THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

INDUSTRIAL UNITY: STRENGTH. OFFICIAL PAPER: VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL AND B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR. POLITICAL UNITY: VICTORY!

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LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY VICTORIA, B.C.

SCOTCH GIRLS CHEAPER THAN CHINAMEN

The Canadian Canning Company, which is established on the Fraser River, and whose local director and manager is Captain H. M. Fleming, announce that they are about to discharge their Chinamen, who are employed in their canning factory, and replace them with Scotch girls, 24 of whom are being brought out from Eymouth, Berwickshire, for that purpose. A good deal of fulsome humbug surrounds the venture, but "The British Columbian" comes near to the truth as we know it. The following is a quotation from a news article in its columns this week: "Captain Fleming has not only sentimental reasons for replacing his Chinese by white girls. He has investigated their capabilities and believes that he can increase the output of his Chinese crew, which was 32,000 cans per day, to from 50,000 to 60,000 cans per day. The Scotch girls will be put on in two shifts, and are reported to be quicker and more efficient than the Chinese. Another advantage anticipated by Captain Fleming will result from direct control of the working force, instead of the indirect control of the Chinese secured through the medium of their own head man." Reduced to its essentials, we who have studied this industrial question know that the foregoing amounts to this and no more or less. A Chinaman is not employed because he is a Chinaman, nor is any Oriental employed because he is yellow, black, green or blue, but for the one reason that he is cheap. And if Chinamen are to be replaced by any other form of labor no matter from whence it may come, the reason is because that labor can be obtained cheaper than the Chinamen. O shades of Bonnie Scotland!

It's enough to make Robbie turn in his grave! Well, we shall see how it works out. We have seen the bonnie lassies who come from Scotland each year to handle the herring catch at Yarmouth, England. And we are much mistaken if that type of woman will stand for some of the things which the Canadian Canning Company may think they can put over them.

SOCIALISTS CONDEMN HUGE ARMAMENTS

Hundreds of thousands of copies of a manifesto against the proposed vast increase of the armies and armaments of France and Germany are being circulated throughout Europe by a Socialist organization of the two countries. The document is signed jointly by executive officers and parliamentary representatives of the two Socialist parties, headed by Bebel in Germany and Jaures in France. The cost of such armaments and their apparent uselessness is the chief objection taken to them.

HOME AND DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES' UNION.

The first public meeting of this union will be held in the Labor Temple on Thursday, April 6th, at 8:30 p.m., and thereafter there will be a public meeting on the first Thursday in every month. The union hopes by this means not only to increase its membership, but to show to the public the necessity of what they are asking. At present, although it has not been in existence a month, the union already has a membership of fifty. Owing to the long hours of domestic employment and the tiring nature of the work it is by no means an easy matter for the girls to come in to register. The union however, intends to establish a "walking bureau" to meet the exigencies of the case.

I. L. A. Convention.

The sixth annual convention of the Pacific Coast District of the International Longshoremens' Association will convene on May 5th, 1913, at San Pedro.

VANCOUVER ISLAND MINERS WILL CELEBRATE MAY 1

The Coal Miners of Vancouver Island will hold their annual demonstration at Ladysmith on Thursday, May 1st. All the union miners of the island will be there with the exception of those at Cumberland, who will hold a demonstration of their own. The Ladysmith demonstration will be held in a field on Government Road, the Canadian Colliery Company having taken away the football field where the miners usually hold their sports. The Nanaimo contingent is expected to arrive in Ladysmith about 9 a.m. on the morning of May 1st. A procession will be formed and all will march to the fun field. The miners' officials expect about one thousand miners will be there. Prizes to the value of $500 will be up for competition, and it is expected that Messrs. Parker Williams and J. Place will be the speakers of the day, along with officers of District 28 of the United Mine Workers of America. The strike situation at Cumberland is much the same, except that about sixty of the strikebreakers have become disgusted and quit this week.

MILLMEN AND LOGGERS

Geo. Heatherton, organizer for the Millmen and Loggers, reports that locals have been installed at Hoquiam, Aberdeen and Elmo, in the State of Washington, with an aggregate membership of nearly five hundred. President Brown of the Shingle Weavers has received requests from Eureka and Redwoods, California, for an organizer to go down and Heatherton is leaving this week for those parts. Later on when the season opens in B. C. he is to come up here to organize.

CALGARY LABOR TEMPLE

The Trades and Labor Council of Calgary has made application to the city council for a loan of $11,000 on the Labor Temple and the two lots on which it is erected. The property cost $21,000, of which $11,000 is still outstanding, which the company cannot see its way to meet for a few months.

Petty Officialism in G. P. O.

From the remarks overheard at the last meeting of the Letter Carriers in Labor Temple, it is evident that a considerable amount of friction exists in the local post office, owing to the favoritism, discrimination and officialism of two or three petty underlings. Such a state of affairs can hardly be conducive to a proper service to the public or to the welfare of those who are in that institution to do the public's work, and should be looked into by those interested.

Steamfitters Come Over.

After months of negotiations between the United Association of Plumbers and local of the International Steamfitters, Washington, D. C., arrangements have been made whereby the local union of steamfitters has taken decisive action to become a part of the United Association of Plumbers. The new local will be No. 602. President Alpine, of the United Association, conducted these successful negotiations.

During January and February, 1912, the American Federation of Labor issued thirty-four charters, chartering one department, eight central bodies, twenty-one local trade unions, and four Federal labor unions. For the same two months of 1913 a total of fifty charters were issued, including nine central bodies, thirty-two local trade unions, and nine Federal labor unions.

The suspender trimmers of Philadelphia have struck against several firms, but principally against one firm whose employees went out two weeks ago.

THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND DISRUPTIONIST POLICY OF I.W.W.

(By Frank Farrington.)

This article will deal with the activities of those who espouse the cause of the Industrial Workers of the World." While the tenor of the article will not be pleasing to many readers, the theme is one that sooner or later must be frankly discussed and rigorously dealt with by the members of organized labor if we are to preserve our present solidarity and add to the splendid achievements of the American labor movement.

The American labor movement, as represented by the American Federation of Labor, was not easily formed, neither is it the creation of fanatical tactics or idle brains, but it is the result of a blending of the best thought, study and endeavor of each successive generation of American workingmen. On the pages of its history are recorded many imperishable deeds of devotion and tragic sacrifices. Life has been the penalty paid by many of its defenders, and cruel suffering the lot of thousands who have had the courage to advocate its cause. It has had to assimilate men of all nations and all creeds, mobilize a heterogeneous army of men of diverse tongue and thought, harmonize countless opinions, tolerate sophists and curb demagogues, endure treachery, control the irrational and appease the captious, break down deeply rooted prejudices and constantly combat the fierce hostility of those who, for various reasons, would destroy it. Furthermore, the constructive period of the movement extends over more years than the most of its members have lived, and represents decade after decade of discouraging but patient toil, the expenditure of an amount of money so great that it is beyond human comprehension, and the conquest of barrier after barrier before reaching its present standard of efficiency. To accomplish this work of construction has required infinite intelligence and tact, and magnificent courage and fidelity, but the work has gone on without surcease, easing the burden of the workers here and rectifying some great wrong there, promoting and protecting the rights and voicing the wrongs of the weak and the oppressed, and eternally building bit by bit until a structure has been reared that is a bulwark of protection for all who will take refuge therein, and which now can rightfully lay claim to having done more to ameliorate the conditions of employment and advance the social standing of the American working men and women than has any other force in the nation.

Notwithstanding this the last few years have seen the advent of some self-styled "Revolutionists" who tell us that our organization is faulty, that its officers are fakirs and its members reactionary, that the whole thing is an obsolete makeshift founded on fallacy and conceived in the minds of imbeciles, and assure us that the emancipation of the working class depends upon affiliation with the Industrial Workers of the World. The didactics of these propagandists are largely sophistical buncombe. They pander to passion and credulity by making virulent and specious attacks on weaknesses in the labor movement that cannot be corrected under present circumstances. Their specialty is harsh-tongued harangue and invidious diatribe against everything in general and the American labor movement in particular, which they do not hesitate to declare they are going to disrupt and destroy.

The United Mine Workers of America being the largest trade union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, is the recipient of an exceptionally fierce onslaught from these fanatics who call our check-off system "only a medium for collecting the officers' salaries," and our joint agreements "an unpardonable truce" devised by "labor faking officers" to keep the membership in servile subjection. What a sad indictment they make against the intelligence of the organized mine workers who have fought so long and so valiantly to establish these two cardinal principles of our union! By ignoring antagonistic actualities they can mould theories so ideal and so easy of consummation that one is staggered to think how stupid we have been. Though the most of these blowed-in-the-glass Revolutionists could not tell a mine tipple from a Figure Eight structure in an amusement park and know nothing of the life, characteristics and environment of miners, or the contributing elements that combine to retard our progress, they can dash through a miners' strike zone and come out pregnant with solutions so simple that men who have spent a lifetime of daily contact with miners and mining conditions are dumbfounded by the simplicity of the solutions! While they speak volubly and write fluently of our stupidity they fail to tell their auditors that our check-off system and our joint agreements are the fruits of many a desperately fought contest, and are the ties that have bound our heterogeneous membership in unity while the work of education and organization has gone on. Neither do they, while claiming our check-off system and joint agreements are a detriment to the miners and a benefit to the operators, explain why it is that the mine owners of West Virginia, Colorado, Vancouver Island, and elsewhere on the American continent, who employ 400,000 non-union mine workers, fight so viciously against the establishment of these two principles. They evade the truth because truth would rob them of their propaganda.

The Pacific Coast is infested with these "Industrial Wonder Workers" who have just succeeded in splitting the Socialist party of Washington, and are doing more to retard the growth of the labor movement than any other influence on the Coast. Their policy is revealed by their attitude towards the attempt to organize the coast lumberjacks, and their policy here is but a replica of their work elsewhere. There are 250,000 men employed in the different branches of the lumber industry in the Pacific Northwest. These men are a sterling lot but because of their environment, the nature of their work and the lack of organization, lead a hard and cheerless life. For some time the American Federation of Labor, the Shingle Weavers' Union, the Washington State Federation of Labor and the British Columbia Federation of Labor have been cooperating to devise plans for organizing this army of workers into one big union. Arrangements were finally completed, organizers were assigned to the work and were meeting with considerable success, when Haywood and Ettor, both of whom owe their liberty if not their lives to the trade unionist whose unions they are now trying to demolish, made a spectacular dash to the coast, and, after some twaddle, decided to call a strike of the lumberjacks on the coast, the strike to be effective May 1st.

By just what magical power they expect to move this great body of immobilized men in unison is a mystery that the old-line unionists cannot fathom. However, one thing is plain, which is that their action will cause endless acrimony and wrangle among the men over the merits of the two organizations, and hamper indefinitely a genuine attempt to organize the lumber workers. But, as one of these geniuses put it, "it will make good propaganda anyhow."

Their tactics in this instance, although indefensibly wrong, have an amusing angle. Fancy real, live, invincible "Revolutionists" who measure their moves by nothing less than world-wide action, and who have everlastingly lashed and denounced the United Mine Workers of America because of their forced policy of sectional strikes, indulging in a mere sectional strike of lumberjacks! What a radical modification of demagogic declarations, and how tame these truculent "Reds" become when confronted by practical actualities.

That the American labor movement in its present status has many imperfections and falls far short of meeting the needs of the workers, is manifest, but no movement can be impelled beyond its power to conquer negative forces nor be geared to the acme of efficiency by a division of the parts. Although our movement is faulty it is also incomplete, yet it must be conceded that we have at least a mighty costly foundation upon which to build a militant labor movement. Nevertheless, if properly supported the next decade will see marvellous strides made by organized labor. With greater numerical strength will come the eradication of weaknesses that are now incorrigible, and the development of greater and safer militancy. Time will make possible the invention and adoption of policies that at present are unacceptable and unfitted for present conditions. Understanding will generate a closer amalgamation of the component parts. With capacity will come suitable readjustment and wrongs will be righted, not by premature and lunatic revolution, but by wisely guided and intelligent evolution, and the agency that would divide labor's forces, whether for policy or pillage, during the process of evolution, is a menace to the movement, no matter if the agency be the Industrial Workers of the World or the National Manufacturers' Association, Haywood or a Pinkerton, Ettor or Otis, and should be regarded as an enmy by the army of labor. Moreover, if we cannot work out our destiny by collective reasoning and cumulative energy then surely there is little hope in divisional factions. The old axiom, "United we stand, divided we fall' is as true today as it was the day the axiom was coined.

VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Council convened last night at 8 p.m. with President Benson in the chair. A letter was read from the Portland Central Labor Council inviting the Council to send one or more delegates to a conference which is to meet in Portland, Oregon, on June 5th, to consider how the interests of organized labor can be safeguarded from the injurious effects of the influx of immigration which is expected on the Pacific Coast when the Panama Canal opens. A motion was made that the Council send one delegate, and after a very spirited debate the motion was carried.

The Minister of Labor wrote that Mr. J. D. McNiven, the dominion fair wage officer for British Columbia, had just returned from an inspection trip up the line of the G. T. P. west of Tete Jaune Cache, and that when his report was received the Council would be furnished with a copy.

The Parliamentary Committee recommended that the various unions be circularized for subscriptions towards purchasing books for a Council library, and their action was endorsed. The returns of the referendum on the question of increasing the per capita tax from 10 cents to 15 cents per quarter to enable the Council to have a business agent, showed that sixteen unions paying per capita tax on 1209 members were in favor, and fourteen unions paying per capita tax on 3672 members, were against. In view of that vote the matter was dropped for the time being. The reports from unions showed an unusual amount of unemployment for this time of the year. Delegate W. R. Trotter defeated Delegate H. A. Jones by 49 votes to 25 for the position of representative of the Council to the Immigration Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon. Delegate W. E. Walker was endorsed by the Council for the position of organizer of the culinary crafts in the Northwest. The fact that the city council has given a grant of $2500 to the Women's Building, Ltd., was brought into the limelight, and the secretary was instructed to ask the city council to appoint a scaffold inspector for the protection of the lives and limbs of the workers using scaffolds. A motion, made by Delegate Burgess of the Molders, that a committee be appointed to devise ways and means of forming a labor party, was defeated.

Garment Workers Win.

The Garment Workers of Toronto are elated. Out of twenty-seven establishments all but three have now signed up. In twenty-one shops a satisfactory settlement was reached without friction, only six firms opposing the demands of the union, whereupon a strike was called in these shops. Three of these have now signed up and negotiations are under way with the others and prospects of a settlement are bright. The rate of wages paid in the large majority of these shops was as low as $12 and $15 per week, while the new agreement provides a minimum of $18 for journeymen cutters on stock and $20 on special ordered clothing. Time and a half will be paid for overtime and an equal division of work in the slack season. The United Garment Workers were never so effectively organized in this city as they are today.

Niagara Falls News.

The Builders' Association of Niagara has signed a new agreement with the Carpenters' Union for an advanced scale of wages and Saturday half-holiday during June, July and August. The same association has also signed an agreement with the Bricklayers and Stone Masons' Union for increased pay and the Saturday half-holiday. The demand of the unions was met in every particular except for a compromise on half-holidays for three months instead of four months, as at first demanded. The efforts of the master and journeymen plasterers and paperhangers to come to an agreement over wages failed. A strike is impending. The Painters claim that efforts have been made to arbitrate the wage question, but that the master painters have refused to arbitrate. The painters are seeking an increase from 42½ cents to 47½ cents an hour for the first year, and 50 cents an hour for the second year, with a two-year agreement.

Chicago Street Railwaymen.

The award made by the arbitration board in the dispute involving the employees of the surface street railway lines gives an increase of 2 cents an hour and reduces the hours. The former scale was: First six months, 23 cents per hour; second six months, 25 cents; second year, 26 cents; third year, 27 cents; fourth year, 28 cents; fifth year, 29 cents, and after five years, 30 cents. The award of the arbitration board established the following scale: First three months, 23 cents; second three months, 25 cents; second six months, 26 cents; third six months, 27 cents; fourth six months, 28 cents; third year, 29 cents; fourth year, 30 cents; fifth year, 31 cents; after five years, 32 cents. The agreement expires June 1, 1915, and back pay on the above award is to be computed from August 1, 1912. All runs are to be made as nearly as possible within ten hours, but there shall be no schedule run of less than nine hours. All motormen are to receive 25 cents additional each day for instructing students. The wage increase will net an additional annual expenditure of $800,000 in wages. Judge Scanlan, representing the railroad employes, dissented from the findings of the board. The situations of the "L" employes is still unsettled and is also in the hands of the arbitrators.

Hamilton Molders Strike.

The Iron Molders of Hamilton have called a strike at the Westinghouse, Sawyer-Massey Works, and the Steel Company of Canada. The union made a demand for a minimum wage of $3 25 for both molders and coremakers instead of the present scale of $3 a day for iron molders and $2.75 for coremakers. Several other iron foundries acceded to the demand of the iron molders, and the men are at work. The outlook is promising for an early settlement.

Smelter Men Strike.

Six hundred employes of the Globe Smelter, Denver, Colo., have struck because a 25 cent wage increase was denied them. These employes are members of the Western Federation of Miners and the situation is in charge of President Moyer. The strike followed the attempt to work some of the men from ten to fourteen hours without additional pay. "Inhuman conditions prevail," stated President Moyer. "The men realize that they have been discriminated against and they feel the need of organization. Leadville and Pueblo smelters have a wage of $2. The Globe minimum wage is $1.75. The voluntary adherence of other state smelters to the eight-hour shift has increased the unrest." The smelter is entirely closed down and the men insist that they will not return until they obtain $2 per day for unskilled labor and an increase from $2.20 to $2.50 a day for inside work.

Minimum Wage at Everett.

The leading department store in Everett has established a minimum wage to become effective immediately. About fifty clerks are given employment and practically all will come under the minimum wage plan. The company has decided to place the minimum wage at $8 per week. This scale does not include apprentices, but has to do with employes who have had some experience in the business. Apprentices will not be paid less than $6 per week during the period of their schooling in salesmanship. Hereafter wages paid will be $6 a week for apprentices and from $8 to $25 per week for experienced sales people.

"Bobby," said the lady in the street car, severely, "why don't you get up and give your seat to your father? Doesn't it pain you to see him reaching for the strap?"

"Not in a car," said Bobby. "It does at home."

NELSON STRIKE SETTLED.

All striking laborers, teamsters, carpenters, bricklayers, stone masons, plasterers, painters, hodcarriers and machinists resumed work last Tuesday, following the decision at a mass meeting at union headquarters to accept suggestion that question of wages to be paid cement mixers, excavation men, builders' helpers and stone masons' helpers be left to arbitration.

Machinists at Nelson Iron Works have signed an agreement stipulating $4.35 for nine hours, increase of thirty cents per day, and laborers at same work are to get fifteen cents per day increase. With these exceptions men are resuming work at the old scale of pay, although it is likely building laborers under the decision of arbitrators, who have to figure out for cement mixers, excavators and helpers based on employers' schedule and amount of time spent last year on various classes of work, will make slight gain.

Rev. A. E. Smith, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, and Frank Phillips, secretary of the miners' union, have been named members of the arbitration board by the men. Employers have not yet held a meeting to discuss the proposal which resulted from the meeting of the joint committee representative of both parties to the dispute, which has lasted eleven working days. George Hardy, Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, and E. Litchfield, both of whom were arrested while on picket duty, were fined $20 each or two months' imprisonment, the fines were paid.

LABOR TEMPLE FOR SYDNEY

Sydney, Nova Scotia, is to have a Labor Temple. The plan contemplates a structure of at least three stories. On the ground floor there would be one or two large stores. The establishment of a co-operative business to handle only union-made goods is one of the details for consideration.

The second and third floors would be fitted up for the use of the trades unions and railway brotherhoods. One floor would be converted into a workingman's club, in this way the trades unionists of Sydney expect to overcome the tendency of many who frequent the saloon and other resorts of that nature. The remaining floor would be laid off in large rooms, organization offices, committee rooms and the like.

Funds to cover the construction are to be raised in the usual way from the members of labor unions in Sydney and other places, by the sale of shares in a joint stock company to be incorporated for the purpose.

Machinists Booming.

The officials of the International Association of Machinists report that during the months of February and March local unions were formed at Ashburnham, Mass.; Kingston, Pa.; Watertown, Mass.; Cleveland, Ohio; Heavener, Okla.; Gassaway, W. Va.; Three Rivers, Mich.; Chicopee Falls, Mass., and Keokuk, Iowa. In addition to these organizations of machinists, the following local unions, composed exclusively of machinists' helpers, also were organized: St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada; Jermyn, Pa.; Boston, Mass.; Oneonta, N. Y.; Mayfield, Pa.; Danville, Ill.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Clinton, Iowa; Norwich, N. Y.; Hoisington, Kans., and Helena, Mont. This makes twenty charters issued during the two months under consideration.

Oh Sam!

We learn from the Labor News, published by our old friend Sam Landers that the Hon. W. B. Wilson, the new Secretary of Labor in the United States, was born in Scotland in the year 7862! Well, of course, as the "Snooze" says it is so, well it must be so. But really, if it had been anybody else but you Sammy we should have thought he was——!——!

A machine just put on the market is stated to produce a picture-postcard portrait, properly developed, fixed, washed, and dried in four minutes. It is operated by a piece of money inserted in a slot by the "sitter," and performs its complicated functions without any help from anybody. It is the invention of an English engineer in France.

The strike at the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie shops at McKees Rocks has been settled. The strikers demanded 20 cents an hour, an advance of 3 cents. The laborers and railroad officials compromised on 18½ cents an hour.

Eight of the sixteen teachers of Nelson (B. C.) public schools went on strike on April 4 against a new rule requiring thirty days' notice before resigning.

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

It was a smart piece of financial juggling which enabled the city council on Wednesday afternoon to strike a balance between the expenditure and receipts so as to pave the way towards fixing the tax rate at the same figures as last year, 22.22 mills on the dollar.

The deficit, after all possible reductions had been made, was, in round figures, $240,000, so what did the council do but enter this amount on the estimated receipts column as refund of revenue advanced to local improvements and behold, the two accounts were balanced.

Smart, very, but will anybody venture to prophesy that the amount will not be still owing next year.

However, the main idea was to get away from the horrid action of having to raise the tax rate and the difficulty, by this mathematical manipulation, was avoided.

But it's long odds that the assessment for next year will be most substantially increased.

One feature, which will be gloriously satisfactory to readers of the Federationist is the fact that grants to such gallant organizations as the Seaforth Highlanders Cadets are illegal, and nothing was included for them in the estimates.

If the young shavers desire to secure a training from which they may ultimately develop into soldiers it is up to their parents to pay for the amusement. It certainly cannot be right to deduct the money from the local rates to pay for such things.

If the government desires to acquire young blood, let it, having the right of might on its side, put up the cash.

All the same, it is quite possible that in the years to come the young soldiers may be called out to fire upon their relatives who may be fighting for conditions which will enable them to live a decent life in comfort.

If that time ever does come, God help Canada.

The writer was reading an article the other day in which it was stated—and proved—that the six richest men in the world could make a present of $100 to every man, woman and child in the British Isles.

Of course this vast wealth does not represent ready cash, but the conditions which have led to the accumulation of such vast wealth in the hands of a very small number must make the man who has not a hundred cents of surplus cash pause and wonder if it really can be right.

GENERAL STRIKE IN BELGIUM.

More than 350,000 Socialists and Unionists have quit work in Belgium as the start of a great strike for universal suffrage. One hundred and fifty thousand miners were first to lay down their tools and it is believed that by the end of the week 500,000 workers will be out.

In preparation for trouble 46,000 troops are ready for action, but it is believed that many regiments are permeated by the doctrines of Socialism, and it is doubtful if they would obey an order for serious action. This fact is recognized by the strike leaders. At their headquarters is suspended a great banner which bears the legend: "Soldiers, do not fire on your brothers."

MOTOR LAUNCH DRAW.

The drawing for the motor launch belonging to Mr. J. J. Taylor, of Ladysmith, is postponed until Saturday, May 10th. Everyone holding unsold tickets and stubs is asked to return them before that date to H. J. Sheen, P. O. Box 1183, Victoria, B. C.

MINERS STAY AWAY FROM QUEEN MINE, SHEEP CREEK.

The Federationist is in receipt of a telegram from Ymir Miners' Union warning all miners to stay away from Queen Mine, Sheep Creek, B. C., as there is trouble there.

Toronto Engravers' Strike.

The photo engravers in Toronto are out on strike at present, and have been out for ten weeks in the following plants: Grip Photo and Engraving Co., Alexander Engraving Company. L. Kohlwets, Chicago, general organizer of the photo engravers, is in charge of the strike and says matters look favorable for a victory for the men.

Sam Gompers Ill.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, is confined to a hospital in Washington, D. C., threatened with mastoiditis of the left ear. For several weeks he has suffered considerable pain and was taken to the hospital for constant attention and complete rest from his work.

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FRIDAY.....APRIL 18, 1913

THE TRADES CONGRESS AND POLITICAL ACTION

One of the most difficult problems which organized labor has to deal with in all countries where it has acquired any numerical strength and prestige, is the question of how to secure legislation in the interests of the working class. As the unions gradually build themselves up, and having established the necessary constitutional machinery by which to regulate their affairs, they then apply themselves to the study of the evils which assail the workers in their daily struggle for bread. Records and statistics are gradually accumulated from the experiences of the members, and from the lessons learned in the industrial struggle, there gradually arise plans and suggestions for improvement. One of the methods by which the workers seek to attain their desire for a larger share of the product of their labor, is the Strike.

Now when one is seeking to produce a certain result, it is a very desirable thing that all the factors which enter into the proposition should be under one's control. The factors which determine the success of a strike are, chiefly, the bread reserve of the strikers, and the ability or otherwise of the employer to replace the men who have gone on strike. And when we remember that even when industry is booming there is still a portion of the working class unemployed, and when we remember also, that even while the worker is in employment he does not receive much more in wages than will enable him to buy the bare necessities of life, it is not to be wondered that the strike as a means of improving working class conditions has met with vigorous criticism from those who have had experience of it.

It is seen by the workers that, even though they may meet with success as the result of a strike, yet when jobs become scarce that success is often snatched away from them again, either by wages being lowered, or by the price of life's necessities being raised. And finally it is realized that the strike has no finality of effect, but that if abiding benefits are to be obtained they must be got by impressing the lessons learned by the workers from their experiences in industry, upon the laws by which the affairs of the community are regulated.

The realization of this fact by the more sane and deeper thinking portion of the organized labor movement, has resulted in the formation of such bodies as the British Trades Union Congress, the American Federation of Labor, and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. All these bodies are formed for the purpose of securing laws in the interests of the organized workers.

In this country, the Trades and Labor Congress is the most important and influential body which the organized workers have, and through which they can express their legislative desires. It has now attained considerable numerical strength, and the question of whether or not it would result from the efforts of those who formed it, is finally answered.

As each yearly convention gathers, the work which has been accomplished by the Congress, through the efforts of its representatives, is carefully considered; and whilst it is agreed that everything which can be done by pressure from outside the parliament house at Ottawa has been done—and well done too—yet the question invariably comes up. "Why can we not use our money and machinery to put representatives inside the house where they will have more weight?" The question is a very natural one, but it is not so easily answered as asked, and before the Trades and Labor Congress can put forward candidates with any hope of them being elected, the whole question of the way in which the Congress is constituted must be very carefully analyzed and considered. It must also be remembered that the political name under which candidates of the Congress would be run, would have to be decided—and as we mentally picture a debate taking place on the floor of the Congress, to decide the point, we find it difficult to think that the vote at the end would be unanimous. At the same time, we can quite conceive of guileless individuals saying, "Oh that's easy, we will just call 'em Trade Union Party candidates."

But that is no answer, for when we enter the political fight on behalf of the working class, the term Trades Unionism does not mean any definite kind of politics.

The question as it presents itself is, "Is there anything in the fundamental principles which bind the Congress together, which requires that the Congress shall go into politics independent of either the Liberal or Tory parties? And if so, what must be the name of the political party under whose banner the Congress goes into politics?

Take the first question first. What is the underlying principle which binds the Trades Congress together? The Congress is a union of unions, therefore the principle which brings the unions into the Congress must be the same principle which brings the individuals into the unions. The unions are composed of bricklayers, printers, carpenters, laborers, longshoremen, and so on. The bricklayers join the bricklayers' union because they are bricklayers and wish to strengthen their economic position as bricklayers. The printers band themselves into a union to protect their economic interests as printers, and the other trades for a like reason, according to their various occupations. None of these men join their unions because they are Tories or Liberals or Laborites or Socialists, but solely for economic reasons, which are distinctly different from political action.

A trade union is a combination of individuals banded together for the purpose of enabling them to sell their skill as workmen at a better price, and under better conditions, than they could if they were all separated and without a common understanding among them as to what action could be best taken by all in the economic interest of each. That is the underlying principle of a trade union, and the Trades Congress, being built up of unions, is necessarily based upon that principle; and any person or persons who take it upon themselves to say that the Congress can be represented by any one political party, is attempting to impose something upon the membership of the Congress which they were not asked to agree to when they became affiliated with it. Moreover he is betraying the fact that he does not realize that the struggle of the working class for their fundamental rights as the producers of all wealth is dual in its character—economic and political. The Trades Congress is an ecomonic organization composed of men holding every variety of political opinion, and if any portion of that Congress thinks that the working class should be represented by a particular school of political thought, the proper way for them to take action is not from within the Congress, but by forming a political party outside for the purpose of propagating their views. Any attempt to commit the Congress to the policy of any particular political party, must either result in failure, or the partial disruption of the Congress, because it is contrary to the basic principle upon which the Congress is established.

This applies just as much to Socialism as it does to Toryism or Liberalism or Laborism. Neither has a Socialist got the right to insist that a workman should express his views by voting the Socialist ticket. That would be an unwarranted interference with the divine right of the worker to be stupid, and would be doubly stupid on the part of the Socialist, because he ought to know better, whilst the other fellow doesn't.

Some Socialists may not agree with that view and will reply that Socialism is the political expression of the working calss—whether they are trades unionists or not. In so doing, however, they will be wrong.

To say that Socialism is the political expression of the working class, would be to give the working class, as a class, credit for intelligence which they have not got. That is proved by the fact that the legislative assemblies of Canada are filled with Tories and Liberals who are there because the working class expressed themselves politically by sending those men there.

Socialism is not the political expression of the working class, **but it is the political expression of the economic interests of an enlightened and intelligent working class.**

Thus the difficulty of the Congress entering actual politics on behalf of the working class becomes more plain. Of course, if it can be demonstrated that a large majority of the membership of the Congress is in favor of adopting some definite line of political action, then the air will be cleared. But until that point has been decided it seems scarcely wise to run the risk of endangering the future welfare of the Congress which, in its present form, has accomplished and will still accomplish, a vast amount of invaluable work on behalf of the organized labor movement of this country.

MACHINE PROBLEM OF THE GLASS BLOWERS

The glass bottle blowers are facing a problem that confronted the hand compositors some twenty years ago, and frequent efforts have been made by the bottle blowers' union to prevent the automatic device from wiping out the demand for skilled labor in the industry. The device which is causing so much harm among the glass blowers, and which threatens to revolutionize the bottle-making industry, was invented in 1904 by a practical glass blower. It is absolutely automatic, not even requiring an operator. In one hour it can turn out as many bottles as the efficient mechanic can in a whole day. The only disadvantage is that it is very expensive to instal and to keep in operation. This one point gives the blowers a ray of hope, but the printers' experience should have the effect of shattering any such tendency on the part of the bottle blowers. President Hayes, of the bottle blowers' union, has advised the members that it is useless to oppose the installation of the machines, even though they do not even require an operator and will mean the vanishment of the human blower. The glass blowers must become reconciled to their fate, as modern methods of manufacturing will surely prevail. President Hayes declares that the union's only desire should be to devise some way, some sort of compromise, whereby the trade and only means of livelihood of glass bottle blowers who have spent their lives in the industry will be saved from annihilation. The evolution from hand to machine typesetting carried with it the consequent hardships, but in the course of time matters so adjusted themselves that now in most instances there are more men employed than under the old regime. However, it is hardly to be hoped that such will be the result in the glass bottle industry.

EMIGRANTS FROM BRITAIN

The annual report on the Immigrants Information office states that 28,156 letters were received in 1912, a decrease of 6.9 per cent. Inquiries relating to the United States decreased by 14.8 per cent., and were only 1.4 per cent. of the total number of inquiries received. There was a net movement from the United Kingdom for places out of Europe of 268,486 passengers of British origin in 1912 as compared with 261,809 in 1911. The net movements to the various countries were as follows:

Place—	1912.	1911.
Canada	133,531	134,765
Australia	68,688	56,337
New Zealand	11,054	9,432
United States	45,847	49,732
South Africa	4,233	7,527

There is an increasing tendency, the report says, on the part of the British immigrants to proceed to other parts of the Empire rather than to foreign countries.

The number of immigrants entering Canada increased from 350,374 in 1911 to 395,804 in 1912. Of the latter 145,859 were of British origin, 140,143 were Americans and 109,802 were of other nationalities. Thirty-four per cent. of the American settlers were of the farming class, and the actual wealth brought into Canada by American immigrants during 1912 exceeded £4,800,000.

"Oh, I see you are married," exclaimed the merchant.

"No, sir," replied the applicant for a position, "I got this scar in a railroad accident."

SENSE AND SANITATION.

According to Mr. E. E. Rittenhouse, conservation commissioner of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, $1,500,000,000 is a low estimate of the annual economic loss from preventable deaths in the United States. The experience of Colonel Gorgas and his sanitary corps in the Panama Canal zone is a convincing demonstration that good health is a purchasable commodity and that sickness can be insured against and prevented if the public is willing to pay enough for safeguards. The cost of accomplishing the wonderful saving of lives on the isthmus is estimated at about $2.43 per person annually. In contrast with such figures, which compare favorably with familiar per capita expenditures for fire and police protection and the conservation of material property, are the data relating to the cost of the actual destruction of mankind.

According to President Jordan of Stanford University it now costs on the average about $15,000 to kill a man in modern war, and in the Boer war this expense ran up to nearly $40,000. When it is recalled that in a time of peace we spend nearly a million dollars a day in our own country on matters concerned with past or future wars, it is comforting to know that the saving of human life is far cheaper than its destruction.

Nations can afford to do their duty in preparing against a foe like the plague the danger of which is always present and more ominous than war, quite as well as they can raise funds for defense against unlikely or avoidable human combats. Civilized nations show a lack of perspective, to say the least, says the Journal of the American Medical Association, when they continue to destroy life at high cost and fail to save it at a low cost when a combination of knowledge with a little national energy and international co-operation will lead the way to humane economics.

NEW WESTMINSTER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the above body was held on April 9th in Labor Hall, Vice-President Cameron presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

An application for affiliation from the newly organized local 558 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was accepted and credentials for the following delegates from that local were received and the delegates obligated, A. MacGregor, Fred Payne, T. Cheney, Ben Sherwood.

Communications were read and disposed of—

The Local Council of Women. Referred to new business.

Vancouver Typographical Union. Filed.

B. C. Regalia Co. Filed.

Vancouver Musicians' Union. Filed.

Reports of Officers and Committees.

Organizer Knudsen reported excellent prospects of organizing the Retail Clerks, also Cooks and Waiters in the near future. He had also interviewed the Musicians re sending new delegates. He was requested by the Electrical Workers' delegate to assist them in getting the inside electricians organized.

The committee on visiting unions re organizer reported not having yet heard officially from the Street Railway Employes or the Barbers.

Reports of Unions.

Typos all working.

Bartenders absent.

Plumbers are probably 70 per cent. working.

Cigarmakers all working.

Street Railway Employes about as usual.

The 15c per capita for maintenance of the organizer was voted down by a large majority.

A. S. Carpenters all working.

Barbers all working. Magee's and Walker's shops are still unfair.

Teamsters in bad shape and are much in need of support from all unionists in the city. The building trades and others were requested to ask for the teamsters' button on all jobs.

U. B. Carpenters 90 per cent. working.

Painters 90 per cent. working.

Musicians absent.

Lathers absent.

Federal Labor Union report work very irregular.

Electrical Workers report work slack, though most of the local members are working.

The Painters' delegate reported that they are prepared to aid in making up any deficit in organizer's salary though not agreeing to give percentage of initiation fee, feeling that this would be taking unfair advantage of the other unions.

New Business.

The communication from the Local Council of Women asking for a list of names of pupils eligible for a commercial course in the high school with a view to starting a class, caused considerable discussion and the delegates were on motion instructed to bring up the matter in their unions and forward all names to the secretary of the council.

Business Agent Trainer of the Vancouver Hod Carriers, Builders' Laborers and Ordinary Laborers was given the privilege of the floor and explained at some length why the Federal Labor Union should apply for a charter to the Hod Carriers' International. He was afterward referred to the Federal Labor delegates to discuss the question.

The Labor Day celebration then came up as a special order of business and on motion of Del. Knudsen a committee of twelve was ordered elected and the former committee was discharged with thanks.

The committee was elected as follows: Delegates Gibb, Knudsen, Grant, Petrie, Hogg, Walker, Barclay, Lugren, McWatters, Dodd, Sherwood and Corrigan.

On motion the secretary was instructed to notify the Royal Bank that Vice-President Cameron is authorized to sign checks in absence of President Stoney.

Moved and seconded that the matter of organizer be left to the executive to keep him in the field as long as possible.

The Electrical Workers want an agreement with the city and it was moved and seconded that this council give the Electrical Workers its moral and financial support in securing this agreement and that a special committee of two be elected to work in conjunction with the Electrical Workers to this end. Motion carried.

Bills ordered paid: B. C. Federationist card, three months, $3; organizer's salary, one week, $30.

Receipts, $12.95.

D. B. GRANT,
Secretary.

OMAHA UNIONS OFFERED HELP

Immediately after the shock of the disaster had somewhat abated, various building trades unions in Omaha passed resolutions offering their services free to the needy on Saturday afternoons and Sundays until the wreckage was cleared away.

In startling contrast to this action is that of the real estate dealers all over town who hailed the disaster as an opportunity to boost the already high rents another notch. Their action created great public indignation, but there is no report as yet that they have receded from their demands.

If the labor unions had in like manner used this opportunity to raise their wages, there would have been a howl that could have been heard to the moon, and every newspaper in the country would have made it first-page copy with screaming headlines.

900 Girls Now Out in Oliver Steel Works.

"We can't live on $4 and $4.50 a week," is the statement of 700 girls who joined the strike of 200 in the bolt department of the Oliver iron and steel mill at Pittsburgh, Pa.

The girls who thread and screw nuts on small bolts at 5 cents a thousand make only that much, though a few who make larger bolts make as high as $6 or $7 a week, say the striking girls, who insist they will not go back until they get a material increase for their ten hours' work.

Seventy boys have also walked out. They are assistants to the "heaters" and are paid 30 cents for each 2,500 bolts the heater turns out. The boys demand 35 cents.

Miners Strike.

Approximately 850 miners, practically all those working underground on the Cuyana range, Minnesota, as well as a few score surface men, are on strike. The Kennedy mine at Cuyuna, Nos. 1 and 2 at Ironton, and the Thompson at Crosby, have ceased hoisting.

A miners' committee of eight is acting in an advisory capacity, and a meeting of the mining companies is scheduled to take place.

Wages in Omaha.

The Western Laborer gives the wage scales of the building trades of Omaha, Neb., as follows: Bricklayers, 70 cents; structural iron workers, 56½ cents; plasterers, 75 cents; lathers, 50 cents; hoisting engineers, 40 cents and 50 cents; tile setters, 56½ cents; plumbers, 68½ cents; steamfitters, 68 2-3 cents; steamfitters' helpers, 25 cents; gasfitters, 68 23 cents; carpenters, 50 cents; stone cutters, 55 cents; marble setters, 56½ cents; painters, 50 0cents; sheet metal workers, 42½ to 57½ cents; electrical workers, 40 to 50 cents; roofers, 40 to 50 cents; cement workers, 62½ cents, and laborers and hod carriers, 25 to 30 cents. The eight-hour day prevails.

Winnipeg Tailors Get Raise.

Two hundred tailors who have been on strike since April 1 went to work again last Tuesday morning as the result of an agreement reached between the strikers and the merchant tailors whereby the men will receive an increase of 10 per cent on the previous price of piecework. The strikers asked for an increase of 17 per cent and were offered 8 per cent, and after a friendly exchange of letters the above settlement was reached. The friendliest relations were maintained between the two parties throughout the strike.

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 Sivertz; 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; P. 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, F. Blumberg, H. H. Free. Managing director, J. R. McVety, Room 211. Sey. 6360.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL—Meets 2nd Monday in month. President, Geo. Mowat; secretary, F. R. Fleming, 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 205.

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

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

BARTENDERS' LOCAL NO. 676.—Office Room 208 Labor Temple. Meets first and third Sundays of each month at 2.30 p.m. President, Wm. Laurie; financial secretary, A. MacDonald.

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

BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS and Joiners, South Vancouver No. 1208—Meets Ashe's hall, Twenty-first and Fraser Ave., first and third Thursday of each month, 8 p.m. President, W. J. Robertson; vice-president, J. W. Dickieson; recording secretary, Thos. Lindsay, Box 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, 733 Semlin Drive, phone Sey. 689.

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. Dagrall, Room 215. Sey. 8799.

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

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

BROTHERHOOD OF BOILER MAKERS and Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, Vancouver Lodge No. 194—Meets first and third Mondays, 8 p.m. President, F. Barclay, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STEROTYPERS' AND ELECTROTYPers' Union, No. 88, of Vancouver and Victoria—Meets second Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m., Labor Temple. President, Thos. Bayley; recording secretary, Chris Homewood, 249 13th Ave. East.

STREET AND ELECTRIC RAILWAY Employees, Pioneer Division No. 101—Meets Labor Temple, second and fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m., and first and third Wednesdays, 8 p.m. President, H. Schofield; recording secretary, Albert V. Lofting, Box 178, City Heights P.O.; financial secretary, Fred A. Hoover, 2409 Clark drive.

STEAM ENGINEERS, INTERNATIONAL Local 397—Meets every Wednesday, 8 p.m., Room 201, Labor Temple. 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. Hocken, 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 p.m. President, A. E. Robb; vice-president, A. H. England; secretary-treasurer, R. H. Neelands, P.O. Box 66.

VICTORIA, B. C.

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

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

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

NEW WESTMINSTER TRADES & Labor Council—Meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 8 p.m., in Labor Hall. President, R. A. Stoney; financial secretary, J. B. Chockley; general secretary, B. D. Grant, P. O. Box 934. The public is invited to attend.

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

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

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

MINERS' UNIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

Socialist Party Directory

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

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

LOCAL SANDON, B.C., NO. 36, S. P. OF C. Meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Sandon Miners' Union Hall. Communications to be addressed Drawer K, Sandon, B. C.

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

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

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

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

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

Novelty Suiting, 54 inches wide, $1.25 per yard. Shown in an indistinct skeleton check, on brown, tan, saxe blue, grey or mushroom foundations.

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The most bewitching styles that ever a spring has seen are here on display. Some of them in our window today. The unusual beauty of these new spring suits is in a great measure due to the superior quality of materials, perfect workmanship and colors, which make them the most attractive suits we have ever shown. Practicability is the great feature of these garments. They are designed in the newest and most up-to-date styles; smartly tailored, daintily finished and most becoming to all women.

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Smart navy tailored suits, of fine French serge with semi-fitted coats, notched collars and revers. The coats are cut with either the new straight or cut-away fronts, with breast pocket and lined with grey satin. Skirts are in two-panel styles, showing new side effects. Price ..... $25.00 and $30.00

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

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

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PORCUPINE STRIKE NEWS.

Rex vs. William Holowaskawe.

This is an appeal from the conviction made by Mr. Thomas Torrance, Police Magistrate, on the 21st January, 1913, under which defendant was convicted under section 60 of the "Industrial Distputes Investigation Act, 1907," and being Chapter 20 of 6-7, Edward VII., for inciting to strike contrary to the provisions of the "Act." By this is meant according to section 56 a strike which is unlawful by reason of an employe going on strike "on account of any dispute prior to or during a reference of such dispute to a Board of Conciliation and Investigation under the provisions of the 'Act.'"

There is a lengthy clause, Section 2, Sub-section (E), which defines the meaning of the word "dispute," the effect of which is that it means "any dispute or difference between an employer and one or more of his employees" as to certain things therein generally stated or to any other things therein specifically mentioned, such as wages, hours of employment, materials supplied and alleged to be bad, unfit or unsuitable, established custom or usage, interpretation of agreement, and other matters.

It was not proved before me, nor was it necessary to prove that there was any reference to a Board of Conciliation, or that there was any request for the same. Rex. vs. McGuire, 16 O.L.R. 522.

The evidence showed that the first sign of dispute was the strike itself, or rather the inciting by the defendant of the strikers. The strike followed the inciting. As the prosecutor stated, the strike came to him with so much surprise that it was like a thunder-clap. It appears that there was no demand for increased wages, shorter hours of labor, or anything of any kind until the defendant called upon the men to strike. This was the very beginning of the dispute. There cannot be a dispute or difference unless there are two parties who dispute or differ with one another. It may be, and without doubt must have been the case here, that the strike was preconcerted among the men, though there is no evidence that this was so. But stating it as strongly for the prosecution as possible and allowing that the strike was the result of a previous understanding among the men, still matters did not reach a stage where there was a demand by the men for better terms and a refusal by the employer the Hollinger Mines Company, of what the men asked. When such a demand and a refusal were not made, can it be said that there was any "dispute" until the strike itself created the dispute? If the answer be that there was no dispute until the strike itself, then will come the necessity of answering another question. Did the men go on strike "on account of any dispute," to quote the words of Section 56?

In my opinion the defendant is not brought within the "Act" as an offender under Sections 56 and 61 for the reason that the strike was not on account of a dispute. To hold otherwise would be to eliminate the words "on account of any dispute" from Section 56. If these five words were not in the section then it would be clear that the defendant by his inciting was guilty of an offense.

The "Act" when framed might have been so framed with or without these words. One cannot assume that they were placed in the section without it being intended that they were to have a meaning, and perhaps were intended for a purpose. Possibly it was considered that when a strike comes like a bolt out of the blue instead of like a storm of which there is premonition, there is not the danger to the peace of the community that would be endangered by the antecedent mutterings.

Another consideration is that penal statutes must receive a strict construction.

The conviction is quashed with costs to be paid by the prosecutor to the defendant, which costs I fix at $50.00.

Rex. vs. Croft.

The reasons in the Holawaskawe case apply in this case with costs to be paid by the prosecutor to the defendant, which costs I fix at $50.00.

Rex vs. Peter Cleary.

There is a difference in the circumstances of this case from those in the Holowaskawe case. The inciting was done after the strike had started. I confirm the conviction. The cost of the appeal, which I fix at $50.00, are to be paid by the defendant to the prosecutor.

March 31st, 1913.

(Signed) J. J. KEHOE, J.

This is a duplicate of a copy certified by G. A. D. Murray, Clerk of the Court, April 9th, 1913.

ODE TO A BUN.

O Mess of Dough!
The baker's recklessness
Has added unto thee
A currant, maybe two.

And yet to me, thou art
The unattainable—
For I have not the silver,
Well for thee!

Wer't fancy; or didst really
Leer at me;
Can thou, O bun, sense my
Impotency?

Oft have I spurned thee;
And now thy turn has come.
Go to it, laugh, and jeer me
Thou beautiful spotted one.

Long may thy memory linger,
Should the future bounteous be,
'Twere well for me to remember
Thou art really more use than me.

Man in his egotism
May laugh at these lines inspired,
Not by an ideal lofty,
But a stomach, empty, tired.

—F. C.

Some Strike.

The I. W. W. "General Strike" of the tailors in Seattle took the following chronological order:

First day member discharged;
Second day, pickets arrested;
Third day, general strike called;
Fourth day, appeal for a sympathetic strike of A. F. of L. unions;
Fifth day, appeal for funds;
Sixth day, strike collapses.

History will record this industrial upheaval in which seventy-one men and one woman participated as another of the strikes "the I. W. W. never lost." Verily, it is to laugh!—The Timber Worker, Seattle.

The Nebraska House of Representatives has defeated a bill for a Constitutional amendment granting the ballot to women.

The St. Paul local union of Electrical Workers has decided to open a vocational training school for electrical workers.

WAGE WORKERS' FORUM

Cumberland, B.C., April 11, 1913.

Editor B. C. Federationist.

Dear Sir: Would be much obliged if you can find space in your paper to run the following article.

Many are the explanations of the causes of the trouble which is still going on in Cumberland and Ladysmith. The editor of the Islander and other paid pen-pushers of the parasites are vying with each other in placing the blame everywhere but where it rightly belongs. In the Islander, which is subsidized by the company, and edited by Ed. Bickle, can be seen contradictory statements saying that Mottishaw was the cause of it, or that Smith was the cause of it, or that some one else caused it, while the accusing fingers of the prostituted hirelings of the Coal Company are now pointing and threatening some one of the miners, saying that he and he alone was the cause of it. But grim and silent the figure walks on defiant and unashamed of himself. Although within him the avenging specter arises, which causes him to reflect over the wreck and ruin of the many wasted years which he has spent in the dark and damp underworld. He at last has turned, like many others, through being hounded to death and desperation, smarting under the lashes of the official puppets, who have goaded him along for the protection of dividends.

Now, Mr. Editor, I think that it is time that some one should correct these statements, which are erroneous, and place them where they rightly belong and not on the poor deluded miners who were at the bidding of the petty slave drivers. But they should be placed at the door of those insatiable and blinded blood-suckers who the mines; those unseen vampires who control the government, should be brought out into the broad light of day. They should be made to face the scorn for their dismal despotism of the black past, from which they have survived. As it is they are unseen and are thousands of miles away, where they are secure and safe, living in luxury. While we as miners in Cumberald and Ladysmith with wives and families are struggling and fighting for a mere existence. Of course they have left in their places working-class hirelings, who are dying and fighting, for the protection of dirty dividends, and they have to face the wrath of the hounded miners. But the mine owners who pull the strings are the ones who should be held accountable. It has even been said and printed in different papers that the fighting miners are recruited from the foreign element, the imported scum of Europe's proletariat, that they are different from the workers of the mining camps and more filled with criminal impulses. This statement is nothing but a false unvarnished lie. If the miners of these cities are characterized by any one quality more than another, it is a long suffering (patience). A good illustration can be given as to their patience, as practically all of the foreign element lived in company houses, and in raising their voices to protest against the whims of the coal barons, received eviction notices, which they readily accepted and adhered to without a murmur. Insults, arrests, illegal repression of vested rights and discrimination have been heaped upon the people of Cumberland and Ladysmith, that now they are united to resist as best they can the industrial despotism that has been crushing them to starvation and death. They are giving other cities of this province an example of their solidarity and splendid courage, which is goading the coal barons and their hirelings to desperation. This sctrike has been on for seven months and the men of the camps are more determined than ever to win, and win they will. This will probably be the best industrial fight ever waged in Canada, and although they have used every weapon which the capitalist class could buy against the men of these camps it has never shattered their firmness, like the Porcupine miners and the Britannia miners. They have had the provincial police, with the aid of special policemen, sent to Cumberland and Ladysmith to protect the peace, but we find they are being used to defeat the workers in their efforts to throw off the yoke of industrial bondage, by harboring and forcing asiatics to work. We have others who have prostituted their manhood, such as detectives, thugs, Pinkerton spies, judges, etc., who have corrupted the courts by selling themselves, to be hurled at the little group of miners in their struggle for an existence. Still they have not been crushed as the poor fools thought they would be by flooding these camps with these degenerates. It has made the men more determined to fight till the victory will be theirs. This is what the greed of the mine owners has resulted in. Seven months' rest for the strikers, expense for the coal barons, as the scabs are not producing enough coal to cook their own meals.

Yours for Justice,

A STRIKING MINER.

Editor B. C. Federationist—Re Direct Actionism, Trades Unionism Syndicalism and Socialism. Whilst there may be a few more "isms" in the organized labor movement of today, they are but sections of the four above mentioned organisms. In dealing with and endeavoring to explain the objects of these bodies, and the results to be obtained from their efforts towards the emancipation of the working class, the writer will be as brief as possible.

Direct Actionists, or, as probably better known, the I. W. W., have made their presence known and felt during the last few years in this country. Their intentions are to organize all bodies and classes of workers not already organized, and their platform "to discard political action and to take possession of the machinery of production by force." Now, in view of the fact that the army, the navy, the militia, the police, and all other powers, are in the hands of the capitalist class, to take, or even dream of taking, possession of the machinery of production by these methods, seems to be, to say the least of it, a suicidal policy.

The policy of violence is, according to all the laws of nature, a crime, chief amongst its evils being, that not only does it destroy property, and occasionally life, but has a deterent influence on the labor movement itself.

An organization whose policy is a destructive one may, for a short time, meet with a certain measure of success, but to dream of it ever accomplishing lasting advantages for the working class is folly. Impatience at results obtained by political parties, is mainly responsible for the introduction of this form of organization.

Trades Unionism and the part it plays in society is the next theme.

NEW ZEALAND

Arising out of the defeat of the Federation of Labor at Waihi, and the universal dissatisfaction among organized workers at the working of the Arbitration Act, an important conference was held in January, at which over 80 unions were represented and a platform was adopted for uniting the "federationists" and "arbitrationists." This platform is now being considered by the unions, and will be discussed at a further conference in July. It is proposed to call the new body the "United Federation of Labor," but politically it will be called the "Social-Democratic Party," with as its object the abolition of the wages system by the "socialisation of the collectively-used means of production, distribution and exchange." The platform will include the usual Labor legislative proposals. The matter of registering or not registering under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act is to be left to the option of each union, but any new union seeking registration in succession to a union which has cancelled its registration is to be opposed. The slaughtermen in their recent strike discovered how to engineer and carry out a strike without incurring penalties under the act.

BUFFALO CAR STRIKE WILL BE SETTLED

The strike of the motormen and conductors of the city and suburban lines of the International Railway Company, Buffalo, N. Y., was settled on Friday, April 11th. In arriving at a basis of settlement both sides made concessions. The company officially consented to confer at the mayor's office with President William D. Mahon of the carmen's union, and the men receded from their demand that after the resumption of the service the negotiations on hours and wages for which the men struck should be carried on with a committee of the union.

The basis of the settlement provides that all employees who were in the service of the company on the Saturday preceding the day the strike began shall be returned to the service in the positions they held at that time; that within five days the company will take up with the committee of employees all complaints, grievances and the working conditions for the future, including the question of reinstating all men discharged within the last thirty days. It provides for the appointment of the first two arbitrators within 48 hours, they to select a third within five days. In case of failure to select the third arbitrator within the specified time, the mayor will become the third arbitrator. At all hearings before this board either side may be represented by anyone they desire. The findings of a majority of the board shall rule.

Appeal to Reason Sues for Damages.

Suit for $200,000 damages, alleged to have been sustained by the publication in the Kansas City Star that the Appeal to Reason, the great Socialist weekly of Girard, Kan., had suspended publication, has been filed by Fred D. Warren, managing editor of the Appeal. The Kansas City Star, March 21 of last year, printed a story telling of the paper's suspension. The story was relayed by the Associated Press to all of the newspapers in the United States receiving that news service.

Printers Send Relief.

The first contribution to the relief fund for the Ohio sufferers in the flood stricken districts to come from the National capital was made when the Washington Plate Printers' Union unanimously voted to send $1000.

Here's Real Optimism.

The next great step in American politics is the elimination of Socialism.—Washington Post.

At a cost of approximately $50,000 the International Typographical Union will construct an amusement building and auditorium at the Union Printers' Home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

A greedy mortal in the labor movement is no better than a greedy employer, in fact he is more abhorrent, because in the ranks of labor he must of necessity be also a colossal hypocrite deceiving his fellows. There is no room in the movement for such creatures.

As a safeguard against reduction of wages, sweat shops and other tyrannical abuses by employers of labor, to have membership with a union which is ready to strike when conditions warrant such a course, is necessary.

To the trades union movement can be attributed shorter hours, higher wages, and a host of other reforms.

Some of the methods adopted by the latter organizations, are advocated and practiced by the Direct Actionists, viz., the strike and the boycott; but whilst the I. W. W. propose direct action, sabotage, etc., those best trained in organized thought and action in the Trades Unions endeavor to better their conditions on the jobs by the strike and boycott, whilst at the same time, they build up their power by political action.

True, there are many in the ranks of the trades unions who do not yet realize the power of the ballot, but that knowledge is being gradually instilled into their minds.

Syndicalism, of French origin, has met with no small measure of success in the European countries, but is still in its infancy in this country. Not being a separate movement, but one which may become part of the other organizations, the writer does not feel disposed to unravel its mysteries.

Socialism, the last great "ism," the emancipator of the most degraded of all systems, the present wage-system, should strike a sympathetic chord in the hearts of all members of the working class.

The platform of the Socialist Party stands for the only sane and sure method of changing the present system, with its white slavery, unemployment, starvation and innumerable other evils, viz., by means of the ballot, yet thousands upon thousands do not realize it.

However, the dawn of intelligence is breaking, and gradually class interests are making their presence known.

The day is not far distant when the working class, although at present taking various different routes, towards the attainment of an improvement in the present system, will finally, through the oppression of capitalism, shake off the shackles, which for centuries have bound them and vote unitedly for working class ownership of all things.

Feudalism was not destroyed in one day, but by the introduction and development of the machinery of production. In like manner will wage slavery be abolished, by such changes as will be of advantage to the producers of all wealth—the working class.

H. J. McEWEN.

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10-in. Gas Pliers, reg. 95c for..60c
6-in. Bell Hangers Pliers, reg. 85c for 60c
8-in. Bell Hangers Pliers, reg. $1.50 for 75c
7-in. Combination Pliers, reg. 75c for 45c
8-in. Combination Pliers, reg. $1.00 for 60c
Disston Brick Trowels, all sizes, reg. $2.00 for..... $1.35
6, 7 and 8-inch Combination Emery Oil Stones, reg. values to $1.00, all sizes..... 50c

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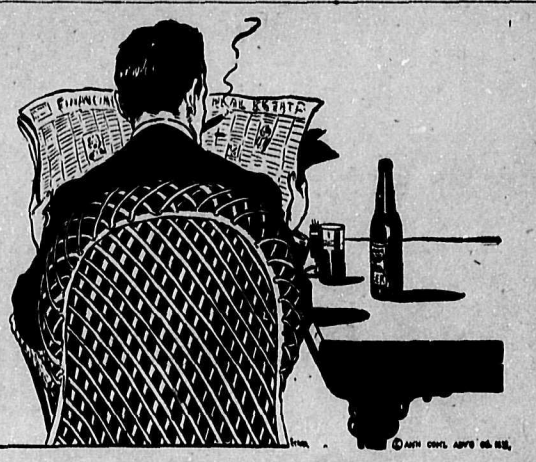

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The eight hour bill for women employed in the District of Columbia failed to pass in the Sixty-second Congress. It is predicted that it will become a law in the next congress.

She—There ought to be a heavy penalty imposed upon every married man with half a dozen children.

He—There is. He has to support them.

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THE LESSON OF THE PARIS COMMUNE

(By GUSTAVE HERVE.)

VII.

A general strike is no use. The next revolutionary attempt in France will meet the army of order, and will have to fight in accordance with all the rules of military strategy and tactics. And the revolutionaries are sure to be defeated if they are unable to raise an army equal in numbers, in technical skill, and in military spirit to that of the enemy. The history of the last insurrectionary attempt made in France in 1871 affords us cruel lessons on this subject, on which our generation should reflect. It is the common opinion in revolutionary circles of those who study and think that the Commune failed because the economic conditions necessary to success were not realized in 1871. There was not, it is said, either a sufficiently strong working-class movement nor a sufficiently large industrial or commercial concentration to enable the Paris of 1871 to be interested or passionate enough for a social revolution which was not ripe. This is true if we fall into the vulgar error of representing the Commune of Paris as a Socialist insurrection. But, really, the Commune was almost exclusively a patriotic and republican insurrection, due to the rage of defeat and to the fear of a monarchical restoration.

The Commune was the work of those in favor of war a outrance, who, during the siege of Paris, had complained that Trochu, the governor of the besieged capital, had not shown sufficient energy in trying to break through the German lines. These men were workers, small shopkeepers, small capitalists, whose only political and social ideal was the programme of Gambetta at Belleville in 1869—that is to say, the democratic and secular republic. Now, this republic was ripe in 1871, and if we did not obtain it this was owing to the military incapacity of the Commune, and to that alone.

This is a sad story, which, on March 18 each year, should be told to the people when they celebrate the anniversary of the Communist movement.

During the siege there was only one Army Corps in Paris, composed of some troops belonging to General Vinoy's Corps, which had managed to escape from Sedan, and some sailors quartered in the forts. The bulk of the garrison was the people in arms, formed into battalions of the National Guard, with elected chiefs, who were chosen far more on account of the ardour of their political opinions than for their valour or their military skill.

The excited people in Paris thought that these National Guards made up by enthusiasm for their lack of military skill. People liked to recall the example of the volunteers of '92, forgetting that in 1792 the improvised soldiers had gone into battle supported by regular soldiers, or after formation of regiments, composed of one battalion of regulars with two battalions of National Guards, so that the non-commissioned officers and the officers were men having had a regular training. Trochu, who knew the facts, always looked upon the National Guard as being quite incapable to resist the German troops.

The military history of the Commune shows too well that he was right. As soon as the National Guard was alone, when it had not the support of the regulars which at Champigny at Montretout and at Buzenval had enabled it to do some good on the field of battle deprived of chiefs having some military skill, it is only a flock of sheep—a flock of honest sheep but still a mere flock. Just consider these facts. Thiers, head of the Executive Government appointed by the National Assembly of Bordeaux, now sitting at Versailles, decided to disarm the National Guard. On March 18, 1871, a body of regular troops tried to seize by surprise the guns of the National Guard at Montmartre. The National Guards in the neighborhood rose and surrounded the soldiers; the 88th Regiment fraternised with the revolted people, two generals were shot, and the other regular troops were instructed to retire to Versailles. They did this in disorder—demoralised, insulting their officers, abandoning the forts they occupied (those of the North and of the East were occupied by the Germans in accordance with one of the clauses of the capitulation). They even evacuated the Mont Valerien, the fort which commanded the road to Versailles.

The Central Committee, composed of delegates from each battalion, was the only power since the end of the siege; it neither foresaw nor prepared anything, and no individual initiative supplied its place. M. Thiers and all the other leaders were not arrested, and the Mont Valerien was not occupied. This is the weakness of spontaneous movements, which, if there is no direction, like there was on July 14, 1789, to organise anarchy, to turn chaos into order, allows all to go wrong. When it was noticed that the Mont Valerien had foolishly not been occupied, it was too late; the generals of Versailles, in spite of the disorder of their army, thought about it, and on the evening of the 19th it was garrisoned strongly by Versailles.

A fortnight elapsed. The insurrectionary party appointed a General Council of the Commune; a quarrel took place among the members, in accordance with French revolutionary precedents, between Jacobins, Federalists, Blanquists, and Internationalists. But they did not seem to think about the fight with Versailles any more than if March 18 had not taken place. They did not even take the elementary precaution of arming the ramparts or of making an inventory of the guns or of the ammunition. No one seemed to think that, having started an insurrection, and having shot two generals, it was advisable to have an efficient army. Alas there were men, more than 200,000, and many rifles and guns. Only leaders were wanting. There were, it is true, generals in brilliant uniforms with plumes in their hats, but that was not sufficient; something more was needed.

At Versailles Thiers and his generals got an army together at Satory; the men were demoralised, but they were put under strict discipline; they were made to train, and they were reinforced by the prisoners from Germany. In a fortnight those men had become an army—that is to say, an instrument of precision having a soul.

On April 2, on a fine Sunday, while the Parisians were going out peacefully for their usual Sunday walk, heavy firing was heard. They listened in a half sort of way; no doubt it was the Germans celebrating some festival. It was the army of Versailles, which had set out, and was attacking the western side of Paris, driving back in disorder groups of National Guards from Courbevoie and Puteaux who tried to resist.

When the Parisian population discovered what was going on, each man rushed home to seize his rifle, and all that Sunday night a mob of 100,000 men assembled near the Arc de Triumph demanding the order for a sortie, as they had asked for it before against the Prussians. During that time the Executive Committee of the Commune—that is to say, the Government—placarded the following idiotic proclamation on the walls: "The Royalist conspirators have attacked us. In spite of the moderation of our attitude, they have attacked us. Not being able to rely on the French Army, they are making use of the Pontifical Zouaves and of the Imperial Police." The crowd wanted a sortie, and they got it.

The next morning, on April 3, those of the crowd who had not lost patience and had not gone home to bed were formed somehow into three columns, and marched on Versailles by three different roads. The battalions were mixed. There were no skirmishers, no artillery except a few guns, no food in the men's haversacks unless they had brought some from home, very few officers, brave generals without any experience, and having no idea how to lead an army.

You can imagine what resistance these men could make against the Versailles army. Some were killed by the guns from the Mont Valerien, others were cut off by the calvary, others taken prisoners, and the rest driven back, while two of the generals who had directed this mad expedition —Flourens, a Professor at the College de France, and Duval, an ironfounder —were killed fighting with great bravery. Then the Communards were on the defensive, and that was equal to their offensive tactics.

At the Ministry of War the heads were, in succession, Cluseret, Rossel, and then an old man without any military experience, Delescluze; they tried to get their officials and the officers to obey them. Indiscipline was rampant. You fought or you did not, just as you pleased. In Paris, where there were 200,000 National Guards, only a few thousands—10,000 to 12,000 at most, 5,000 to 6,000 probably—fulfilled their military duty. They did it with heroic bravery, grouped round two chiefs of Polish origin, who had served in the Russian Army, and had taken part in the Polish insurrection of 1863, Dombrowski and Wroblewski. For a whole month, the former at Neuilly and the latter at Vanves, they, with a few men offered a desperate resistance, but the artillery of Versailles is too powerful, and they have to retire.

On May 21, on a Sunday afternoon, the Versaillais entered by surprise near the gate of St. Cloud, and at 8 p. m. they were at the Trocadero without the Commune knowing it. They, the leaders of the people, had been so moderate as not to prepare an adequate defence by barricades. In that moment each one only thought of defending his district; and Delescluze issued a proclamation which, if we did not remember his heroic life and his stoical death, we might call a ridiculous one: "No more militarism, no more staff officers with gold lace and braid. Make room for the people, for the fighters with bare arms. The hour of the revolutionary war has struck. The people know nothing of scientific manoeuvres; but if a man has a rifle in his hand and stones under his feet he no longer fears the strategists of the monarchical school."

Once more was seen, as had occurred in June, 1848, what was the value in military matters of individual initiative, of spontaneity, of the free inspiration of individuals and of groups of men, when face to face with the cohesion and the discipline of armed soldiers who obey a man who knows how to co-ordinate and direct all individual efforts.

It was not a battle but a massacre, for 35,000 Communards were killed, though the Versaillais lost but few men. When one knows the piteous military history of the Commune of Paris, which was, however, so great by its noble republican idealism, one trembles for the future in remembering that in this year of grace—1913—many French revolutionaries have the same childish conception of military matters as Delescluze.

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Orpheum Next Week.

The programme at the above house next week will include the famous Boganny troupe of six acrobats, the famous colored comedian Tenny, of Waterbury Bros. and Tenny, Hayden Stevenson will appear in a sketch called "The Love Specialist," "Marguerite" will be a surprise in feminine versatility and cleverness combined with a ravishing wardrobe, Jere Chanford, "The Chore Boy," presents a study of the country lad which is a bit of finished characterization, Leigh and La Grace will present a cyclonic novelty which embraces juggling and playing on many instruments. There will also be the usual stock features. For the week of April 28th, Manager Pilling has booked a local act, the Vancouver Meistersingers of eighteen soloists, as a special attraction on a seven-act bill.

Destroying the Home.

The participation of women in industrial pursuits means the total destruction of the family life of the workingman without substituting for it a higher form of the family relation. The capitalist system of production does not in most cases destroy the single household of the working man, but it robs it of all but its unpleasant features. The activity of women today in industrial pursuits does not mean to her freedom from household duties; it means an increase of her former burdens by a new one. Present society offers, in the place of the individual household which it destroys, only miserable substitutes; soup houses and day nurseries, where crumbs of the physical and mental sustenance are cast to the lower classes.—Kautsky.

The request of the Salvation Army to the City Council of Edmonton for a grant to their "charities" has been turned down.

Were it not for the labor press the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any union man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the labor cause.

The Revised Version.

"Hush a bye, baby, on the tree top,
When you grow up you shall work in a shop,
And when you get married your wife shall work, too,
That the rich may grow richer, with nothing to do.
Hush a bye, baby, on the tree top,
When unemployed your wages will stop;
And when grown old your wage will stop, too,
That the rich may grow richer, with nothing to do.
We hush a bye babies, hear what you say,
But hush a bye babies, we are not made that way;
We are calling new music for the industrial hop,
And wealth without work must shut up its shop."

The proposal to erect a building to house the labor organizations of St. Thomas, Ont., is being favorably discussed.

The bill providing for a minimum wage for women was passed by the Minnesota House on March 26.

Borrowed Tips and Pointers.

The union member who keeps away from the meetings should keep his mouth closed about what those who attend do.

In the election booth is the best place to write the working rules.

The most direct action is that which puts the cop and his club under the control of the workers.

The labor skate who is working for the old parties—to keep the workers from uniting politically—is skating on thin ice.

Organized labor contends for the majesty of manhood. It instils in the workers the spirit of self-reliance expressed by Emerson: "We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak our own minds."

When a signal was lifted that he wished to disregard, Lord Nelson put his sea-glass to his blind eye and said: "I really do not see the signal." O, you glass-eyed workers, quit your fooling with the signals that tell of your own undoing! Put the glass to your good eye! Look and act for yourselves, your families and your fellows!

Organization is the alphabet of the labor movement. The alphabet extends through all language—is indispensable to all expressions of thought. So does organization extend through all expressions of labor in its struggle for complete emancipation.

"What are you doing for our cause?" asked a suffragette worker.

"Doing?" replied the man. "Im supporting one of your most enthusiastic members."—Detroit Free Press.

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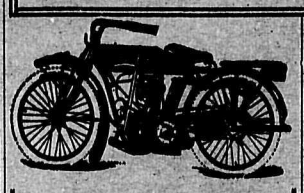
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