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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

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NANAIMO DISASTER AND U. M. W. A. COMMENT

Says Large Bodies of Gas Were Reported in The Reserve Mine

How Union Strove to Have Mine Regulations Act Enforced

Once more we have to record a horrible mine disaster where the lives of men are sacrificed. This time it is the reserve shaft of the Western Fuel company at Nanaimo, B.C. On Thursday afternoon, May 27th, 1915 twenty-two men lost their lives by an explosion in the above-named mine, and it is with the deepest sympathy and sincere regrets for the unfortunate victims and their relatives that we express our views. Knowing that there is nothing that we can do that will restore life to these men, we are confronted with the following question: "What are we going to do to prevent another disaster?" "Prevention is better than cure," and we solicit the aid of the general public to assist us in that prevention.

B. C. Miners' High Death Rate.

The following should be considered carefully: For the last eighteen years there has been over TWO THOUSAND MINERS KILLED every year on the American continent, and statistics prove that the death rate in unorganized fields is three per cent. greater than in the organized districts. British Columbia has as high a death rate as any mining locality in the world. This fact alone should be sufficient to make every honest citizen of the province of B.C. decide that from now on with all the ability in their power to help the miners' organization in its humanitarian movement of trying to organize for the protection of their lives. It should also condemn every person who by their efforts assisted the coal barons of Vancouver Island in the recent struggle to temporarily retard the miners' movement.

Was Explosion Expected?

There is current rumor on the streets of Nanaimo to-day that this explosion was not unexpected and large quantities of gas have been known to exist in the said mine, but under the despotic rule which exists in the Western Fuel company, no man who is employed by them dare voice his sentiments relative to the conditions of the mine unless they are favorable to the company or unless he is prepared to go elsewhere and seek work.

McBride Did Not Answer.

Following is a self-explanatory letter to Premier McBride, and which he did not answer:

Nanaimo, B.C.,
July 2, 1914.

Sir Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, Victoria, B.C.

Honorable Sir:

"After carefully considering matters which we have discussed in conferences lately, relative to non-enforcement of the mining laws of this province, it is my opinion that it is your duty, as minister of mines, to compel the operators of this province to comply with the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulations Act, and that government inspectors be compelled to enforce same.

I fully realize the utter impossibility and the absurdity of your request that I make a specific charge against any of the men who are now employed as not being competent miners, while at the same time your government is spending thousands of dollars to keep extra special police, provincial police and militia in that field for the purpose of keeping us in a position whereby we cannot secure the information you desire, before taking action.

I have always been under the impression that it was the duty of the minister of mines and the government mine inspectors to enforce the law, and not wait until thousands of men are blown into eternity, under the pretext of waiting for specific complaints from anyone; but to see that inspections are made from time to time and that all sections of the Coal Mines Regulations Act are enforced.

I am confident that half of the men who are mining coal on Vancouver Island where the strike is in progres, cannot read the inspector's or fire-bosses' reports, as they are posted at the pithead from time to time when they are making their examination of the mines, and if this is true that class of men are the most dangerous elements existing in any mine, not only to themselves, but thousands of other men meet death due to their ignorance and thousands of widows and orphans are thrown on the mercy of the world, largely because of the neglect of the men who are responsible for not enforcing the law and keeping such men out of the mines.

I would suggest that a commission be immediately appointed, to be composed of one representative of the government, one for the operators, and one for the united mine workers of Vancouver Island; and that this commission be empowered to hold an investigation and that all employees who fail to pass the language test and other provisions of the Coal Mines Regulations Act, be immediately discharged.

If this suggestion meets with the approval of your department you will find I ready and willing to do everything in our power to render assistance. On the other hand, if it meets with the disapproval of your departmental officials or by not, as Premier of this province, exercise your powers under the public inquiry act.

This complaint and suggestion is based upon the clause in the Coal Mines Regulations Act pertaining to the qualifications of coal-miners wherein it states specifically that a miner must be sufficiently conversant with the English language and with the provisions of the acts relating to coal-mining and rules and regulations made thereunder. Finally, I say to you, as Premier of this province, that if you have a desire to

(Continued on page 3)

VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

A Brisk Business Meeting Deals With Variety Of Questions

All But Street Railwaymen Report Employment Much Slacker

Vancouver Trades and Labor council meeting last night was fairly well attended. Only two new delegates were seated.

Executive Board Report.

At the invitation of the Canadian Club, it was decided to endorse the proposition to ask the Provincial government to preserve the old court house site as a memorial to men killed in the war. Indian motor cycles are now made under union conditions according to a letter received.

Delegate Miss H. Gutteridge reported on the interview which the council's delegation had with acting-Premier Bowser re unemployed, etc., and of which an extended report appeared in The Federationist last week. She also reported that the delegation had met Mr. H. H. Stevens, M.P., urging employment of local men on federal government work. Appreciation was expressed of the work of the delegation. Delegate McVety reported that the P. G. E. Railway company had been instructed to cease engaging men through an employment agency whereby destitute men either had to pay a fee or get no work. This action was the result of representations made to acting-Premier Bowser by the Trades and Labor council.

Parliamentary Committee.

The miners' resolution which appears in another column was endorsed as recommended. The committee recommended that the attention of the government be called to the fact that the places of the Germans and Austrians taken from coal mines on Vancouver Island, were being filled with Montenegrins, Greeks and others, mostly brought from Vancouver, while hundreds of miner residents of the island were out of work. Steps are to be taken to deny the report that there are no skilled mechanics in Vancouver who would be willing to go to Britain.

President's Report.

The president reported on a number of matters pertaining to his routine duties. He read letters dealing with the protest sent to Australia re lumber in British Columbia being chiefly manufactured by Oriental labor. The communications were from the federal and states premiers and several trades councils, the main tenor of them all was in support of the council's efforts. The council decided to continue the work, including the getting of photographs of Orientals in and around mills, to be sent to the governmental authorities in Australia, in support of the opposition to British Columbia lumbermen's request for a preferential tariff from the Australian government in manufactured B. C. lumber. It was stated that local lumbermen were becoming seriously alarmed at the council's action.

Reports of Unions.

Cigar-makers still slack. They did not consider the council was supporting them in boosting local made cigars, and were to consider withdrawing. Tailors intend to picnic at Bowen Island on July 13th. Brewery workers stated that some of their fellow unionists had been discharged owing to their being Germans. C. P. R. machinists reported conditions getting slacker as also did the Musicians. Plumbers are still locked out. Street Railwaymen said business was much better with them since the jitney bus regulations had been in force in the city.

New Business.

Under this head, a committee of four was chosen to go into the grievances of the cigar-makers, and also to consider the case of the brewery-workers who were discharged.

Recommendation was made to the parliamentary committee to start now and make preparations for the municipal elections next January. Tailors presented a motion that in view of the fact that a provincial election does not seem very close at hand more time should be given for unions to nominate provincial election candidates. Finally it was decided to extend the time to July 2nd.

It was stated that the Fair Wage officer had notified the Labor department that carpenters wages were reduced to $3.60 per day, which action the carpenters had protested on the ground that their standard union wage was still $4.25 per day. In reply to a query it was stated that the contract for the government elevator called for a wage of $3.00 per 8 hour day for laborers, also that the Civic Employees official scale of wages was still $3.00 per 8 hour day subject to a war reduction of 15 per cent. A Mr. Young was reported to be registering mechanics who wished to go to England, but it was understood he had no official standing. New Westminster Trades and Labor council will be invited to send one delegate to go on the Trades Congress reception committee.

Organizer J. W. Bruce, of the Plumber' was at this time present in the meeting, and being invited to speak gave a brief address which was much appreciated.

Building During May.

During May, 57 building permits were issued in Vancouver to the value of $719,280. Last year in May, 162 were issued valued at $524,380. For the first five months of this year 335 were issued to the value of $1,022,071. For the first five months of last year 720 were issued, valued at $1,820,984.

COMPENSATION BILL REQUIRES AMENDING

By A. S. WELLS

Secretary Workmen's Compensation Committee B.C. Federation of Labor.

AFTER CAREFUL STUDY of the different clauses of the act introduced at the last session of the house by Mr. Bowser, the following are the conclusions that I have arrived at, and while taking into consideration all acts that are in operation, in this and other countries, and seeing their many good and bad points, I do not think that we should be guided in our opinion of the act, by deciding that it may be better or worse than some other act, which may have been passed, say in Ontario, but rather on the merits of the act itself, and as to whether it will do that which we have the desire to see accomplished, and taking this view there can be no doubt that the act will not do away with the many evils arising from industrial accidents, for the reason that it does not contain the principle that the State should provide for those who are deprived of their means of support, and that this shall be accomplished by the taxation of those who profit by industry; that it does not penalize those who profit by industry that have been found to have contributed to the injury by the neglect of proper precautions and care against accidents, and so make it too costly to have any more accidents than are absolutely unavoidable, by compelling the employer found to have been neglectful, to pay the compensation direct, without it being taken from the revenue provided for that purpose by the State.

The act may be an improvement on the old one now in force, but if it is any benefit to the workers, it is many times more so than the old one to the employing class, and as Mr. Bowser says that the government have a desire to have something that is likely to be somewhat of a permanent measure, then we must at least demand that the act be amended in accordance with the principle that Industry or those Profiting thereby shall bear the Cost of industrial accidents and diseases without any exception.

Compensation for Accidents.

The question of compensation for accidents arising out of industrial occupations, has occupied the attention of the workers of this province for a considerable time, and the organized labor movement has, in and out of season, advocated the placing on the statute books of legislation that would secure to those injured and their dependents, a sufficient income to place them beyond the fear of actual want, and to secure to the dependents of those killed whilst engaged in industrial occupation, at least sufficient to enable them to live in comparative comfort.

And while advocating legislation along the lines suggested above they have always maintained that the cost of injury should be borne by the industry in which they were engaged, or better still, should be borne by the state, and industry taxed for the purpose of finding the revenue whereby the compensation should be paid. This question has occupied the attention of the workers of all countries that have developed an industrial system, and has been met by the various governments of the industrial nations by many and varied schemes that have been devised, none of them perfect, and many unsatisfactory from the workers' point of view, owing to the fact that they have not followed the procedure that any business man engaged in manufacturing always follows in regard to his plant or machinery, viz., to prepare for accidents, and set aside for the purpose of replacing broken or worn-out machinery, certain amounts based on an average, found by careful calculation, covering a period which would naturally be the life of the machine as far as its usefulness was concerned.

The workers, however, have not been even treated as well as the machines, and no provision has been made for them when they are thrown on the industrial scrap heap, but it has been left more or less to chance, and in cases where legislation has been enacted to, supposedly, provide for compensation for industrial accidents, it has been found that as a rule the only parties benefiting, or receiving compensation were the lawyers, who had undertaken to fight the case on behalf of the person injured.

While it is desired that those who are deprived of their means to acquire the necessities of life, through industrial accidents, should be cared for, there are other objects that are desired, and can be secured by the placing on the statute books, of workmen's compensation acts, the most important of which is the reduction of the number of industrial accidents to a minimum, and this can only be secured by making the cost of such accidents to be borne by those profiting by the operation of industy, in other words making it too costly to those responsible, to have any more accidents than it is possible to prevent, and by penalizing those that are found to have contributed to any accident, by improper safeguards and necessary precautions.

This is essential, as it is a well known fact that many industrial accidents are caused by the lack of reasonable care and protection of machinery, and in the mining industry and many others such as railroad work, through the lack of any care of the lives of the workers, the desire for dividends being placed first, and the workers are only a secondary consideration.

The same will apply to occupational diseases, many of which could to a great extent be minimized, providing that only reasonable care were taken.

Having arrived at this point, we find that not only do we desire an act that will compensate for industrial accidents, which apart from the workers' point of view is necessary for the master class, otherwise the incapacitated become a public charge, and the dependents of those killed are pauperized, but an act that will make it so costly to those who are prone to be careless of the lives of the workers, if they have industrial accidents in the course of their operations, that they will take every reasonable care to prevent accidents, just as they take care of their horses or machinery, and it is from this viewpoint that Mr. Bowser's draft act, lately introduced, should be examined.

The Provision of Revenue.

On the question of the raising of the revenue and as to how it should be rasised we are not so much concerned, as it is a hard thing to say just who profits most by the operation of any particular industry, those engaged directly in it, or those only remotely connected with the actual operation, or the actual working of any branch of industrial operations.

But of this we should at least be united upon, that the state should be responsible for the finding of the revenue to pay all compensation for accidents or industrial diseases, and it would seem that it should be raised by general taxation of business, big and little, industry large or small, without any classification. The state acting between the workers and the employing class, and seeing that those profiting by the operation of industry, should pay for the disablement of the workers engaged in industry, and the state being faced with the problem of providing the wherewithall to pay with, would see to it that industrial accidents were not any more numerous than could possibly be avoided.

And this, after all, is the one object that should be kept in view. Compensation may relieve the distress caused by the death or disablement of the breadwinner, but it cannot compensate for the loss of life or limb, nor for the suffering of those who are so often doomed to a life of pain and suffering as an attendant result of an accident.

The passing of legislation affecting labor has been found in practically all cases to bring attendant results that have not been anticipated, and this has been found especially in workmen's compensation legislation.

In England the passing of the Compensation act brought about to a large degree the discrimination against old men, or men who were showing any sign of the infirmities of old age, and in this respect we should learn from experience, and on examination we find in Bowser's draft act things that will no doubt give rise to unpleasant complications.

For instance, take the clause dealing with outworkers: In the interpretation of the term "Workman" it says "workman shall include a person who has entered into or works under a contract of service or apprenticeship, written or oral, express or implied, whether by manual labor or otherwise but shall not include an outworker." The interpretation of the word outworker is "shall mean a person to whom articles are given out to be made up, cleaned, washed, altered, ornamented or repaired, or adapted for sale in his own home or other premises, not under the control or management of the person who gave out the articles or materials."

This must have an effect that will be disadvantageous to the workers and will no doubt lead to the establishment of a great force of outworkers, with all the attendant results, of sweatshop conditions and piece work system.

Again, the act is not to apply to casual labor, or to persons who are not employed for the employer's usual trade or business. This would mean that many men engaged in all classes of labor, such as the repair of buildings, installation of machinery, etc., etc., who were employed by the owner of a manufacturing establishment would be shut out from the act.

In fact the act is so limited in its scope, that it is to all intents and purposes useless, and seems to be rather an act to define who shall not be paid compensation, than one to provide for the payment of it.

Possibly the best way to really analyse the bill is to carefully study Mr. Bowser's speech on it in Victoria, and as he is the author of the act, we can be sure that he will not underrate the benefits and good to be derived by the workers from the act.

Waiting Period.

In referring to the fact that the act does not provide for any compensation for injuries that do not incapacitate for more than two weeks, Mr. Bowser said "That there are two sides to every question, the employer has to be heard as well as the employee, because it is the employer that has to pay the bill, so to speak, and he must be used in such a way that he does not think this bill will be prohibitive, and that he will have to close down his works, for if the works close down there will not be any employment for the workman, and we want to be fair."

Consider the above statement, and then consider if he intends to be fair, when placing all minor accidents on the shoulders of the employee and makes them bear the loss of wages, etc., and the cost of medical attention, and the possible after effects, and it is a well-known fact that a large percentage of industrial accidents do not incapacitate for more than two weeks, and is this placing the cost of injury on those who profit by the operation of industry?

Later on he spoke of the division of the burden of industrial accidents, between the employer and the employee, and this is the way the burden is divided. The worker shoulders the loss of his wages for the waiting period of two weeks if the injury does not last longer than that, the pain and suff-

(Continued on Page Four)

BIG GUNS HEARD AT SOCIALISTS MEETING

W. J. Bowser and J. Harrington on Workmen's Compensation

Crowded Meeting Best Yet Held in City on This Subject

An audience of more than 1,600, mostly workingmen, crowded into the Avenue theatre, Vancouver, last Friday evening to hear the proposed new Workmen's Compensation act for British Columbia discussed by the Hon. W. J. Bowser, acting-Premier, and John Harrington on behalf of the Vancouver local of the Socialist Party of Canada, under whose auspices the meeting was held.

At 7.45 the ushers were compelled to turn away hundreds for whom there was no room. Promptly at 8 o'clock, chairman W. A. Pritchard introduced the speakers.

Mr. Bowser

For an hour and ten minutes Mr. Bowser reviewed the measure, and dealt with some of the criticism already offered. He admitted that some of the suggestions would be accepted, and asked for all the information possible prior to its passage at the next session of the legislature. Mr. Bowser received a splendid hearing while dealing with a subject of rather a technical nature in an interesting manner. In fact, the speaker seemed as much at home as a fisherman aboard a fish-laden dory bound for home in a forty-knot breeze.

Little reference was made to any thing other than the subject under discussion. And whether the big audience agreed with the speaker's conclusions or not, he was certainly given a round of applause when he took his seat, where he remained until the meeting broke up two hours later.

Mr. Harrington.

"Jack" Harrington replied upon behalf of the Socialist Party of Canada, and for one hour and twenty minutes the big crowd gave him a close and attentive hearing. He also stuck strictly to the subject, and never once was there a personality indulged in or any reference made to politics. The proposed Workmen's Compensation act was discussed upon its merits, and its shortcomings pointedly emphasised as only a speaker with Harrington's ability could bring them out.

He traced the growth and development of modern industry for the past fifty years and then proved, to the satisfaction of the audience, that this measure, like others of its kind, was merely in response to a desire of the executive of the employing class to lessen the burden of the employers by giving them a cheaper form of protection than could be obtained from private companies.

He congratulated Mr. Bowser that he had not come there that evening to tell his hearers it was because he loved the workers that he had proposed the measure, but, frankly, that it was a cheaper for the employers than under the old system. The government had admitted a principle that it was the duty of the State to care for the maimed and casualties of the industrial world and that industry should bear the burden of its human scrap heap, along with the machinery and other equipment that must needs be replaced from time to time—"something the socialists had been endeavoring to pound into the workers' heads for years."

Mr. Harrington then took up several specific clauses of the proposed measure and suggested what seemed to be some very practical amendments. At the conclusion of the speaker's able address he was greeted with thunderous applause, in which Mr. Bowser himself participated.

The Meeting.

The meeting was a feast in classics, one of the best ever held in Vancouver. Both speakers knew their subject well and were splendidly matched oratorically. In fact Mr. Harrington seemed to have a shade the best of the argument from a debating point of view. The S. P. of C. is to be congratulated upon having made possible such a meeting, where such a measure was dealt with in such a practical manner. It should go far towards the securing of amendments which will make the B. C. Workmen's Compensation act, when finally sanctioned by the lieutenant-governor, one of the best of its kind in existence.

WILL WALK TO SEATTLE.

Mr. and Mrs. Quein Start on a Long Tramp to Play Gypsy for a Month.

At least one printer in Vancouver will take advantage of the prevailing industrial inactivity to improve the shining hour in a novel way. Mr. B. I. Quein, an m. o., employed in the Shilvock chapel, accompanied by Mrs. Quein, will walk to Seattle. They start out to-morrow. A seven-pound tent, a few cooking utensils, a fishing tackle, and special equipment in the matter of dress and footwear, will be all the provision made for the trip. They will play gypsy for the coming month. When they strike a spot that appeals to them there they will remain until the spirit moves. Both Mr. and Mrs. Quein are ardent outdoor enthusiastists and that they will have a rattling good time is the wish of The Fed. and their host of friends in the trades union world.

Death Revisits Britannia.

Britannia mines, Howe Sound, B.C., were again the scene of disaster last Saturday. A "missed" hole was struck by a drill and Mila Conkovick was killed by the explosion which followed. Three others were injured and removed to hospital.

Secure the best whisky—"B.C. Special"—for the least money. Made in B. C. for particular people. Sold everywhere. Ask for it.

SELECTED SHOCKS FOR SOMNOLENT SOPHISTS

Current Cant Castigated By Caustic Candor And Criticism

A Diversified Comment On Conceits Of The Passing Show

[By W. M. C.]

From an editorial in the Spokesman Review: "In no land has the increase in the cost of living since 1904 been so great as in Canada. It seems strange that this should be so in a relatively young country; but it is accounted for through abnormal prosperity having bred reckless extravagance and through overgrowth of the cities at the expense of production or real values." "Abnormal prosperity" is good! I think it would be quite safe to offer one million dollars reward to anyone who could produce a specimen of "abnormal prosperity" found within Canada for several decades. However, it is "up to" the workers to keep their eye upon the increase in the cost of living. There is little sign of their wages increasing in comparison.

Saying Nothing Impudently.

Listen to the following "Trustees of God," as they dispense knowledge before the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations: J. P. Morgan on stand. Question: "What is your opinion regarding the causes of poverty? Answer: "I haven't any." August Belmont on stand. Question; "To what extent are directors responsible for labor conditions?" Answer: "Altogether too large a question." Yet these fellows are supposed to obtain their great wealth through the brilliancy of their brain-power. Nit! It just happened. The fool workers wanted to give the wealth they possessed to someone, as they had so much themselves, they didn't know what to do with it all. And these ducks happened to be on the spot.

Those Abominable Unions.

Before the same commission, another genius let drop a few gems, which deserve attention. J. V. Patterson, president of the Seattle Dry Dock and Construction Company, on the stand: "Unions are an abomination. They are a gang of miscreants. It is coming to a civil war, and we are ready to fight." This "guinea" acknowledged under cross-examination, that the employers of the State of Washington were unionized; that their organization was affiliated with national employers' organizations, and that the main purpose of the organizations was to prevent the organization of the workers. He further denounced the union boycott; but confessed sending circulars asking a boycott on firms employing union labor. He also abused the unions for entering politics; but confessed that the employers' association did. This tolerant and broad-minded "gentleman" deserves our kindest regards and best wishes. With a little more polish, he might even pass for a church warden.

The Old Order Changeth.

Many of our "sacred institutions" are in the melting-pot these days, among them being our school-system. Vocational training—half from the text-book, and half in the shop—is taking the place of the old system of "cramming" from books. People are beginning to recognize that half of the word laboratory is made up of labor; that the method of "learning by doing" is much preferable to that of learning by "stuing"; that the life of school can be combined with the school of life. The idea that school-work must be an economic burden upon the community, is an ancient and dishonorable error, especially in rural districts, where flowers and market-stuffs can be grown. In the cities, however, under the present system of private ownership of industries, an obstacle arises in the form of labor-unions, who can give perfectly good reasons why their trades should not be over-run with graduates from vocational schools; and this bstacle will remain until the system of ownership is changed. As matters stand to-day, the schools are giving a bow-and-arrow education in an age of 42-centimeter guns.

High Cost of Giving.

In the U.S., in 1914, the statistics of 21 organized charities show that they handled 1,953,651 dollars; and that only 831,023 dollars went to the needy in food, coal, and clothing. The rest cials went in salaries, office expenses, and investigations. Some of the salaries of the "C.O.S." officials are as follows:—E. T. Devine, as secretary of society, $1,000, and as director of school of philantrophy, 5,000; W. T. Persons, director of general work, $6,000; L. Vieller, director of department for improvement of social conditions, $7,000; subordinates, from $2,500 to $500. This is a sure method of "curing by giving of the soul and spirit."

STANDARD UNION WAGE RATE.

Councillor Welsh Secures Renewal of Last Year's Council Decision.

Councillor Welsh, of South Vancouver municipality, a member of the Plumbers' union, and a delegate to Vancouver Trades and Labor council, has again justified the confidence imposed in him by the unionists and electorate of his ward. Last week he succeeded in having a resolution passed by the council renewing last year's decision to adopt a $3 per day of eight hours as the minimum wage for laborers in the municipality. In addition the standard union rate of wages will be paid to all other trades employed. At a time when Vancouver alderman are figuring out how cheaply they can get employees to work, under war-time and other excuses, it might be just as well for the central labor body to note the benefit to be derived from having direct representation in the council chamber, as is the case in South Vancouver.

WORK CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA ARE VARIED

Periodical Report of Special Correspondent Gives Reliable News

Mining Conditions Bad All Round; Some Trades Much Activity

[In view of the continuous inquiries which reach The Federationist as to employment conditions in Australia, we have made arrangements with our spiecial correspondent over there—Mr. W. Francis Ahern—to send periodical reports on labor conditions for the benefit of those of our readers who may be thinking of emigrating to Australia; and also as a matter of general interest. The following report received by us this week gives a very thorough account of the conditions prevailing over a very wide territory in an extensive variety of trades and occupations. —Editor, Federationist.]

Special Australian Correspondent.

SYDNEY, N.S.W., May 24.—Following up my special report to The Federationist as published in the issue of March 26 last, I here append another report as to the state of the Australian labor market. I can vouch for the particulars contained herein, as they come from the most reliable sources and are given out as the result of careful investigation and searching, by government officials; the various union officials, and a care ful investigation by myself.

Demand For Labor Less.

The demand for labor is slightly less than last reported. This is due mainly to the fact that the transports have been all fitted up, and the large amount of labor absorbed for this work has been curtailed, and many have been thrown on to their own resources and private firms. Plasterers report an increase in the number of unemployed, and a further increase may be looked for with the winter coming on. The government works in N.S. Wales are making the best possible arrangement in working the men 5 days per week, to allow for the employment of a number of those who would be otherwise unemployed.

Boot Trade Good: Clothing Bad.

Boot trades report over 1,500 working half time in N.S. Wales, and some 300 completely unemployed. This trade is however improving, as many military orders are coming this way, including a large order of over one million pairs of boots for the Russian army. Several firms, at last investigation report that they are now able to work full time instead of half time. It may be said in boot trades, matters are looking good. In clothing and tailoring trades matters are very bad. Of late, there has been a tendency on the part of employers to use female as against male labor, because of prime cost. However government has stipulated that in all military orders, full labor must be used. Many tailors have gone to the war, because of bad conditions, 300 are completely out of work, and a like number on part time. It is thought that matters will shortly brighten for the clothing trades.

In The Textile Mills.

Cannot get enough hands, and are working full 24 hours, day and night, filling military orders. Government have taken over many mills in Australia for war orders, and running cloth by the mile. Matters were never better in this branch of the trade, the bad part is that they cannot get enough hands to fill the war orders. This is the best report I have to date.

Engineering and Metal Trades.

Reports from 30 firms, employing over 10,000 hands all told, report that conditions are better than last reported. Railway car and wagon builders are very busy filling government orders for new rolling stock. General engineering remains about the same. Iron trades are busy, and secretary of that union says outlook is good and will hold in that condition for some time to come. Electric trades report about the same as former union—that is, better than last report, and that prospects look good for some time to come yet.

Baking and Milling.

Baking trades are slightly below normal, and some unemployment exists. In the flour milling departments there is also some unemployment, and things do not look as good as they might in this direction, owing to the scarcity of grain for milling. The secretary of the Mill Employees' union reports a busy month, but that future prospects, owing to drought in the country districts, is not as good as it might be.

Meat Packing Busy.

In the meat packing trade there is increased activity, owing to the large war orders. I think there is likely to be better times ahead for meat packers, owing to the fact that the men have decided to fill only a certain number of tins to a day's work. Of late weeks they have been speeding up, but it has been found that employers have been putting the screw on a little too much, and are trying to get enforced labor conditions into the men. The men have now ordered a speed-down, and this will mean that more will be employed, and there should be a shortage in this direction before long—about 30 per cent. Regarding cold storage trades, there is a number out of work, owing to the export of meat being practically at a standstill. But it is thought that shipments will be made to England shortly for war purposes, when there will be plenty of work going for the men. Slightly less unemployment in leather trades, with fair prospects.

Printers, Shipping, Woodworking.

Matters are looking better among printers than last reported. Many firms report better conditions, though there is still some part time employment being worked to absorb men out of work. Shipbuilding and repairing re-

(Continued from Page Three.)

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FRIDAY ..... JUNE 4, 1915

THE AVENUE THEATRE meeting last Friday evening, when the proposed new Workmen's Compensation act was discussed by Attorney -general W. J. Bowser and John Harrington of the Socialist Party of Canada, was the best meeting which has been held in public for a long tim for the discussion of an important public question. Both protagonists were masters of the subject from their respective points of view, and presented their arguments with fine oratorical skill combined with keen and incisive reasoning. The result was, they held their audience of 1,600—mostly working men—for three hours without a single interruption.

COMPENSATION ACT MEETING LAST FRIDAY

* * * *

The reason for that was the keen personal interest which the subject has for working men, and the thoroughly practical way in which it was handled by the speakers. Mr. Harrington's masterly criticism, the keen judgment with which he detected the faults of the act, and the sledge-hammer common sense way in which he pointed out how they might be eradicated, were both a delight and surprise. Many had expected that he might only deal with the question from the purely abstract and academic point of view, and were amazed at the eminently practical suggestions which he made for the improvement of the act.

* * * *

One of the chief points of interest which the meeting has for the labor movement is, that Mr. Harrington's argument denotes a broadening stage in the mental attitude of the socialist party, towards the essentially practical problems of working class life as it has to be lived from day to day. It suggests a definite change from that concept of things which regards human life and destiny as something which will right itself by a process of mathematical fatalism in the dim and distant ultimate.

NANAIMO'S LATEST DISASTER will serve to consolidate the opinion, which is steadily growing among the general public, that the conditions under which mining is carried on on Vancouver Island are just about as iniquitous as the labor movement has so often said they are. Just what precisely caused the explosion of last week, may be brought out at the inquest to-day—or, it may not. If that depends on some of the officers of the department of mines—bearing in mind the South Wellington inquest—there is reason to have doubts on the point.

DISASTER AT NANAIMO LAST WEEK

* * * *

It is not going too far to say that the whole matter of mine administration in British Columbia constitutes one of the worst industrial scandals on this continent. The secret of it we believe to lie in an insidious collusion between the government and the coal mine owners. That impression was only too well supported by the incidents of the late strike, when the government, to all intents and purposes, placed its entire administrative and executive machinery at the disposal of the owners.

* * * *

Now, the pretence is being made that by interning the "alien enemy" strike-breakers, some measure of amends will be made ot the men who sustained the brunt of that fight. Facts which have transpired since the internment order was issued, do not bear out that it will make much difference to the union men. It is stated for example, that out of twenty new men taken on by the Western Fuel company last Saturday, only one was a resident. The rest were Montenegrins, Italians and Greeks who had never been seen round Nanaimo before. So much for the statement that internment of "alien enemies" will improve chances of employment for British miners in Nanaimo.

CONSCRIPTION AGAIN occupies a foremost place among the chief public questions of the day in Britain. Just in passing, it is noteworthy that the agitation has returned simultaneously with the formation of the new coalition government. The cabinet now contains several former Conservative ministers, whose party has always been more openly sympathetic to the idea of compulsory military service than the Liberals. The Conservatives are also perhaps more thoroughly representative of that element in the British nation which has the biggest material considerations at stake in the war. It contains more of the landed aristocracy and old feudal stock combined with the commercial classes than does the Liberal party. Ancient lordship, although modified somewhat by modern considerations, makes the class look upon the workers as its hereditary vassals, charged with the defence of its life and property. And although that instinct might have fallen into the background during long years of foreign peace, yet it may be fairly assumed that the unprecedented and alarming incidents of the past ten months have revived the feeling.

COMPULSION AGAIN URGED IN BRITAIN

* * * *

Be that as it may, the demand for conscription again seems to be strong, with an increased number of advocates to count on. We believe we have said before, that we do not think the plan for enforced military service will be favorably accepted in Britain; and we still hold to that view. The facts as we see them are thus. According to all available information it would appear that since the beginning of the war about 1,000,000 men have voluntarily enlisted—some of them for involuntary reasons. The rate of enlistment seems to have slackened, hence the renewed talk of compulsion. Now the majority of the eligible men who have not enlisted may be divided roughly into two or three well-defined classes. There are those who would not enlist, for various reasons, from personal choice, although they would not resist compulsion with anything more than sullen looks. There must also be those who, from motives of conscientious conviction, have not joined, and who would by at least passive resistance refuse to compulsorily serve. Then there must be those who are either deterred by domestic responsibilities, or who are engaged in the manufacture of war munitions. Broadly speaking the non-enlisted are divided into those classes.

* * * *

The munition makers must be counted out as unavailable. The domestic responsibility class is not now so large as it was before a system of allowances and pensions was adopted which satisfied those to whom that matter was the only objection. That leaves the mass of the unenlisted composed of those who would sullenly accept, and those who would openly resist by verbal protest and any other means which seemed effective. The question then comes, what real use for active service would either of the two latter classes—whom we believe to constitute the majority of the unenlisted—be? They would both be unwilling and practically driven by force of circumstances to go into a proposition which neither had any natural inclination for Incidentally, bearing in mind the peculiarity of human nature, it might very likely turn out that the sullenly acquiescent, on the first application of unwelcome compulsion, would develope a surprising stubbornness. So, for our part, we are brought to the opinion that the day which brings compulsory military service in Britain will be a mistake. It will be a day from which the more far-sighted and deep thinking men will be able to derive no real satisfaction. By that time, if one may read the signs aright, there will be considerable organized feeling in all the countries involved, that the war has lasted long enough. The sagacity of international financiers and diplomats will recognize that too. They know what the next development might be, and, not being desirous of seing their debtors reduced from corporate and financially responsible entity to political chaos, will most likely step in to save the life of the goose which lays the golden eggs.

THAT COMMISSION which is to inquire into the mining disaster which occurred at South Wellington February 9th last, ought to consist of more than one person, even though that one is such an eminent jurist as Mr. Justice Murphy. So far as we know he would be quite a useful member of the commission, inasmuch as his legal experience would enable him to bring forth evidence from witnesses, and to separate the facts from the fancies and fabrications. But what does he know about coal mining, beyond what is known by "the man in the street?" What does he know about the technical factors which will be involved in the inquiry? What can he know about the essentially practical facts of the case? Virtually he can know nothing, because he has not had practical experience. And no matter how genuine his intentions might be, he could not be certain of being able to protect himself from the lies, regarding technical points, which might be foisted on him by reason of his ignorance of the practical conditions prevailing in coal mines.

A PRACTICAL MINER SHOULD BE APPOINTED

* * * *

Mr. Justice Murphy's usefulness in such an inquiry will begin and end end with his ability to question witnesses and weigh their evidence. What is needed to assist him, and to give the miners and general public of the province more confidence in the commission is, that at least one fully experienced and practical coal miner shall be a member of the board. More than that, he should be a union miner, to ensure that he was in no way subservient to the influence of the coal company. If the government then wishes to appoint a third member of the board, let it do so. The chances are that the subsequent majority report would smooth over the facts brought forth in the inquiry. But the verbatim report of the evidence would contain some invaluable data bearing upon the illegal and callous methods of operation which have made the coal mines of Vancouver Island a bye word all over America; and which have helped to make the mining record of British Columbia one of the most deathly in the world. That is about the most the workers can expect from the inquiry anyway.

* * * *

One point should be kept well to the front. It is this. According to the press reports of the inquest, Mr. Thomas Graham, Chief Inspector of Mines, deliberately attempted to allow the jury to be misled as to the facts involved. If the report was correct, he stands condemned by his own evidence. The danger in the coming inquiry is, that the evidence sought and extracted, may be too closely confined to the technical explanation of the causes of the disaster; and Graham's behavior at the recent inquest may be reduced to a matter of secondary importance. That is another reason for having a real miner on the board of inquiry. We said at the time of the inquest, and we repeat it now, that if Mr. Graham's evidence was reported correctly he should be dismissed from office and prosecuted for attempting to defeat the ends of justice. And we want to see the coming inquiry establish either the truth or falsity of our claim. We believe that the only way this can be done beyond question or doubt is. for Acting-Premier Bowser to enlarge the commission so as to include at least one practical coal miner who knows his business, and is not afraid to ask awkward questions until he brings out the truth.

GERMANY'S REPLY to the protest of the United States against the sinking of the Lusitania is just the kind of answer which might be expected from that quarter. It is the retort of him who has nothing material to lose. Its chief effect will most likely be to draw attention to the comparatively weak military forces of the United States, and thus to strengthen the hands of those in that country who are anxious to see it enter more seriously into the modern race for armaments. Germany has no merchant ships on the sea to lose.

GERMANY TO UNITED STATES

* * * *

The United States navy could not make much difference since the coast of Germany could not be more effectually blockaded than it is. So that a declaration of war would hardly benefit the United States. On the other hand it might at least temporarily produce a condition closely akin to civil war in those parts of the States which are inhabited solely by Germans. The reply is cunning and callous even in its present preliminary stages, and we see no material reason why it should not be more so as the controversy develops. It will add much fuel to the fire of the militarists in the United States.

THE MODERN IDEAL, in the way of education—as the term "education" is understood to-day by the "educated" classes on this continent, consists chiefly in the acquisition and firm establishment of the idea that the man who works with his hands is at best, but a secondary consideration in the scheme of things. The direction of industry, and not the performance of it, is looked upon as the all-important part of producing the world's daily necessities. And thereby young men acquire an instinctive contempt for that class of society which is engaged in the actual work of doing the world's work.

OCCASIONAL REMINDER IS GOOD

* * * *

For that reason, if none other, it is a good and salutary thing that, every now and again, those who work with their hands should demonstrate to the world in practical fashion that they are are the real basis of the industrial and social structure of our time—much as "our time" may affect to dispise them. Nothing so astounds "society" as to see the calloused fist of the proletariat thrust through the thin crust of elegant insincerity which separates it from the raw reality which lies at the back of things. Both ends of the proposition know too little about each other. If it were not so, neither would be in existence.

Mr. G. G. McGeer, who finds himself in the peculiar position of having persuaded some of the people of Richmond electoral district to take him seriously enough to adopt him as the Liberal candidate for the coming provincial elections, said last Tuesday night, in speaking at an entertainment, that after the election the Liberals would be in power in British Columbia "for the next thirty or forty years." Ten years of McBride has been bad enough, but this new prospect—well it just couldn't be done. No country could survive such an ordeal. Besides, the boodle would not last that long.

EVERY WESTERN CITY, almost, both in Canada and the United States, has its stock of "Professors" and "Captains" and "Doctors," and whatnot, in the way of local notabilities carrying sham or comic opera prefixes to their names. They are the pathetically amusing survival of all that was compassed by the term "academic" in the days of the "wild and woolly west." Things have changed so much that now they seem to be standing shivering in nothing more than their shirts, amid the new order which has sprung up around them, without their seeming to be aware of the process which has brought about the change. Their titles were never really more than nominal ones, conferred upon them in "Rube" days, when very little toads could agitate big puddles, and when the one-eyed man was King in the Land of the Blind. Yet, even to-day, their prestige still persists in a sort of way by virtue of an indulgent indifference which either does not recognize their charlatanry or else finds them so amusing that it hesitates to deprive itself of the pleasure which it derives from the contemplation of such picturesque antiques.

THEY NEVER WOULD BE MISSED

* * * *

Practically every western—and certainly every western coast—city, has its stock of these mental troglodytes. and in most cases they still exercise quite a considerable influence in local affairs. Not so much because they contribute anything of real or sterling merit to the sum total of social welfare, as on account of their ancient influence, which still persists—if in a somewhat attenuated form—for lack of the necessary ruth to put it out of existence. Their credentials were originally extracted from the immaturity of the backwoods, and, by good rights, should have passed into the limbo of history along with the environment of their origin. But the persistence of senile sentiment continues to protect their doddering survival, despite that subsequent development has long relegated them to the scrap-heap of first experiments. In the outset, when things were crude, they had their uses, and, for lack of better material, were the law-givers and the wise ones of the time. But now, with the coming of contemporary civilization and its concomitant complexity, they should have either the requisite sagacity and good grace to retire, or else be kicked out without the option of a fine.

Vancouver Island—the miner's cemetery.

Premier McBride is reported to have been looking for new markets in Europe for goods canned in British Columbia. He must have a feeling in his bones about what is likely to happen at the coming election.

To save trouble and to expedite matters generally, why not the government appoint a permanent commission to inquire into mining disasters on Vancouver Island? If things go on as they have been doing lately there would be enough work to keep such a body steadily occupied.

Vancouver morning "Sun" in the middle of its front page last Wednesday morning, under the head of "Enlist Now!" has the following to say among other things:

There are hundreds of young men in Vancouver who have no ties to prevent their enlisting. A large number of these are unemployed and unable to find work of any description.

Comment is unneccessary. Such a statement speaks volumes by way of self explanation.

It is announced that Premier McBride will not leave as early on his return journey from England as expected. The best service he could do British Columbia, as part amends for the political monstrosity which has been called his administration, would be to stay away altogether. But perhaps he feels he would like to close his political career with the melancholy pleasure of attending his own funeral.

Mr. D. A. Thomas, the coal magnate, as a thank-offering for his escape from the wreck of the Lusitania, gave a thousand guineas for a box at Mme. Clara Butt's Red Cross concert in the Albert Hall, London, on the night of May 1.

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NEW WESTMINSTER TRADES AND LABOR Council—Meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 8 p. m. in Labor hall. President, C. Cropley; financial secretary, R. A. Stoney; general secretary, W. E. Maiden. P. O. Box 934. The public is invited to attend.

VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets first and third Wednesday, Labor hall, 1424 Government street, at 8 p. m. President, A. S. Wells; secretary, F. Holdridge, Box 803, Victoria, B. C.

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NANAIMO DISASTER AND COMMENT OF U.M.W.A.

(Continued from Page One.)

introduce an element of honesty and fair-dealing into the administrative policy of your government, now, more than ever, is the time to show whether or not you are in earnest.

Up to now it has been "words, words, words.

For God's sake forget politics for once. This is a matter involving the lives of men."

Yours very truly,
ROBERT FOSTER,
President District 28, U. M.W. of A.

A Few Plain Questions.

Other questions that the minister of mines should be compelled to answer relative to the non-enforcement of the Coal Mines Regulation act are as follows:

Why is it that the Jingle Pot mine was allowed to operate with no manholes on their slope until such time as two men were killed? Why was the company not prosecuted for violation of the law?

Why were the officials of the Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Company, Ltd., not prosecuted for violation of the law when they swore in court that they knew of more than one shot being fired at a time?

Why were the officials of the Western Fuel company not prosecuted for violation of the law when they admitted in court that they knew of more than one shot being fired at a time when two men met their death in Protection mine?

Why were the officials of the Pacific Coast Coal company at South Wellington not prosecuted for violation of the law when they sent men into places where there was no timber and the men were fined for not having their timbers handy enough to the face?

Companies and Mining Act.

The Coal Mining Regulations Act is very specific on these points and these questions corroborate the contention of the miners' organization that there are no coal companies on the face of the earth who show such a flagrant disregard for the law as the companies on Vancouver Island. Imagine the futility of an agreement such as the one that now exists at the Western Fuel company. A grievance committee is paid by the company to come to the company office once a month to discuss the grievances of the miners. I have no doubt that the company appreciate any efforts put forth by these men too increase the company's profits. As a general rule good business does not pay its men to assist to reduce its profits, and in my opinion if these men were insisting upon the enforcement of the law the Western Fuel company profits would be reduced about fifty per cent.

Facts of Previous Disasters.

I appeal to the general public to consider very carefully these facts relative to recent disasters which the miners of British Columbia have had to contend with. Some years ago thirty-three lives were snuffed out at Extension mines, and citizens of Nanaimo at public meetings verbally charged the inspector of mines with manslaughter. Then comes the Diamond Vale colliery explosion at Merritt, B. C., in which seven men's lives were sacrificed. The coroner's inquest laid the blame at the door of the department of mines, and a government inquiry was held, but we heard no more about it, and if anybody was prosecuted for violation of the law it must have been secret prosecution.

Then came the "B. North" explosion at Coal Creek, wherein one life was lost. The government inquiry into this disaster, was held some months ago, and so far we have had no report of same, and in my opinion if the man who conducted that inquiry would speak truthfully he would admit that he is waiting for instructions from the minister of mines as to what kind of report he shall issue. Next comes the South Wellington disaster in which nineteen men were drowned like rats in a hole and the disclosures relative to that affair should prohibit chief inspector of mines, Thomas Graham, and inspector John Newton from having anything to do in connection with conducting any inquiry on behalf of the public.

Inspectors Unfitted to Act.

They should also be disqualified from acting in their present capacity in the mining department. Lastly comes the Reserve shaft explosion in which twenty two lives are snuffed out, and unless there is enough pressure brought to bear upon the minister of mines' department, these two men will represent the mining department, on behalf of the general public, at the inquest which is to be held in Nanaimo, on Friday, June the 4th, 1915. In view of the fact that Attorney-General Bowser has stated that Mr. Justice Murphy will conduct the inquiry re the South Wellington disaster, and taking it for granted that Mr. Justice Murphy is not a practical miner, we are confronted with these facts that these inspectors will be the only practical miners there who will be allowed to cross examine witnesses.

Justice To Justice Murphy.

I do not wish it to be conveyed that I am attempting to cast any aspersion upon the ability of Mr. Justice Murphy but rather to convey the fact that he will give a fair and impartial verdict according to the evidence produced at the inquiry. But I do contend that if these inspectors are the only practical miners who are allowed to ask questions from the witnesses, that many questions of vital importance will be left unasked, and it may be the means of defeating the aims of justice in placing the blame on the responsible parties.

Miners Fear Victimization.

Then again the question arises who is going to supply the names of the men to give evidence relative to this disaster? I know that at a public inquiry everyone who has worked in that mine has the right to give evidence if he so desires, but again the question of victimization is confronting the miners and I doubt very much if any man will appear unless he is supoeaned to attend the court and who will be the men to give these names to the Judge. I am confident he does not know the names of the men who worked in these places, but I presume it will be the companies officials and the inspectors of mines that will supply the names.

Concluding Considerations.

In conclusion, permit me to ask the organized labor movement and all other honorable citizens of the province of British Columbia, to endorse the following resolution and to immediately forward same to the minister of mines department, at Victoria, B. C.

Endorse This Resolution.

"Whereas, we believe that the minister of mines department wants to have a fair and impartial inquiry into the causes of the recent disasters on Vancouver Island, and whereas, we believe that the disclosures brought out at the coroner's inquest in Nanaimo re the South Wellington disaster absolutely disqualify chief inspector of mines, Mr. Thomas Graham and inspector John Newton from taking any part in conducting the affairs of the public in these matters.

Therefore be it resolved that we urgently request the Hon. W. J. Bowser, Attorney-General, acting minister of mines, to appoint one man from the miners' organization and one from the coal companies to assist Mr. Justice Murphy in conducting these inquiries in order that the blame shall be placed upon the responsible parties. And be it further resolved that we consider any other kind of inquiry into these affairs would be an injustice to the citizens of the province of British Columbia."

Yours very truly,
ROBT. FOSTER,
Organizer District No. 28 U.M.W. of A.

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BEER AND BOMBSHELLS.

General Federation of Trade Unions on Recent Charges Against Workmen.

The quarterly report of the General Federation of Trade Unions in Great Britain has this to say in the foreword by W. A. Appleton, the secretary of the management committee, upon the subject of workmen charged with insobriety and other intemperances:

"During the quarter under review the whole labor movement has been bitterly assailed and grossly slandered by persons who, having no knowledge of methods of production or of working-class lives and methods of thought, have sought to place upon the trade union movement the responsibility for any failure or remissness in the supply of munitions of war.

The hostile critics have assumed that, because one or two men here and there played the fool and discredited themselves, the whole movement suffered from similar vices. They have talked round this assumption on every possible occasion, and have sought to use the extraordinary circumstances of the moment to secure legislation which, whatever its aim, must have the effect of further restraining individual liberty.

With the lessons of the past in their minds trade unionists should be very careful about accepting legislation which, while ostensibly declared to be in the interests of morality, is actually endangering the interests of the individual. If Great Britain is to succeed her people must be free to think for themselves, and to act upon their own initiative even in matters of personal conduct.

Whenever you can consistently do so, when you require anything you see advertised in The Federationist, be sure and explain that you saw his ad. in The Federationist, and that it was because of that that he is patronized. Don't forget this. ***

FAILED TO PAY WAGES.

Miners Should Be Careful of Pretentious Mining Co. Operating at Pitt Lake

"Millions In Copper Are Ready In Viking!" runs a scare-line head in Tuesday morning's issue of The Sun, and then follows a half-column boost of all the wonderful things a new manager, in the person of Mr. James Malcolm, is doing and about to do with the Viking mine, at Pitt Lake. While the name of the company itself is not mentioned on this occasion many victims of the same outfit will remember that last year more than a dozen employees suffered a loss in wages ranging up to $100 apiece, amounts still unpaid and no evident chance of collection. Lest the same form of swindle may be attempted again this year, under a new guise, The Federationist desires to warn prospective miners to be on the lookout.

Brotherhood of Man.

Total Stranger—Pardon me, sir, if I take the liberty of removing that blonde hair from your shoulder. I was once caused considerable annoyance by just such a trifle.

WORK CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA ARE VARIED

(Continued from page one.)

port a busy month. Unemployment in this heading is considerably reduced since last report. In furniture trades conditions generally are better than last reported. Labor is in fair demand in cabinet making branches, but conditions are bad in wood-turning, machining and polishing branches, and bedding makers. In latter branches however, improvement is looked for shortly. Saw milling industry reports conditions "bad" and part time is being worked extensively.

Bricks and Jewelry.

There is more unemployment in the brickmaking than last reported, and there will be no better prospects till winter is over. Generally this trade is working 4 days a week to try and take in unemployment. In the brick-carting section there is considerable number of men out of work, and many are going to the war as drivers in gun-corps and army medical corps. Jewelry industry is bad; tallow and boiling down works shew some improvement; and there is considerable unemployment among water-front workers and longshoremen.

Government Public Works.

This item is a large one with the N.S. Wales government and reports are highly satisfactory, inasmuch as men have been increased to 5 days a week instead of 4 days as before. Matters, however, look brighter for government workers, as the N.S. Wales government has announced that it will put 50,000,000 dollars worth of work in hand in a couple of months time, such as large railways in the country, Sydney suburban railway, and Sydney under-ground railway. This will call for many men—it is asserted that 20,000 men will be needed for the work when it gets a fair start. I will keep you posted as regards this work later on. When it comes along, we will have a boom time, as general works all round of a private nature will go ahead at a lightning speed. It is said on good authority that within a year, N.S. Wales will be one of the busiest spots south of the line, as much capital is being held up by private firms waiting the government works as above to get started.

Metalliferous Mining Slack.

Silver mines report 2,200 men working full time, 2,300 on part time and 4,500 out of work altogether. As last stated matters here are in a bad way, owing to the fact that Germany was the largest buyer of our silver oxides and other metals from Broken Hill. The government however is doing the best it can for the men. In other trades at Broken Hill, as apart from the silver mine industry, though depending on them in an indirect way there are 540 on part time and 1,650 out of work altogether. Added to this must be noted that since last August over 5,300 people have left Broken Hill owing to loss of work, with the closing of the mines.

Coal Mining Also Bad.

Matters are very bad in Newcastle mining district just at present, and it is likely that the government will have to start relief works for the men. Since the last coal strike has been won and the men have gone back to work at the five mines on strike, it has had the effect of displacing others and several thousands of miners are out of work. Matters do not seem to look any too bright for the future, owing to the fact that large contracts that usually went to this field have been secured by eastern U. S. A. fields, such as Alabama and Virginia—since Panama cut has been opened. We used to do a large trade with the west coast of South America, but the eastern states seem to have got this, owing to being able to place coal cheaper on the west coast than we can. In other directions in Newcastle there is also considerable unemployment.

General Situation Summed Up.

In New South Wales, as a result of exhaustive enquiries, I find that there are at last reports 41,600 men on part time and 5,840 out of work altogether. Matters would have been much worse, except for the fact that 21,300 have gone to the war from all trades. Matters are looking better, since when last reported, we had 11,050 completely out of work, we now have but half that amount out of work.

I will issue my next authentic report to British Columbia readers in a month's time from now.

W. FRANCIS AHERN.

Congress Committee Meets.

The central labor Trades and Labor Congress of Canada convention committee held a meeting in Labor Temple on Wednesday evening, to hear reports of sub-committees. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, June 16th, at 7 o'clock.

Drink "B.C. Special" and avoid distasteful after effects. ***

"Percy struck Harold with the sugar tongs at the club lawst night."

"Shocking!"

"Oh, very. Both were under the influence of strong tea."

BASEBALL
(Northwestern League, 1915)
Vancouver
VS.
Aberdeen
June 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

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Spencer's Dept. Store (Cashier's office, Information Bureau and Exchange Desks), near Richards.
Wood's Pharmacy—Seymour Street corner.
Campbell's Pharmacy — Granville Street corner.
Owl Drugstore—Main Street corner.
Harrison's Drug Store—Near Carrall street
MAIN STREET—
Browne & Beaton, Druggists, Pender street corner.
Law's Drugstore — Harris street corner.
CORDOVA STREET—
Owl Drugstore — Abbott street corner
POWELL STREET—
Owl Drugstore — Donlevy street corner.
DENMAN STREET—(English Bay)
Torrence Drugstore — Davie street corner.
GRANVILLE STREET—
Hudson's Bay Co. All departments Georgia street corner.
Gordon Drysdale's (Notion Counter) near Dunsmuir.
Owl Drugstore — Dunsmuir street.
Harrison's Drugstore — Robson street corner.
Browne & Beaton, druggists, Davie street corner.
Pill Box Drugstore — Nelson street corner
Law's Drugstore — Davie street corner
Harrison's Drugstore — Pender street corner.
FAIRVIEW—
Harrison's Drugstore — Granville street and Seventh avenue.
MOUNT PLEASANT—
Law's Drugstore — Near Broadway
GRANDVIEW—
Campbell's Drugstore — Broadway and Commercial Drive.
STANLEY PARK—
Mitchell's Confectionery— Georgia street entrance.

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Our entire stock is selling at about

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STREET CARMENS' AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE

Mass Meeting of Men Held At Midnight Last Saturday

Company Invites Employees To Discuss Further Arrangements

Pioneer Division 101 have received official notification from the B. C. Electric Railway company that the present agreement to which they are a party terminated on the 30th inst.

A mass meeting was called at midnight Saturday 29th ulto., and was largely atended by the street railway men of the above division. Much enthusiasm and a solid front being shown.

An appointment was made, or rather an invitation was extended by the officials of the B. C. Electric Railway company to discusss further arrangements on the 4th inst. to representatives of Victoria, Westminster and Vancouver locals, who will be there o. t.

New Jitney Regulations.

Since we do not know at time of writing, what effect the insurance by-laws will have on the number of "jitneys" running we cannot say how many will continue to provide the means of transportation for some of our friends. We say friends advisedly. If a strain of sarcasm is noticeable so much the better.

One thing the "jitneys" have surely done, they have revealed "friends" and enemies alike. We have carefully noted and know them. In many cases individually.

Perchance the aforementioned gentry were but showing their hostility and demonstrating their independence against our employers and not us as slaves. However, we are educated and will wait events. God we ha paid the price. But of this tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.

Unionists Who Use Jitneys.

The "Jitneys" were a temporary proposition. They interfered with our jobs. This may be of no particular interest to the general public, but it should be of grave interest to the general labor movement here. There is never a let up in the beseeching of other trades for us to buy the union labelled goods. Our secretary's correspondence file is also full of it. Trades unionists engaged in manufacturing union labelled wares cannot appeal to non-union men to support them in employment. We observe the union label and we observe all of the traditions of a labor movement to assist those of other crafts in the movement.

When we see barbers, bartenders, letter carriers, typographical men, and a host of other tradesmen with union cards in their pockets patronizing "jitney" busses, we wonder what their conception of duty is in best serving their own interest.

Basing the statement upon the principles of trades unionism there is not a trade unionist in Vancouver who has any more right to ride a "jitney" bus than I have to wear a scab uniform, buy scab tobacco, or patronize a scab barber shop, or an acadamy (with apologies to art) that teaches tonsorial deftness.

If the trade union movement of Vancouver will carry out the principles of trade unionism, the "jitney," insurance or no insurance, will not threaten us with a reduction of wage as was forcasted in your editorial recently.

Cut out the use of the auto-busses and leave us to handle the bosses. If we need you in our business we will surely make it known. Meantime help those who help you.

Carmen's Wages and Jitneys.

Regular men have been relegated to the extra list and the extra men thrust further back than they were three years ago with the consequent loss of many dollars, making it a pointed personal issue. Some are worse off than the unemployed, as they pay $1.00 a month union dues, living with that confidence and courage that Sir Richard McBride would have 'em.

The time is propitious and favorable to say that it may be up to us to appoint committees to visit every trades union in the city and not wholly rely upon enthusing the labor movement through the delegates of the Vancouver Trades and Labor council.

I hope to see the officers of our local go the limit in protesting our jobs against this non-union scab means of transportation. Providing the "jitney" insurance by-law does'nt do it before hand.

T. C.

Omar Khayyam To Date.

"A Book of Verses underneath the Bough,
"B.C. Special," a Loaf of Bread—and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!"

Mechanics for Britain.

Mr. Geo. N. Barnes, labor member in the British parliament, and Mr. W. Wyndham, representing the British Board of Trade, who have been sent to Canada to secure skilled mechanics for the British ammunition factories, are expected to reach Vancouver on June 21. For the past week they have been in Ottawa.

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DON'T ARGUE!

CON JONES Sells Fresh Tobacco.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

American Socialist Writer Says It Benefits Labor.

[By Carl D. Thompson.]

Public ownership universally results in improved conditions of labor. The change from private ownership to public ownership of public utilities wherever it has occurred has resulted immediately and progressively in better wages, shorter hours and improved conditions for labor.

Examples in Practice.

For example: New Zealand, after establishing the government ownership of railroads, has steadily raised the wages of the employees since 1896, amounting in some cases to as much as 60 per cent. ("Story of New Zealand," Parsons.) Switzerland, upon taking over her railways, raised the wages 15 per cent. ("Railways, Trusts and the People," p. 365.) The average wages in Germany under government ownership are $45 per year higher than in England under private ownership.

Working Hours Less.

Similarly as to hours of labor. Only after strenuous struggles on the part of some progressive leaders in congress did we finally secure a federal law limiting the hours of railway employees to sixteen hours per day on our railways here in the United States. In Italy, on the government roads, ten hours is the limit; in Switzerland eight; in South Wales eight; in Prussia, eleven for general employees, for switchmen eight, and engineers ten. One may almost say that the eight-hour day is being established everywhere under government ownership, for it has already come in many departments (in all departments in some countries), and the tendency everywhere is in that direction.

Other improvements in labor conditions secured as a direct result of public ownership are more rest days and vacations, better accident insurance, sick benefits, and especially old-age pensions.

In New Zealand the government builds houses and rents them to its employees, while in Prussia the government has built more than 40,800 houses which it rents to its employees at reduced rates, thus helping them to keep down the high cost of living.

It is clear and undeniable, therefore, that public ownership improves for labor. It is not enough to argue that wages are lower in Prussia than in America, for that is not the question. The question is does the worker get better wages in Prussia under public than they did under private ownership? And the answer is—he does.

FARMERS WILL FLOCK TO MARKET OPENING

Many Producers Signify Intention to Take Stalls on Saturday, June 5th.

Opening day at the City Market tomorrow will be something new in the life of that institution, for the indications which have come to Manager Harry A. Edgett are that practically every line of market produce will be represented in the stalls and the stalls will be occupied by the farmers themselves.

Since the new management took office farmers in the Fraser Valley and in other producing quarters have taken a new interest in the market, as can be assumed from the number of enquiries reaching Mr. Edgett. Farmers from Mission, Cloverdale, Chilliwack, Ladner and various other points intimate that they will be on hand with produce. A few of the lines of produce that will be for sale as outlined by Manager Edgett are: Meat, fish, butter, eggs, honey, home-made marmalade, candy and salad dressing, smoked and cured fish, plants and nursery stock.

"We want 5,000 people here tomorrow," said Mr. Edgett to The Federationist yesterday. "We are offering inducements to the farmers to come here in person and the Vancouver public should show their appreciation by patronizing them."

WORTHY SUBJECTS.

Rev. Speight to Deliver Series of Addresses During This Month.

"Peace as well as war requires preparation. It requires more preparation, because behind the forces working for war stands the great organized mechanism of states, and peace can only be secured by a resolute, voluntary and continued effort of the people. If but one tithe of the disinterested devotion, brain power and prodigal expenditure of energy and wealth utilized in the perfecting and accumulation of engines of human destruction had been contributed during the past few years to the removal of the causes which were hurrying Europe into the catastrophe, an informed and enlightened public opinion would have prevented its occurrence. Shall we not take a lesson from the bitter past and the no less bitter present."—Rev. Harold Speight, M. A., Victoria, B. C.

The Rev. Speight will deliver four special addresses in the Unitarian church, Vancouver, as follows:

June 6—"Origins of the War."
June 13—"Democracy and Diplomacy."
June 20—"Profits and Patriotism."
June 27—"The Aim: Balance of Power or Federation of Europe."

Service at 11:00 a. m. Visitors are asked to be present from the commencement of the service. A Victoria unionist and reader of The Federationist writes that the same addresses delivered in Victoria were well worth hearing.

U. S. PUBLIC PRINTER HERE.

Distinguished Member of I. T. U. Returns East via Canadian Rockies.

Cornelius Ford, public printer of the government printing office of the United States of America, and Daniel V. Chisholm, superintendent of the same office, spent a day in Vancouver during this week. After visiting several cities en route from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles and San Francisco, where they took in the Fair, the distinguished member of the I.T.U. reached Vancouver on Monday evening's Seattle boat and left for St. Paul via the C.P.R. on Tuesday afternoon. President Pettipiece and Secretary Neelands of No. 226, made good use of the opportunity to show the visitors the natural beauties of Stanley Park, Marine Drive and other attractions so characteristic of Vancouver. It was their first visit to the Canadian West and they both expressed themselves as amazed at the wonderful growth of such a young city and country. They were looking forward expectantly to their trip through the Canadian Rockies. In the opinion of Messrs. Ford and Chisholm the Canadian building at the Fair was one of the best attractions on the grounds, and their opinion of the Canadians' boosting qualities was rather flattering.

COMPENSATION BILL REQUIRES AMENDING

(Continued from page 1)

ering consequent on the injury, the expenses of the medical treatment, the loss of 45 per cent of his wages during the time incapacitated, if over two weeks, and also the burden of going through life maimed or disfigured, and the employers bear the payment of 55 per cent of the wages that would be otherwise lost to the worker. This is surely a very one-sided division of the burden.

Further Exemptions.

Besides the exemptions of outworkers and casual laborers, from the provisions of the act, there are further exemptions, the men and women engaged in the distribution of commodities, outside of railroad workers, are practically shut out, and it is doubtful if women workers are included in the act at all, as in the interpretation of the term "Workman" there is no mention of female labor.

Another large section of the workers, the Longshoremen, are also evidently unprovided for, as they are not mentioned in Schedule 1 or Schedule 2.

Evidently, recognizing that the majority of those injured in the following of industrial occupations, were excluded from part one of the act, the framer of the act inserted what is known as Part Two. This is supposed to deal with the old practice of the Common Law in compensation cases, and deals with contributory negligence, as regarding accidents that are not provided for in part one of the act, presumably the exemptions that have been already mentioned.

And Mr. Bowser, speaking at Victoria, said: Contributory negligence on the part of the workman, will not hereafter bar his recovery of damages, but will, however, be taken into consideration in the assessment of damages."

Any one, being at all conversant with the contributory negligence clause will, however, know how this works. It is an easy matter for the employer to find some hook to hang the fault upon and in this case it would be upon the injured, as it would be cheaper for the employer and this is the clause that practically all compensation cases have been fought upon in this province under the old act, and should be eliminated in any act that is supposed to provide compensation.

The Saskatchewan Act passed in the year 1910, provides that compensation shall be paid, whether or no the injured workman was a party to the accident by his contributory negligence or not. And while this clause in part two, may seem to be a forward step, it will only make for more litigation in cases where the accident does not come under part one of the act, as lawyers will have some show of getting something for their trouble, even though the fact is proved that there was contributory negligence.

MINERS GIVE $7,500 RELIEF.

Crow's Nest Situation Requires Federal Government Attention.

At the meeting of the newly elected executive of District 18, United Mine Workers of America—in the Crow's Nest Valley—it was decided to relieve some of the most urgent cases by distributing the sum of $7,500. The board realized the hopelessness of attempting to establish any thoroughly adequate scheme, and sent the following message to Premier Borden in Ottawa:

"R. L. Borden, Premier, Ottawa.

"The unemployed question in Eastern British Columbia and Alberta, is a matter with which we, the executive board of District 18, U. M. W. of A. has been seriously concerned, especially in view of the fact that the coal miners represent the large majority of workers in the localities under our jurisdiction, we would respectfully state that we have from time to time received promises from the provincial governments that they would cope with the situation, but nothing practical has been accomplished. We are firmly of the opinion that your government should take such steps that will at least meet the urgency of the situation.

A. J. CARTER, Secretary.

Ex-Officer Sick.

The many friends of W. B. Prescott, ex-president of the International Typographical union, and a former resident of Toronto, will learn with regret that he has been laid low with a paralytic stroke in Chicago, and now lies at death's door, his physicians holding out no hope whatever for his recovery.

Lecturing Against Prohibition.

Alf. Budden, for sometime the official organizer and lecturer for the Socialist Party of Canada, in the province of Alberta, is now engaged in lecturing on behalf of the anti-prohibition movement in that province.

Two Days "Dropped Prices" in Groceries at

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Friday and Saturday

SUGAR—Large 18-lb sack B. C. with $5.00 order other groceries, only $1.00.

FLOUR FLOUR FLOUR
Five Roses, Robin Hood, Royal Household, Seal of Alberta; 49-lb. sack. Only delivered with other groceries $1.95
Egg Sale—Genuine locals for 30c. dozen, 3 dozen for ..... 85c.
25c. Cheese, per lb. ..... 20c.
Canned Vegetables,.. 3 for 25c.
25c. Canned Salmon ..... 10c.
40c. Fancy Creamery Butter, 3lbs for $1.00
HURRY HURRY HURRY
Strawberries, 3 large boxes, locals ..... 25c.
TEA—Celebrated Edgett 40 c. value; only ..... 25c.
COFFEE—Mocha and Java, 40c. seller; fresh ground, only lb. 25c.
Del Monte Celebrated Canned Fruits, 35c. values for 25c
Polish—The celebrated Polishine, 25c cans, special, 3 for 25c
Old Dutch Cleanser, 3 for 25c
Pork and Beans (Heintz) 10c

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Children's, sizes 8 to 10	65c.	75c.
Youths' and Misses, sizes 11 to 13	75c.	85c.
Boys', sizes 1 to 5	85c.	95c.
Women's, sizes 3 to 7	85c.	$1.00
Men's, sizes 6 to 12	95c.	$1.25

WHITE YACHTING AND TENNIS SHOES—Nobby tread soles, reinforced white bleached soles and uppers with leather insoles.

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Youths' and Misses	$1.15	$1.25
Boys'	$1.25	$1.35
Women's	$1.25	$1.35
Men's'	$1.35	$1.45

WOMEN'S TANGO TENNIS SHOES—Low pump style, latest and nobbiest shoe for outing wear; extra heavy reinforced rubber sole with spring heel, leather insole and tailored silk bow to finish; white bleached Sea Island Duck. Sizes 2 to 7. Price $1.85
MEN'S WHITE CANVAS OXFORDS with rubber soles and low spring heels, suitable for business, sports or outing wear, $2.45. Boots, $2.85
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Saturday June 5th

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