ideal. Did beautiful thought ever rid a bow-wow of his fess?"

Regina policeman has been thrown into jail for robbing stores while on duty. This is not surprising. In fact it is one of the qualifications for a thorough candidate for such jobs.

If you want to stimulate interest in the labor cause by your craft, you can never get results by holding back and waiting to see how your fellow-man sizes up matters. Come in and join the Label League and help us in a campaign of publicity.

A railway contractor's idea of "settling" a strike is to use all the powers of state and an overstocked labor market to compel the strikers to return to their slavery under the same old working conditions. Once this is done the strike is "settled." Sure!

"When the immigrants get off the boats they are usually referred to as 'healthy,' intelligent looking lot of men, but soon as they show their intelligence by taking an interest in the labor movement, they become ignorant, discontented and undesirable citizens."—Celine McKay.

Archibald Blue, chief officer of the federal census and statistic office at Ottawa reports: "... The condition of live stock remains generally satisfactory being for all Canada, over 90 per cent. of a standard representing a healthy and thrifty condition." Whether this includes the two-legged variety or not is not stated.

"The Irish were always agitators!" exclaimed a man on the streets the other day. God bless the Irish, then. May their progeny increase! The world needs more agitators.—Toronto Lance.

Were it not for agitators we would still be tilling land with a sharp stick and the limousine would not be replacing the rickshaw.

I once knew a man that bore the name of "Union Bill." Everything that he wore had the label and he was proud of it. One day he went swimming and a tramp stole his label and left a piece of oval label in his place. When Bill saw what happened he examined the oval but could not find the label. He waited until dark and went home in a barrel—A MacDonald, Vancouver Barmeniers.

It is so easy to employ union labor that no condemnation can be too severe for the man with a card in his pocket who employs non-unionists, yet this is precisely what you do every time you purchase an article which does not bear the union label. This is sound reasoning, there can be no doubt of that. Demand the union label.—Frisco Clarion.

"To ask unions to incorporate is to ask us to disarm ourselves entirely and stand naked to the whips of corporation lawyers. Then we would have to hire lawyers instead of walking delegates, and no union in existence could raise money enough to pay them. Why does not the Stock Exchange incorporate? Because they do not dare to. We dare, but we don't need to, for the labor movement is a sure winner at it."

The federal elections in Australia are scheduled for May 31. Both the Liberal and Labor parties have their full quota of candidates in the field, and the contest is being waged with daggers drawn. Under the provisions of the commonwealth election act, passed by the dominant labor party, all press articles dealing with political matters must be signed by the writer.

a condition that seems to have peeved the paid backs of the employers' press, who much prefer the obscurity they would be so deserving of under any other circumstances.

Jimmy Simpson's smile is one of the best assets possessed by the organized labor movement in Canada. It even spreads to the news columns of the Industrial Banner, published at Toronto. Here are a few excerpts from last issue: "The world needs your smiles." "Get busy with gladness." "Spread the happiness." "Plaster the sunshine on thick; let everybody have a taste of it." "Slip the car conductor a smile." "Be the merry boy." "Be cheerful, it won't hurt your liver." "Get the bile out of your system." "Try it, it's good dope." To know Jimmy is to see him smiling. How could one forget it?

A Vancouver jury recently awarded Bert Hittin a sum of \$12,000 as "compensation" for injuries received in an elevator accident at the British Columbia Sugar Refinery works. Hittin had his spine broken and is a hopeless cripple. As might be expected from the record of the refinery towards its employees, the verdict has been appealed against and if there is any way the poor devil can be beat out his just due, it can safely be left to B. T. Rogers, whose every dollar drips with the sweat and blood of human slaves. How such a monster can sleep nights is beyond the comprehension of any one with a drop of the milk of human kindness coursing his veins. His castle would prove a nightmare to a hyena.

In every corner of the United States, strikes are being waged by the discontented, half-starved workers. No sooner is one strike temporarily settled than two or three more break out in some section of the country. One noticeable and recurring fact, which well illustrates the awakening intelligence of the wage slaves, is that the men and women are not merely demanding a few cents more on their pay checks, they are demanding changed conditions and shorter hours and they are all insisting on recognition of their unions. This last is especially marked recently in strikes all over the country. It is noticeable that strike settlements are usually for short periods only. Settlements seem to be resorted to by the workers merely for a breathing spell, then they break out again with renewed vigor.—New Era.

"The ancient and increasing dream, as old as the mind of man, as new as the unborn future, of co-operating and equal freedom and choice for all its members—the realization of this dream is as certain as the continuance of man. The mankind that is great enough to dream the dream is also great enough to fulfill it; to translate it into daily and universal fact. And near is the hour of possible fulfillment. Man is cramped and stifled by his present intolerable conditions. He is breaking down the bars of his manly prison. He is demanding breath and freedom for the universe. The soul is spreading the wings of an immeasurable expansion. And it is possible, when we waken from our political delirium, from our industrial insanity, from our fanatical faith in freedom—when the stain of history is washed away and the cleansed and unspangled soul discovers itself—it is possible that we shall then be as much greater than what we now are as what we now are is greater than the ancestral age of scientific dogma."

How the Game is Worked

There is nothing so fascinating as the stamped of a herd of cattle or buffalo, nothing so awe-inspiring as the sight of a big mogul engine pulling into a railway station, and nothing so gripping as the noise of the multitude. But it is not in the stamped, not in the majestic appearance of a steam engine, not in the cry of the mob, that progress or a higher civilization is made.

The voice of Sir Wilfrid Laurier crying for the endorsement of the Canadian people of his navy policy may echo and resound in the big arena, and listening thousands may go frantic in their praise of his eloquence and portly bearing, but such demonstrations are but the symptoms of that insanity which races to the detriment of the human race and turns back the wheels of progress in the ruts of reaction.

The working class of Canada cannot afford to be blindly led by the eloquence of a Laurier or the reasoning of a Borden on the navy question. The logic of events speaks more eloquently and convincingly than the speeches of the Lauriers or the Borden policies, but the important lesson: Blind partisanship has imposed burdens on the shoulders of the working class in England and Germany, and blind partisanship will do the same in Canada if the workers are not alive to their own interests.

When it is realized that \$30 out of every \$50 raised for revenue purposes for the United Kingdom goes to the maintenance of the army and navy, and when it is realized that fifty per cent. of all the wealth produced by the workers in Germany is devoted to support their military programme, there should be a lesson for the Canadian workers to learn and profit by.

To realize the importance of this fact would be enough to convince those who work for wages that their interest do not lie in the endorsement of the Laurier or Borden policies, but in the approval of the decisions reached by the great organized working class of the world against war and all that can be associated with it in the manufacture of implements of destruction. War has been placed on a purely commercial basis, and the making and selling of armaments is carried on today just the same as the making and selling of other commodities. The makers are exploiting all markets in dependent of national boundary lines, with the hope of making a profit. When the working class vote for a Canadian navy, or the appropriation of \$35,000,000 toward an imperial navy, they are merely joining hands with the big capitalists who have their money invested in the navy and fire-arm industries to perpetuate the system that makes life a burden and the destruction of real and genuine patriotism a certainty.—Industrial Banner.

Mothers' Pensions

As an afterthought to Mothers' day, attention may be called to the movement to pension mothers in poor circumstances, and so avoid the necessity of taking her children away from her. As is well known, there are many such cases today. The father dies or abandons his family, and the mother is left with children to support. Often she finds herself unable to do so. Charity is called in, and has thus far been usually able to do nothing better than to separate mother and child, caring for the latter while the former cares for herself. The evil effect of

this becomes apparent. Other better ways are suggested. Why not support the mothers' attempt to support the child, and so keep the family together? The idea appeals, and the movement to put it into practice in a systematic way was apace.

If Mothers' day has had any mental effect on those who have given it thought, it must have impressed the idea of the super-value of motherhood. The common sentiment of the case is less important than the common sense. If motherhood be of such value, any one would have denied it yesterday, there is every reason why it should be guarded and its mother-child bond remain unbroken. The mother must be helped to play the part which no one can do better. In fact, the mothers' pensions scheme is simply the beginning of a greater movement to give all possible assistance to all mothers. It is time it began.—Ottawa Citizen.

"Prosperity and Its Concomitant"

On one page of the Capitalist Press one sees reports of the unparalleled prosperity of Canada; on another one we find the following:

"Young Englishman, apparently in financial straits, ends life with revolver shot—Epidemic of suicides. As the decade was ended without money, the theory of the police is that he had become despondent and took this means of ending his earthly troubles. According to the police and coroner, hardly a week passes but they are called upon to take charge of the remains of some unfortunate who has tried of life and has taken the easiest means of ending it. The last case was only last Monday, when Albert Smallwood took his life in a Japanese rooming house."

Comment is needless!

Carley's Viewpoint

Says the Ladysmith Chronicle: "With the slump in real estate, the citizens of Vancouver are returning their attention to the establishment of industries. Vancouver has now discovered that the people cannot live on real estate alone; in order to have permanent prosperity there must be a payroll. The city has now a large population, but there are not enough industries to maintain a city of one-tenth its present number of residents. There are many towns of 12,000 to 15,000 in Ontario that produce more than the city at the gateway of the Pacific coast. If the business organizations of Vancouver succeed in inducing a large expenditure in industrial enterprises, the present drop in real estate may prove a blessing in disguise."

Parcels Post For Canada

Implementing his recent declaration in the house of commons in favor of the establishment of a parcels post system in Canada, Hon. L. P. Pelletier, postmaster-general, has introduced a bill into parliament providing the necessary additional machinery for the introduction of this system.

TERSE TACOMA TRUTH TICKLERS

Funny how all the agitators are ignorant, isn't it?

There is only one democracy worth while—Industrial Democracy. One Republic—the Republic of Labor.

A civilization that cannot hush the walls of hungry children isn't worth a fiddler's dream.

Stay away from Britannia Mines, Howe Sound, B. C. The strike is still on.

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BAKERS' AND CONFECTIONERS' LOCAL NO. 46—Meets first and third Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. President, Geo. Kinnaird; secretary, W. (Mac) Rogers, Room 210 Labor Temple; financial secretary, P. Robinson.

BARBERS' LOCAL NO. 120—Meets second Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. President, J. W. Wilkinson; secretary, business agent, C. F. Burkhardt, Room 208, Labor Temple. Hours: 11 to 1; 5 to 7 p.m. Sec. 177.

BARMENIERS' LOCAL NO. 678—Office Room 208 Labor Temple. Meets first Sunday of each month. President, Wm. Laurier; secretary, J. MacDonald, Room 208 Labor Temple. Phone Seymour 1784.

COOKS, WAITERS AND WAITRESSES' UNION—Meets first and third Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. President, W. E. Walker, business representative. Office: Room 203, Labor Temple. Hours: 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Competent help furnished on short notice. Phone Sey. 3415.

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BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS' International Union, Local 97—Meets second and fourth Fridays, 8 p.m. President, J. W. Dickson; secretary, J. H. McVety; financial secretary, J. W. Wilkinson; treasurer, J. W. Wilkinson; business agent, J. W. Wilkinson, Room 207, Labor Temple. Phone Sey. 1380.

SEWING MACHINE MAKERS' LOCAL NO. 213—Meets first and third Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. President, J. W. Robertson; secretary, J. W. Dickson; recording secretary, J. H. McVety; financial secretary, J. W. Wilkinson; treasurer, J. W. Wilkinson; business agent, J. W. Wilkinson, Room 207, Labor Temple. Phone Sey. 1380.

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Handsome suit of light grey Bedford cord. The coat is cut on straight lines with two-button fastening and rounded front, coat collar and black satin revers, three-button fastening, lined with grey satin. Neatly cut skirt, showing pleats on side gores. Price.....\$32.00

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

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

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PRES. WATT

Several months ago the Krupp expedition the Peace delegation the publicity given to the scheme of conference of nations' dispatch interview was giving dailies in reading, and read therein will be of the situation, most suggestive the door leading The reference to for war" is par the light of some

Asked by the the navy question Mr. J. C. Watt Trades Congress he had little sympathy of either side of

In reply to the Empire, and even did not think the world could be doing thoroughly said:

"Consider a example, France the illustration Britain or any takes the position being able to measure peace be measuring the and as each seeing stronger the one increases its other must surpass without end. On the plea of war, where the increasing of a

The next question would you advocate of the house

"I would urge \$35,000,000 in debt certainly; but in by the expenditure money, secure ablest and best organized labor pean nations as Canada and the men, by means through the as would wage a

tion, particularly classes, setting war and the cause

It would be the history and grow the absolutely co-state to the co-o-state, to show t

tion of the international support a the individuals of Empire; and the progress of the still further extension of co-operation preservation and tion and uplift of

You believe, the of every civilized ly the working interests, and a fact will prevent

"Exactly. A couple of two or more will be as unlike Canada, for instance civilized peoples inhuman, and the best good of each tions at war, as

When the work nation understands nothing by war, rors, self-interest that makes for type of human them the utter participation in, or

butchery of any place, even if it name of war. Canada has a glorious of the mother country by spending \$35,0

of peace, such a Britain's enemies as a result. T measure of assistance of the mother Empire, let the the disposal of the Congress of Canada

to be spent in t ships, and I think that within five formation will have instead of an arm would be devoting tivating the arts of all the benefits to

Thus would our afforded the best tion. If Canada pressed desire for pare the way for the world's peace ment lead the w

intimated, and the during monument. Canada will be er in the hearts of

tion."

Mr. Watters gives sion of being very and, after leaving tone of his conviction the mind, stimulating convincing one the staggering in its able and would b

suits he predicts. scheme, more or less adopted by some clety.

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According to He "Greater" Vancouver the city proper, Port Vancouver, has a population of 100,000, and brings this total up

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tain. A title euphonious "The Arm of the ring action corrobor it fairly bristles characters of life a fate. Love, ambition, vengeance—all furnish for the audience to

Lohse and Sterlin truly remarkable mance on the high Among the other popular on the new and Elsie Mynn, two favorites.

Albert Leonard is tive dancer who has into fame.

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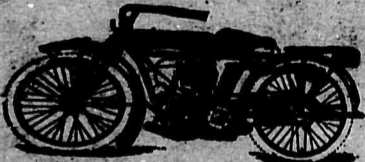
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AMONG THE LOCAL UNIONS

Street Railway Employees

Magnus Sinclair has been a union visitor in Vancouver during the past week.

Motorman and Conductor, official papers of the A. A. of L. and E. R. E. of A. says:

"G. E. B. Member Magnus Sinclair, after establishing Div. No. 622, Peterborough, Ont., was called to Buffalo, N. Y., by the international president, to assist in organizing the Buffalo and Lake Erie interurban men in and about Buffalo. Associated with Vice-President Thorpe, he was successful in organizing Div. No. 624, with headquarters at Buffalo, embracing interurban men running out of that city.

"From Buffalo he was dispatched to Port Arthur, Ont., where preparation for a new wage scale is in progress.

"After lending assistance to the Port Arthur local, he proceeded to Edmonton, Alta., where a contention had arisen within the local, which he was able to adjust.

"He was there dispatched to Regina, Sask., from where he reports a new wage agreement as follows:—For the first six months service men, 27 1/2 cents per hour, second six months, 35 cents per hour, and to those of two or more years of service, 37 1/2 cents per hour.

Many other conditions were obtained in the schedule, such as free uniforms, a 5-hour service day with pay at the rate of nine and one-half hours per day, time and one-half for overtime and holiday work, time and one-quarter for Sundays and five cents per hour extra for instructing new men.

"From Regina Board Member Sinclair visited Saskatoon, Sask., where he reports a new agreement providing a wage scale of 28 cents per hour for first three months service men, 30 cents per hour for second three months service men, 32 1/2 cents per hour for second six months service men, 35 cents per hour for second year, and 37 1/2 cents per hour for those of two or more years of service with an additional five cents per hour for instructing new men."

Concerning Mr. Sinclair's visit to Lethbridge The Herald says:

The street car employees of Lethbridge have decided to organize; in fact the temporary organization of the union has been effected. Magnus Sinclair, the official representative of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, has been in the city for some time working to this end. Two meetings have been held during the past few days.

Although according to Organizer Magnus Sinclair, the wages paid in Lethbridge are lower than those paid in any city in Canada, other conditions are not too bad and there is not much danger of a street railway strike occurring on the Lethbridge system.

No distinction whatever was expressed at either of the two meetings at local conditions. The men, however, felt that they owed it as a duty to themselves to organize when the opportunity presented itself in order to participate in the death, disability or sickness benefits provided by the organization.

A temporary president and secretary were elected to edit until the charter and books of the organization are received, when permanent officers will be elected.

Organizer Sinclair was asked how local conditions compared with conditions in other cities in western Canada. The wages here range from 25 cents per hour to 32 cents, according to the length of time the men remain in the city's employ. In Regina, according to Mr. Sinclair, the minimum is 28 cents per hour and the maximum is 37 1/2 cents. In Regina, however, the men are paid for 9 1/2 hours, which is equivalent to a maximum of 40 cents per hour. In Saskatoon the wages are approximately the same as in Regina.

In Moose Jaw the street railway is owned by a private company and the wages range from 28 to 35 cents.

Edmonton pays the same wages practically as Regina and Saskatoon. The only system non-unionized in Saskatchewan and Alberta is Calgary. The wages paid there, however, are also higher than in Lethbridge.

The minimum is 28 cents and the maximum is 36 cents. In Calgary, however, any man who will name himself to be sworn in as a special-police constable receives two cents per hour more than he otherwise would.

Speaking of the proposal of the local employees to organize, Mayor Hardin yesterday stated that he had not compared the wages paid in Lethbridge to those paid elsewhere and did not care to express any opinion until he knew more about the matter.

Half Holiday for Letter Carriers. Winnipeg Letter Carriers are circulating a petition for signature by the business firms of the city in favor of the Saturday afternoon holiday during the summer months, says The Voice. The petition is being largely signed and will be forwarded to Ottawa.

During these months the very few business houses are open on Saturday afternoons and the carriers contend that no inconvenience would be experienced by the Saturday afternoon mail being delivered on Monday morning, as otherwise it lies untouched in the office of the firm. This claim appears to be substantiated by the numerous signatures that are being secured.

At the regular meeting of the Association held on Tuesday evening, it was resolved to request the Dominion government to make a special appropriation for the purpose of increasing the pay of the letter carriers, particularly in the West.

It is claimed that the need for this increase is proved by a tabulated statement regarding the increased cost of living which is furnished in the last issue of the Labor Gazette. Copies of the resolution were telegraphed to several cabinet ministers asking that the increase be made immediately.

An Ottawa dispatch yesterday foreboded an improvement in the condition of Canadian letter carriers in respect to their salaries is under consideration by the government and this is the measure hinted at by the postmaster general. The postmaster-general would not go into any details pending a final decision of the matter in council, but it is known that an increase to this class of public service is being considered.

"If a bad man entice you and say: 'Come, let us take what we have produced, let us do away with robbery, let us build a civilization such as our fathers never knew,' turn away from him, refrain thy foot from his pathway and walk not in his council, for ideas will permeate your fuddled head and you will bring about your freedom, which would not please your masters."

Men have talked about the rights of the individual and the "sacredness of property" so long that they have become blinded to the collective idea that binds us together, in spite of ourselves. We imagine that when a man dies he can will his property as he sees fit, just because he has the right to dispose of it, without hindrance, when alive.

The opposite is true. Any authority on law will tell you that the principles of jurisprudence do not even recognize the wishes of a dead person. It has no claims, even though its views are respected and concurred in. The right to inherit property and the right to will property are not inherent. These "rights" are only privileges, conferred on citizens by the state (society).—Toledo Union Leader.

The Union Spy. There is no more despicable creature, not even among the beasts and reptiles, than the spy who worms himself into the confidence of a trade union membership during the period of stress and trouble just preceding or during a strike. It is the business of this human jackal to make trouble for the detective agency which employs him must earn its retainer, and if it cannot find it, it must manufacture them, and also, the evidence to sustain the allegations.

Unfortunately, the organized wage-workers, more especially those having their employment in the rougher industries, are peculiarly liable to deception, if the "operator" is smooth-tongued and plausible, and the detective agency sees to it that their vulture has these attributes.

Referring to "optimism," the Public says that a great deal of optimistic drive masquerades as wisdom. Your real optimist is the man who, no matter how hard the knocks, always comes back happy. Honor be to that kind of optimist. But there is a species of optimist who succumbs not to logic and knows not reason. You may demonstrate a proposition to a rational mind and find acceptance, but the false optimist sheds demonstrations as ducks shed water. He "comes back" next day with as crooked an intellect as ever. Have you met him? He is an arch enemy of progress and as undesirable a citizen as any doleful pessimist.

A Legal Matter. A woman walked into the office of the courtroom one busy day and, addressing the judge, said:

"Are you the Reprobate judge?"

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Cigarmakers' Union No. 357

Aside from the direct benefits such as shorter hours of labor, higher pay, etc., a working man secures from belonging to a trade union, are the benefits of insurance paid to members in times of stress. The non-unionists as a whole are not aware of the many benefits paid by labor organizations. They have an erroneous idea that after paying the weekly or monthly dues, that that is the best of it. To show that such is not the case, in our organization the following benefits were paid during 1912:

Loans granted to travel:
Sick benefits (\$5 per week) 33,113.10

Death benefits (according to age of card) 204,775.61

Out of work benefits (\$3 per week) 261,910.21

Strife benefits \$5 per week 42,911.05

Total benefits for 1912 555,556.84

Total benefits paid in 33 years \$10,784,199.55

Taking everything into consideration, the benefits of belonging to a trade which cannot be surpassed by any society, lodges or insurance company. If the advantages of being members of labor organizations were given more publicity, I'm sure more would join them.—R. J. C.

Building Trades Council. After several months of idleness the Building Trades Council is again doing business with the following unions affiliated:

United Brotherhood of Carpenters' District Council, representing four locals;
Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators;

Structural Iron Workers;
Lathers;

Marble Workers;
Hod Carriers and Building Laborers;
Teamsters' International Union.

A strong committee has been visiting the unaffiliated unions during the past two weeks, and the early affiliation of those unions eligible to membership is expected.

The Building Trades department is using its influence in building up the council, and with the assistance and co-operation of all the building trades organizations, it is on a fair way to become once again a strong factor in the labor movement of Vancouver.

Organize, educate, agitate, is our motto, and if the earnest work of the affiliated organizations amounts to anything we ought to have one of the strongest and best councils on the coast. Give it your fellow worker. If your union is not affiliated, get busy in your union and wake 'em up. You need us; we need you.

E. STAPLES, Secretary.

"Rights" of Dead Men. It has been said that no man should inherit more than \$100,000, a sentiment which has been expressed in one form or another since the dawn of time. Under the Mosaic law all property reverted back to the state every 50 years. Under this system no member of the Jewish nation could hold land longer than time, regardless of wills or the wishes of deceased.

Blackstone, in his "Commentaries on the Laws of England," drew a sharp line between the rights of property and the rights of inheritance by showing that while a man has the right to hold property, when he dies, society is sovereign. "When a man ceases to be," declares Blackstone, "he ceases to have any dominion, and if he has a right to dispose of property on his death, he must have that right for a million years, which would be highly absurd."

Lord Coleridge, chief justice of England, said: "The right of inheritance is purely an artificial right. Laws of property, like all other laws, are to be changed when the public good requires it."

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