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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STREET RAILWAYMEN'S DISPUTE SEEMS ENDED

Further Negotiations Result in Terms Approved by the Men at Special Meetings Held This Week

The street railwaymen's committee has almost, after two months' negotiations, concluded the argument with the B. C. Electric railway over the company's contention that it had the right, under its agreement with the employees, to discharge, without question on the part of the employees' committee, any worker whom they suspected of dishonesty.

It will be remembered that at the request of the employees a board of conciliation was appointed consisting of Mr. Justice Macdonald, Jas. H. McVety and John Elliott to ascertain, if possible, just what the agreement between the company and its employees meant and what the intention of the parties to the agreement were.

The report of the board has already been exclusively published in The Federationist, and was, on this particular point, in favor of the contention of the men, scoring the company for attempting to take an advantage to which it was in no way entitled. Negotiations have been proceeding ever since the board reported, both sides accepting the award, but the company again trying to twist and distort it to conform to its original view of the dispute.

As a result of the various conferences between the committee and the company's officials and the assistance of Mr. H. H. Stevens, M.P., and J. D. McNiven, western representative of the department of labor, an arrangement has been arrived at whereby Mr. Justice Macdonald will be asked to draft a clause in place of the faulty one, providing for the same methods of appeal in the case of an employee charged with dishonesty as apply in other cases of discharge or suspension.

During the week the committee found it necessary to take a strike vote, but fortunately for all concerned an agreement was reached.

The conductor, whose dismissal caused the original dispute, has, in the meantime, secured other satisfactory employment, not caring to make his reinstatement a condition, provided the proper principle of protection for other members could be arranged for.

These terms of settlement were accepted by the street railwaymen at special meetings held last Wednesday afternoon and evening.

The Federationist joins in expressing satisfaction that an obviously difficult situation has been satisfactorily disposed of.

HALF-HOLIDAY

For Letter-carriers — Petition Being Circulated

The Federationist is informed that petitions are being circulated amongst the general public in behalf of granting a weekly half-holiday to the letter-carriers during the three hot summer months in each year. To persons who study the trend of present-day social life, the fact will be obvious that the movement for a half-holiday each week for workers in general is becoming more and more popular, and rightly so. For men to have to look forward to a life of continuous grind is not very exhilerating, neither is it conducive to many inspirations, rather will a person with such an outlook become more animal-like in his or her nature. Everyone will agree that the letter-carriers are a consistent and steady body of working men, and as such are entitled to the favorable consideration of the public in their endeavors to procure a well-deserved weekly half-holiday.

FATAL ACCIDENT

Ernest Hamilton Drowned in the Bay

Last Saturday another sad drowning accident took place at Kitsilano Beach, when Ernest Hamilton, an old-time local longshoreman, aged 45 years, lost his life after a dive into shallow water, which resulted in a fractured neck. The body was soon recovered. The remains were taken to the undertaking rooms of Greene & Berkley, where an inquest was held at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon. Hamilton's death makes the second which has taken place at Kitsilano Beach within the space of one week. In company with his brother, Mr. Harry Hamilton, 2404 Guelph street, the deceased went to the beach to bathe. He was an expert swimmer and was preparing to dive from the raft which was moored about 40 feet from shore. His brother repeatedly cautioned him against diving in such shallow water, but the deceased evidently thought the water sufficiently deep and made the fatal plunge. He never came to the surface alive. When he did not appear his brother began searching for him and at length discovered the body at the bottom near where he had dived. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place on Tuesday afternoon.

BARBERS MEET

Vote Against Proposed Strike—Will Hold "Smoker" in Near Future

The regular monthly meeting of the local Barbers union was held on Tuesday night in Labor Temple, when President Bruce presided over a fair attendance. Mr. Dykeman, of the B.C. Federation of Labor, addressed the members on behalf of the proposed general strike in this province in sympathy with the striking miners on Vancouver island. Sixteen members voted against the proposition and five were in favor of it. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for the holding of a smoker in the near future.

Foot Crushed.

George Findlay, a local longshoreman, met with a severe accident on Tuesday while at work on the steamship Henriette at the G. T. P. wharf. His right foot was badly crushed and toes broken. He is now in the general hospital, where five more of his fellow workmen are also laid up, namely, W. Atkinson, G. Graham, F. Hall, W. Granger and R. Keeble.

Vote Thanks to McVety

At their regular meeting last Wednesday, the street railwaymen passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Jas. H. McVety for his work on their behalf on the board of investigation which dealt with the dispute between the street railwaymen and the B. C. Electric railway company.

WIDOW GOT $200

Compensation After Fifteen Months

The local longshoremen are somewhat dissatisfied with the result of a case of compensation settled in the courts about two weeks ago. It was pointed out by one of the members of the union that according to this case that a man's life is only worth $200. It was in May, 1913, when John Hume, aged 33 years, sailed as a longshoreman on the steamer Ophir, which was destroyed by fire at a cannery wharf, and he was burned to death. The union at the time granted the widow and three children $100 to tide them over, believing that she could recover sufficient damages from the Lincoln Steamship Company, the owners of the boat to give Mrs. Hume a fresh start. But not so—she only got $200 after waiting fifteen months.

Delegate to Congress Convention

The street railwaymen have elected H. Barritt to attend the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which will meet in St. John, N. B., September 21st next.

ROYAL CITY TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Anti-War Resolution Filed—Opposed Miners' Sympathetic Strike

The Threatened Strike of B. C. E. Ry. Employees Averted

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Aug. 13.—A communication from the socialist party of Canada to the trades and labor council of this city, read at the regular meeting last evening, and condemning the present war, which it declared to be fostered by capitalistic interests in order to more strongly bind the fetters of the "working slaves," was filed on motion of Secretary Maiden. The epistle was characterized by the delegates who spoke as "buncombe" and "clap-trap." Every speaker declared it to be his opinion that Britain was justified in the action she was taking.

By a vote of 16 to 3, the sympathetic strike in support of the Nanaimo miners, proposed by the B. C. Federation of Labor, was opposed. Several delegates did not vote, as they had no instructions from their unions.

Delegate Yates of the B. C. Electric Railway Employees' union reported that the threatened strike against the company had been averted, the company having agreed to the men's interpretation of the disputed clause in the agreement submitted by the conciliation board.

Trade conditions were reported to be generally bad.

BUILDING "BEE"

Will Erect School at Steelhead Valley

[Special correspondence]

MISSION CITY, B. C., August 13.—A new school has been granted in Steelhead Valley district, eight miles north of this city. The Mission school board has accepted an acre site from W. Tomlinson, and has started clearing. The settlers are to provide labor and they will hold a building "bee" on August 17th and consecutive days until the school is finished. The building is to be constructed of logs, cut from the property; the school board furnishing materials for finishing only. It is expected that a teacher will be installed on September 1st.

THE INTERNATIONAL TYPO. UNION IN SESSION

President Duncan Upheld—Old-Age Pension and the Mortuary Features

Time Has Clearly Proven the Wisdom of the Forecast

PROVIDENCE, R. I., August 13.—The sixty-second annual convention of the International Typographical Union convened in this city on Monday. There are nearly three hundred delegates in attendance from all parts of the continent. By a vote of 205 to 71 the anti-administration forces were defeated on their proposition, namely, that the delegates should appoint the members of the committee on appeals instead of President Jas. M. Duncan making the appointments from the chair as called for in the by-laws. The delegates then settled down to business. The president's report shows general advances in every department of the International Typographical Union. During the past year many new wage scales have been negotiated, and the following other gains are noted: Membership, 1,804; new unions, 16; increase in funds, $132,408.24, making the total to date $929,355.80; increase in pension fund, $55,585.65; increase in mortuary fund, $49,441.96.

Discussing "old age pension and mortuary features," the president says: "The manifest advantages of cheap and thoroughly effective management have from the outset warranted the belief that complete success awaited both these ventures. Time has shown the wisdom of the forecast. It is only needed to consider casually that heavy primal and constant expenses that must be borne by regular insurance companies to perceive the simplicity and security of our forms of relief. It is not the least worthy feature of these that promptness of payment is the invariable rule. And here, if anywhere, those who give promptly give doubly."

Regarding the question of arbitration, President Duncan says: "Not by any means to be regarded as an entire novelty in the labor movement, the principle of arbitration, considering its boundless possibilities, must be conceded to have met rather tardy acceptance. Such is the force of habit that long after it was demonstrated beyond doubt that strikes were costly, provocative of retaliation, rarely completely successful, union men stuck to the ancient procedure. Ocular demonstration has slowly converted many advocates of the former method, and enough headway has been made to encourage the belief that arbitration once fairly tried will not be rejected.

SOUTH WELLINGTON CONFLAGRATION AUG. 11TH

Over Three Hundred and Fifty People Rendered Homeless

Greatly Adds to Hardships and Sufferings of the Miners' Families

A disastrous and calamitous fire occurred at South Wellington, Vancouver Island, on August 11th, rendering over 350 people homeless. This fire practically destroyed all the residences of the union miners and must of necessity leave in its wake a great deal of hardship and suffering. When we take into consideration that the men have been on strike for fifteen months—battling for the right of organization—we can conjure in our minds the destitute circumstances the strikers will be in.

The conflagration is supposed to have had its origin in a bush fire. The Wellington strikers make the assertion that there were six bush fires in existence on the morning in question, burning all around the place. They further state that which ever way the wind had gone it was impossible to save the place.

Up to the present time whenever a fire has occurred, even to the burning of a chicken coop, it has been asserted by the capitalist papers operating on the island that they were of incendiary origin and the blame immediately placed upon the strikers.

"To Clean Out the Town."

There was nothing too bad for the strikers to do. They were the despised and rejected of men, because they had refused to labor at the terms and behests of their masters. It would be well to examine a few incidents prior to this fire. It is well known that the strike-breakers of South Wellington have threatened to "run the strikers out of town." They even marshalled for that purpose and declared their intention of "cleaning out the town." Even though the threats were made and even though they assembled together for that purpose, no arrests were made. It appeared to many impartial men on Vancouver Island that the strike-breakers could do no wrong. They have had on all occasions the protection of the powers that be, whilst the strikers have been looked upon with distrust. It has been stated to me by letter that the special police forbid the Wellington strikers to fight the fire in its initial stages and turned Nanaimo men back who were going to help.

Six Bush Fires.

If this be true, and we have every reason to believe that it is, then a rigid investigation ought to be made and if found to be correct punishment meted out to those responsible. It appears highly improbable (taking the strikers' statement) that six bush fires could have originated at one time without aid. Circumstantial evidence points to the fire being incendiary and if the special police refused the men liberty to fight the fire they were consciously or unconsciously aiding and abetting the incendiaries.

However, which ever way the fire originated, the fact remains that there are 350 people homeless—people who under ordinary circumstances are in a distressful condition. Such being the case, labor, organized and unorganized, should come to the assistance of the unfortunate strikers who have lost their homes. —C. P.

Unions, or individuals wishing to contribute anything to the victims of the disaster should send what they can to Jas. Bateman, South Wellington, secretary. Unions should take prompt action in order to assist their brothers in distressed circumstances.

—C. P.

IDLE MEN FLOCKING TO VANCOUVER IN CROWDS

Interior Mining and Construction Camps Closing Down Thus Throwing Hundreds of Able-Bodied Men Out of Work

Large numbers of idle men are still flocking into Vancouver from the interior and mining camps. Along Powell, Cordova and Carrall streets may be seen hundreds of men of all nationalities eagerly looking for work, and are willing to do almost anything in order to earn enough money to get out of the country. They are not particularly anxious to go to war for their respective countries' sake, but they are out of a job and, of course, some are willing to enlist. On all sides we hear of the closing down of manufactories, the latest rumor is that one of the largest wood-working concerns in this city will close down to-morrow, thus throwing out of employment about 800 men in connection with the works.

The management of the Fraser Mills laid off 200 men on Saturday night, besides making a general reduction of ten per cent. on all employees getting $2 a day or over. It is also stated that next week a still greater reduction will be made. The members of the clerical staff are the heaviest losers, they being out 20 per cent. The Orientals were reduced 25 cents a day all around.

Advices from northern points and on the line of construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway are to the effect that there is nothing doing in any of the many small towns between Prince Rupert and Prince George, and hundreds of men are leaving these places for the coast.

The industries that are suffering most are those that are producing "contrabands of war" and the lumber industries. The Greenwood copper company has closed its smelters and the Mother Lode mines. These works employ 500 men. The Phoenix mines, employing 600 men, and the Grand Forks smelters, employing 300 men, have closed down indefinitely. The Courtenay logging camp, the largest on Vancouver island, employing 700 men, has shut down for an indefinite period. The Canadian Western Lumber company has reduced its staff and reduced the wages and salaries of those remaining 10 and 25 per cent. It appears from all indications that the workers of British Columbia are to face a severe winter. Thousands of men are going to be thrown on an already overstocked labor market, the result of which will mean much hardship and suffering.

No doubt the heads of the government will be so much concerned with the titanic struggle in Europe that they will be unable to look after things at "home." Something should be done to relieve the distress which is among the people.

ON HALF TIME

Laborers on City Protest Against Reduction

A deputation from the laborers' union, consisting of Messrs. Geo. Gibson, G. A. Kilpatrick, John Sully, Geo. Harrison, A. P. Appleby, C. Bunce, waited on the city council on Monday night to enter protest against the regular workmen employed by the board of works being laid off work every alternate two weeks, thus working one-half time. The aldermen hold that they are up against the unemployed problem in this city and therefore should divide the work among as many men as possible. The regular employees contend that they should not be laid off as it takes all their earnings to keep them going. The boards of works have the matter under consideration.

ON STRIKE

Metal Workers Oppose Cut in Wages

On Wednesday the sheet metal workers employed by the Scoullar sheet metal works quit work on account of a reduction of wages. The firm notified the men that in future the pay would be $4 a day, instead of the union rate of $4.50, thus reducing their wages 50 cents, or about 12 per cent. a day. Consequently the men employed on the new Hudson's Bay building, the general hospital wing, and the nurses' home all went out on strike. About 25 men are involved.

LABOR ALDERMAN

Sid Wilson of Port Arthur Elected

Alderman S. Wilson presented his credentials at the city hall on Monday morning, August 5th, and is now an alderman for the city of Port Arthur by the operation of the law. According to the Municipal act, on the death of an alderman, the next on the list at the last election immediately becomes an alderman on proving his qualifications to act. Mr. Wilson was present at the council meeting last Monday night and received a cordial welcome by the mayor and aldermen. The appointments held by the late Alderman Spofford do not devolve upon his successor, who has to be elected by the council, as a body, to any committees on which he may be called to serve.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The city building inspector's report for July shows that during the month, 119 permits were issued, valuer at $139,001.

For the corresponding month last year, 153 permits were issued, valued at $441,085.

The total number of permits for the first seven months of 1914, is 967, valued at $2,532,250.

The total number of permits for the first seven months of 1913 was 1350, valued at $7,559,339.

The meaning of these figures, from a building tradesman's point of view, is too plain to need further comment.

Phoenix Miners' Hall Burned Down

Twenty-five minutes after midnight last Sunday an outbreak of fire was discovered in the Miners' Union hall, Phoenix. The fire brigade responded promptly and for a time it was thought that the fire had been checked, but unfortunately this hope was of short duration and by 1.30 the entire building was enveloped in flames on all sides. The building was the largest in town and by reason of its containing a ball-room, opera house and lodge-rooms, its loss is keenly felt by all the residents of the city. The structure and fittings cost about thirty thousand dollars and the insurance carried was ten thousand dollars.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The Washington Act

[By Jas. H. McVety
Vice-president B. C. Federation of Labor]

The cost of compensation to injured workmen in an industry included the premium paid by the employer to the insurance companies; the lawyer's fees for fighting claims, and the payment of the compensation itself where the court decision is in favor of the workman.

Absorbed by Parasites

In the state of Washington, prior to the enactment of the new legislation in 1911, when all compensation was recovered by the common law or employers' liability methods, it is estimated that the workers actually received less than 30 per cent. of the amount paid out by the employers for the various purposes already mentioned, conclusively showing that 70 per cent. of the funds were absorbed by parasitic lawyers and insurance companies.

Under the new system, where the state taxes the industries directly, according to the cost of accidents, in the various classifications, administering the amount received through a state board of commissioners, without the interference of insurance companies, lawyers or courts, the workers now receive 90 per cent. of the amount taxed from the industries.

Reason for Opposition

The 60 per cent. of difference between what the workman formerly received and what his present portion amounts to reveals the very excellent reason for the vicious opposition of the lawyers and insurance companies to the passage of the Washington as well as all other legislation of a similar nature.

For purposes of comparison with the British Columbia act, the salient features of which have been already covered, the more important points of the Washington legislation follow.

Provisions Reviewed

Compensation is paid for injuries causing disability of 5 per cent. or death, except for injuries intentionally incurred.

The industries covered include all extra hazardous employment, including mills, factories and workshops where machinery is used; blast furnaces, mines, quarries and wharves, engineering works; logging, lumbering and shipbuilding; building trades (without the B. C. restriction as to height of building); telegraph, telephone, electric light or power plant or lines; steamboats, tugs, and ferries; railroads except as governed by federal statute; state, county and municipal undertakings involving extra hazardous work in which persons are employed for wages.

Burden of Payment

The entire burden of payment rests on the employer. Compensation for death is paid at the rate of $75 for burial of deceased workmen without dependents. To widow or invalid widower, a monthly payment of $20; to each child under 16 years of age, $5 per month, the total, however, not to exceed $35 per month.

In cases where no parent survives, a monthly payment to each child of $10 per month, the total not to exceed $35.

To other dependents, if none of those already mentioned survive, a monthly payment to each equal to 50 per cent. of the average amount previously contributed to the dependent, the total not to exceed $20.

To the parent or parents of unmarried minors a monthly payment of $20 until the time he would have become 21 years of age.

Payments to the widow or widower continue until death or remarriage, and to a child until reaching the age of 16 years. If a widow remarries she receives a lump sum of $240.

Disability Allowances

For permanent total disability unmarried workers (at the time of accident) are paid $20 per month; if with a wife or invalid husband, but no children under 16 years of age, $25 per month; if the husband is not an invalid, $15 per month; if a widow or widower with a child or children under 16 years of age, $5 per month for each child, total not to exceed $35 per month.

For total permanent disability, payments are the same as for permanent disability, increased by 50 per cent. for the first six months, but in no case to exceed 60 per cent. of monthly wages.

For temporary partial disability, the payment as for total temporary disability continues in proportion to the loss of earning power, provided this shall be in excess of five per cent.

In the cases of permanent partial disability a lump sum not to exceed $1,500; if the injured person is a minor the parents receive an additional sum, equal to ten per cent. of the award to the injured person.

Monthly payments may be converted into lump sum payments in case of death or permanent total disability.

Review by Courts

All payments and adjustments are made by the state board of three commissioners, but are subject to review by the superior court and to other higher courts in order of sequence.

Desirable as the Washington legislation may appear from the foregoing, much depends on the method of enforcement. Until last May, the workers were fortunate in having as a representative on the board of commissioners John H. Wallace, a coal miner from district No. 10 of the United Mine Workers. Under his care the interests of injured workers were fairly safe, but so zealous was he in a desire to give fair treatment that Governor Lister, alleged to have been at one time a union molder, removed him from office.

Vigilance Necessary

Even with the vigilance of Wallace, numerous schemes were worked to make the position of the injured person more difficult. One instance will suffice. The commission requires reports of all accidents from the employer as well as the employee, the applicant for compensation. Originally there were two forms provided, one for each, but during the absence of Wallace, the two other commissioners authorized the combining of the reports of both employer and employee on the same form. A simple change, designed to save stationery? Not at all. A deep laid plot to prevent the worker making a true report of the conditions prevailing in the plant in which he was injured. The report blanks were supplied to the employer. The employee, after the employer had filled up his portion, called the employee into the office where he was required to make his statement of how the accident occurred. It requires no great stretch of imagination to see that for fear of losing his job, his statement will be the same as that of the employer, thus covering up and dangerous condition that would, if it became known, require the expenditure of profits to remedy.

Numerous other faults have developed in the legislation but lack of space prevents detailing them here. However, even were the act perfectly constructed, its successful operation would still depend on having administrators willing to enforce its provisions. The Ontario act will be dealt with next week.

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ABOUT THIS WAR AND AND THE DAY OF RECKONING

The Substance of Fact and the Shadow of Fallacy

The Close of the Struggle Will Bring Economic Confusion

[By G. H. Hardy]

It may seem foolish at this time to *speculate or surmise on the effects of* the war from a working class standpoint, the average man on the street only caring as to which part of the world shall win the stupendous struggle now proceeding in Europe, but this does not alter the fact that the recognized diplomats, now that it is impossible to avoid physical combat, are already speculating and manoeuvering as to how it will affect business and commerce, at the conclusion of the conflict, and are endeavoring to arrange matters in such a way that the present war shall have the least possible effect on commerce—the making of profit out of the people.

In the same way it behooves the intelligent part of the workers to study the present situation, with a view of not only conserving to the human race, who for the most part are workers, all the advantages gained through years of struggle and of enlightenment, but realizing cause and effect, to be ready for the results of the present state of affairs, and to use these results for further advancement.

To be able to come to a sane conclusion we must have a true perspective, or see the true reason of the war.

The hue and cry of the man on the street is patriotism, honor and loyalty to one's country, and people. But "come let us reason together" is this the basis of the conflict?

No sane person will dispute the fact, that the management of the world's affairs is in the hands of the business or capitalist class, and that being so, one or two incidents of late occurrence, will serve to show that business, and the class it embraces, score the idea of patriotism and its attributes, despite the fact of flag-waving, etc., which *stands* in the same relation to loyalty as the business-man's smile does to the customer with whom he has made a good deal.

If not so, what about the business men who are withholding their rates during the present necessity of city for funds? What of the persistent, though fruitless, appeal of our local press for an easier money market, and greater credit, during this strenuous time, and above all what of the two years past in which there has been no cash or credit for industry, while the moment war is declared millions upon millions of dollars come forth to be invested in a government war debt?

There is only one explanation, capitalists having more goods than they can sell, labor is unemployed. Men without wages cannot buy goods. Goods not being bought no interest can be paid on capital. *The result is* that no capital in the last two years was invested in industry, but was returned unused by the business class, despite the cry of the hunger of their fellow patriots.

A war is declared, and from all quarters belch forth millions. Because government bonds give government security, with a fixed interest, which must come out of people by taxation before any profits are paid on industry.

Here we have a starting point. Business rules the world in a business way, for a business purpose. Added to this base, at the outbreak of hostilities are two quantities, a vast amount of unemployment, and warehouses full of goods which the people cannot buy.

Immediately on declaration of war a vast amount of profit, now called capital, waiting for investment, was thrown into the lap of the contesting parties. And we must take note that all this power to buy, having bought shot and shell, will be spread on the earth and air, with absolutely no possibility of being used by the people, or by those who have controlled this money.

Another point, war always rendered useless vast amouts of capital invested in such things as arable land, machinery, railroads, etc. This brings us face to face with the following precarious position after the war.

No capital to invest in industries, therefore a larger amout of unemployment. The earth devastated and unproductive, an enormous national debt incurred on materials that are destroyed.

This national debt guarantees to pay an enormous amount of wealth in return for its non-productivity, with the fact that those from whom all wealth is derived are unemployed. In such a manner will the people be tied at the end of such an unfortunate condition that prevails today.

What will be the ultimate outcome who can tell? Will the people repudiate the national debt? Will they decide to develop their national resouces instead of giving them to individuals? Will they decide once and for all that business is a menace to public welfare in its broadest sense? Will they decide that business competition has failed to produce the security, the happiness and comfort all people desire, and institute in its place co-operation, that all men may partake in the same relation as they produce?

This remains to be seen, but some day the world will rise and say, enough. And until then we must wait and suffer hunger and strife in the midst of resources which, properly administered, would furnish plenty and peace for all.

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BIG STRIKE

Mill Hands Out—Join Timber-workers' Union

[Special Correspondence]

CENTRALIA, Wn., Aug. 10.—The sawmill workers, the planing-mill workers and shingle-weavers are out on strike. There was no local union of timber-workers in this town when this strike of 125 slaves of the Eastern Railway and Lumber company asserted their manhood and rebelled against a ten per cent reduction in their already scanty wage, which in some cases was as low as $1.55 a day of ten hours. But there is a union in Centralia now. Not until driven to the brink of despair by the greedy mill owners did they revolt. Now they are organized in the international union and will fight to protect their wives and families from rapacity of the mill barons, who thought to take advantage of their unorganized and helpless conditions to cut their wages. Like true men these workers refused to stand for a cut and walked out in face of the fact that they were without money or other help to carry on a struggle against money and greed. President Brown and Organizer Raynor are on the ground and have organized them, and are giving them every assistance they can to cope with mill owners. Now they have the international union behind them and they are assured every assistance the organization can put forward in their behalf.

FROM SMITHERS

General News Items — All Trades Dull

(Special correspondence)

SMITHERS, B. C., Aug. 8.—On account of two weeks' rain, the local hay crop will be a poor one this year. Range hogs are doing well. Pork is selling at 16, 18 and 20 cents a pound, according to locality.

All road work for the season is practically over, with the exception of an odd trail or two—to keep conservative party voters in the country. Stage travel is poor.

In the building trades there is absolutely nothing doing anywhere on the line of the G. T. P. between Prince George and Prince Rupert, both places being included.

Business with the restaurants and restaurant employees continues very quiet; outlook poor. The hotel at New Hazelton has been losing money for the past two months. Money is tight and the wages for help has been cut to the minimum.

Both the old and new towns of Hazelton are dead.

THE MINERS AND THE WAR

Resolution Adopted by the Nanaimo Union, No. 2155, U. M. W. of A.

Nanaimo local union, No. 2155 United Mine Workers of America at their meeting last Thursday night, adopted the following resolution dealing with the war situation and their own trouble on the island:

"Whereas—The British empire, of which we are an integral part, now faces the greatest crisis of its history in the struggle in which it is at present engaged; and

Whereas—We, as loyal British subjects, have no desire to embarass the government of the empire, or any part thereof, in this day of trial; therefore be it

"Resolved—That we, the striking mineworkers of Nanaimo, assure the government and the public that we will use our influence to promote the peace and welfare of the community and maintain order, thereby relieving the military forces, whose presence here is entirely unnecessary and uncalled for, to the service of the country; and be it therefore

"Resolved—That we protest against the filling of our places in the mines by men drawn from the very countries with which the empire is at war today; and we also protest against the maintenance of an armed force in our midst such as has been stationed here taking the view that their presence is more needed in other places. And we further protest against the employment of specials and armed thugs, whose presence only serves to irritate the men on strike and increases friction and disorder; and be it further

"Resolved—That we, as mineworkers, would petition the government to endeavor to bring about a conference between the two parties to this strike with a view to bringing about a satisfactory adjustment of this local trouble, which would enable us all as British subjects to act as a unit at this critical time."

Adopted by Nanaimo local union, No. 2155, United Mine Workers of America, August 6, 1914.

J. RATHLIFF, President.
WM. WATSON, Secretary.

SOCIALIST CONGRESS CANCELLED

James Simpson, Canadian Delegate, and Others Do Not Sail.

The International Socialist Congress, scheduled to take place originally in Vienna, August 23, and later changed to August 8, in Paris, has been again postponed, this time for an indefinite period. The postponement was on account of the disturbed condition of Europe.

When a telegram reached New York *announcing the postponement, Morris* Hillquit, chairman of the committee, who is secretary of the International Socialist Bureau, Hillquit had gone to the White Star Line pier to sail on the Oceanic for Europe. He was accompanied to the pier by a large delegation of Socialists. These included Emil Seidel, ex-Mayor of Milwaukee; ex-Congressman Victor L. Berger, Dr. George R. Lunn, ex-Mayor of Schenectady, and Oscar Ameringer. The notification of the postponement of the congress came in a cable from the central headquarters of the Socialists in Brussels to the Socialist headquarters in Chicago.

James Simpson, Canadian delegate, was to have left Montreal, but did not sail.

Morris Hillquit, in an interview, said: "As matters are now, it would be exceedingly difficult to get a good representation of Socialists at any given time from Germany, Russia, Austria, Italy, France or any of the *other affected countries.*"

Are you a subscriber? If not, send in your name now.

CITY MARKET REPORT FOR THIS WEEK

Two Cars Peaches From the Okanagan—Onions and Tomatoes on Sale

Large Quantities of B. C. Fruit and Poultry Arrive

Large quantities of fruit, poultry and other farm produce, from all points in British Columbia arrived this week at the city market, Main street, which was well attended and although the alterations to the market building, made in the spring, were with a view to giving more accomodation to buyers, it is now apparent that further arrangements will require to be made to meet the increasing number of patrons attending the sales.

Plums of all kinds were in good supply yesterday and met with a keen demand, although prices were much easier than last week. The following prices were made on plums, per crate—Bradshaws, $1.00; Italian prunes, 90c; Gage plumes, 85c; Tennant, 85c; Bradshaws No. 2, 80c; Damsons, 90c; greengages, $1.00; Blackberries are difficult to sell, but were cleared at $1.10 per crate.

Shipments from Okanagan

The Okanagan valley is now shipping in commercial quantities to the coast, word being received at the market of two cars shipped direct. These will be offered to-day and will consist of onions, tomatoes, peaches, etc.

Okanagan peaches yesterday made $1.10 per crate, while apricots realized $1.20 per crate. Tomatoes are now arriving in large quantities, with the result that prices are now on the down grade, Hothouse No. 1, $2; No. 2, $1.75; No. 3, $1.20; Okanagan No. 1, $1.10; No. 2, $1.00

Apples had a better demand yesterday and while prices are not high it must be conceded that they are satisfactory considering the pack and grade offered The best price realized was for a fine lot of Duchess from Chilliwack, which cleared at $1.20 per box. Other lots were sold at 80c, 90c and $1 per box. Crab apples sold at $1.20 per box.

Potatoes met with a good reception which is not remarkable as the lots offered were nicely matured, the price being $1 per sack. About 200 sacks of old potatoes were sold at 25c per sack.

Poultry Market

Poultry is still arriving in large quantities and is selling at fair prices. Broilers are only in demand at two pounds and over, less than that weight being almost unsaleable. Hens, light, $6 @ 7 per dozen; heavy, $8 @ 10 per dozen. Ducks, 55c @ 60 each; broilers, $3 @ 5 per dozen. Eggs, 37c per dozen; butter, 30c per pound. Young hogs, $4.50; veal, 15c per pound. Hay, $13 per ton.

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SEE THE WINDOWS FRANK NEWTON

LABOR IS AGAINST BARS EMPLOYING ASIATICS

Victoria Trades Council Endorse Technical Night Classes

Trade Very Dull—Carpenters' Delegates Leave Meeting in a Body

VICTORIA, B. C., Aug. 13.—Vice-president Martin, in the absence of President Dykeman, presided at the last meeting of the Victoria Trades and Labor council. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been adopted, the newly-elected officers were installed and assumed their respective offices.

Delegate Watchman reported for the finance committee, that the books were correct, but that a large number of the local unions were in arrears for per capita and rent. He recommended that the secretary-treasurer procure a new set of books of a more up-to-date kind and recommended that the council appoint a committee to go into the subject of new quarters. The report of the committee was adopted.

Leave the Meeting

The committee, appointed to interview the local unions dissatisfied with the action of the trades council in asking for the secretary-treasurer's resignation, reported that owing to the statement made by one of the members of the committee it could not agree. For this reason Delegate Sivertz placed his resignation before the council. After a lengthy discussion on the report the committee on motion was discharged and the resignation of delegate Sivertz accepted. This led to a further discussion, the delegates of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners stated that as the council would not protect their organization, they had only one course before them, namely, to withdraw from the council. As a protest, they left the meeting in a body.

Endorse Night Classes

John Kyle, of the department of education of the dominion government, addressed the delegates on the question of evening classes on the lines of technical education. He asked for the endorsation of the council on the proposed evening classes in Victoria. After he had answered several questions to the satisfaction of the delegates, the council went on record as favouring this proposition.

A lengthy discussion ensued after the reading of a letter from the Painters union regarding the question of the employment of Asiatics in bars. After the question had been discussed from all view points a motion was adopted calling on organized labor in the city to refrain from patronizing bars or restaurants employing Asiatics, and that a letter be sent to all local unions and hotels, etc., notifying them of the decision of the council on this matter.

Trade Very Dull

Under the "reports of local unions," all trades reported as being very dull and that no improvement was in sight.

The appointment of standing committees was left over to the next meeting.

The call of the B. C. Federation of Labor for referendum vote on the general strike was left over to a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 12th, at which the question will be disposed of.

The Meeting adjourned at 11 o'clock p. m.

It is time that women, and more particularly the women of the working class, awakened and took an interest in matters beneficial to their own welfare. For instance it is to the benefit of every working man's wife to see that there is a Widows' Pension act, a Workingman's Compensation act, and a few more acts, so that in times of stress she will not find herself high and dry on the shores of want, after having performed her duty to the nation.

The trade union has no right to question a member about his political conviction, nor has it right to prescribe to him to what party he shall belong to outside of the trade union. If the trade unions know how to practice this degree of tolerance on both sides, their future will be satisfactory and useful—Duluth Labor World.

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AMALGAMATION

Miners of Cumberland Endorse the Scheme

The uppermost question with the different miners' unions these days is that of the proposed amalgamation of the Western Federation of Miners (metalliferous) with the United Mine Workers of America (coal). Already resolutions are being considered and passed by western locals. The following resolution in favor of amalgamation has been passed by local union No. 2,299, U. M. W. of A., Cumberland, V.I.:

"Whereas—The laboring class for years has been trying to better its condition by craft unionism; and

"Whereas—The cost of living has advanced much faster than wages, thereby proving the inadequacy of craft unionism as a weapon against our economic enemies; and

"Whereas—Our delegate to the international convention upon his return informs us that the question of amalgamation of this organization with that of the Western Federation of Miners was discussed in convention; therefore be it

"Resolved—That we, the members of local No. 2,299 of the United Mine Workers of America, believing the time has arrived when this action should be taken, urge our officers to use every means in their power to the end that a great industrial organization shall be formed which workers may join regardless of craft; and we request all locals in district No. 28 to urge our officers to do this, and be it further

"Resolved—That a copy of this resolution be sent to the national and district officers and also to the different labor papers.

(Signed) "JAMES SMITH,
"Recording Secretary.
"P. O. Box 84, Cumberland, B.C."

Cats

"There is a good deal of human nature in cats," said our friend the Philosopher. "Take two kittens that have been brought up together. If they are sleepy they will curl up in the most amiable heap of fur you ever saw. But if you drop a piece of raw meat in front of their noses they will be spitting and growling at each other in a minute. They are perfectly friendly until they both want the same thing.

"Sometimes I think money is to some men what raw meat is to cats. They are good citizens and they love their neighbors and wouldn't have anybody in want if they could help it, but they bristle and stick up their backs and spit and scratch if they smell money.

"My wife never gives her cats raw meat. She says it spoils their dispositions. I'd like to experiment along that line with some men I know."

Horrible Evidence Destroyed

While the massacre of nineteen men, women and children at Ludlow, Colorado, April 20th, stirred the entire nation, it is doubtful whether it caused any more revolting horror than the statement of Mrs. Pearl Jolly that she had seen the Colorado militia pile many other bodies on a huge funeral pyre and burn them to conceal the evidences of an even greater slaughter. This story and many others, all of which are authentic, are contained in the "Ludlow Massacre" written by Walter Pink, director of publicity for the Colorado strikers. You can get the book postage prepaid by sending thirty cents to the author, box 1575, Denver, Colorada.

How Wars Start

What, do you suppose, is the reason given by the man whose hand applied the torch that started the flame which is going to sweep over Europe? Here it is, in the words of Emperor Franz Josef: "They (a few Servians) have kept alive a flame of hatred for myself and my house!" Is the hereditary enmity of a few men in an insignificant nation for one who, after all, is but a man like the rest of us, a sufficient reason for starting a conflagration that will sweep the world with desolation? There is something lacking in the concepts of certain royal houses which the end of the war may supply.—Victoria Daily Times.

The Cop's Breeches

A South London policeman arrested two suffragettes near a church and marched them towards the police station, holding one by each hand. He was getting along all right despite the struggles of the two militants when a third woman approached from behind and cut the constable's suspenders. This caused him to slacken his grip on the prisoners, and the two women escaped.

Bartenders' Strike

Bartenders in Scranton, Pa., are on strike for a minimum weekly salary of $16, double pay for overtime and notice before they are dismissed. Several places have granted these requests for better working conditions.

Will be Paid in Thirty Years

In a case at Hull county court, where a woman with seven children was sued for rent, the judge ordered payment at the rate of a penny a month. The debt will be paid off in 1944.

The big shingle mill at Blaine is tied up by a strike. Nevertheless there are a few scabs at work, who dare not leave the premises to go down town. The union officials expect a settlement almost any time now.

From the present aspect the greatest war of the world has ever known is about to take place. Even if the outlook is modified the whole affair is most discouraging.

Kings and Emperors set on their thrones and order great lists of men to march to utter annihilation and the worst part seems to be that the men go without a proest.

If every mother would teach her sons not to enter into bloody conflict, kings and emperors would soon find another method of settling their quarrels.

LETTERS TO THE FED.

SHENTON HEARD FROM

Editor B. C. Federationist: According to my promise I desire to relate progress of our mission in the district allotted to our charge. So far we have held fair meetings, two at Corbin, one at Michel and one at Fernie, in all of which meetings from the rank and file we have received much encouragement. We are told by the toilers here that this an opportune time to show sympathy in a practical way for the gallant strikers on Vancouver island, and to show the solidarity of the labor cause. The cry is being raised by the men in Crow's Nest Pass in favor of a provincial strike at this time for the purpose of showing the Bowser and McBride regime that labor in the country is surfeited with his treatment of the men on Vancouver island. The challenge issued by his government to maintain securely the interests of the landed estate, and of the coal firms of this country, at the expense of the cause of labor is now to be met with the most effective protest of the hour by a general strike in the province and should this not solve the issue then an effort will be made to carry it into other provinces. The cry of the men of this district is labor must have redress and this hour is the one that is fairly opportune for the thrust. The only motto of labor is that of the veterans upon the field of battle contained in the exclamation, "Up and at them," you have naught to loose but your chains. The only opposition encountered so far has been at the meeting held last evening at Fernie and this came not from the rank and file but from the international board member and district officers of U. M. W. of A. However, it was clearly noticeable that all their pleading fell chiefly on deaf ears. One of the speakers asked the men if their agreements were any good and a number of voices in chorus responded no. Also it was stated by them that it was a common thing to have nil writ at the bottom of their pay envelopes. Yours in victory,

T. J. SHENTON.

Fernie, B.C., July 29th.

Editor B. C. Federationist: It appears, Mr. Editor, that no matter how important the proposition of the referendum for a general strike may be to the suffering strikers of Vancouver island, it is most evident that the proposition does not find much appreciation by the typos of 226, Vancouver, B.C. From such a craft it is verily true that blessed is the cause or man that expecteth nothing for he shall not be disappointed, and their actions as recorded in your columns of the 31st inst., most assuredly in strict accord. It is scarcely comprehensible by any sensible mind what the particular function of such a body is, as a part, at least in name, of the great body of labor organizations. It appears that any move on the part of labor organizations, that necessitates a step in advance of the usual reactionary policy, is met at the hands of this craft by contemptuous and gloating disapproval. There is one consolation, however, for the miners on Vancouver island with respect to such a body, namely, they are a neglible quantity and their actions cannot, to say the least, have much bearing upon the efforts being made to help the same, or hinder, no matter what their zeal at the time may urge them to attempt. Labor all through the province realizes the necessity of safeguarding its interests by a compact and solid step out and in advance of any of the antiquated and old-time methods, that have in the past retarded the advancement of organized labor. Titanic action, effected by combined capital, must be met by a similar titanic action of labor combined. The typos in question are assuredly anxious to offset the hope of the miners on the island, hence their prompt action to condemn the project of the general strike. It is well, however, for this body to remember that they are but a drop in the bucket. Also, I am happy to state, that meanwhile they find it convenient to slap the miners in the face at this time by an adverse decision, there are larger bodies that have already passed resolutions endorsing the general strike in the presence of the organizers sent out, and I hope this may be of some special interest to the typos of 226. The labor movement of this country cannot afford to shape its actions by any such an apathetic verdict, otherwise it must lead to an inevitable death. Already there are signs most encouraging of a resurrection in the labor zone of this province and meanwhile some smaller crafts may prefer to remain stationary, which is the significant symptom of a slow process of death. The slogan of the live factor is "Onward to Victory!" It is war to the knife on the industrial field as elsewhere, and any method to check the onslaught attempted upon the miners of Vancouver island by the cruel monsters guarding and protecting capitalism ought to receive the combined approval of organized labor of this province. Of course it takes labor, as seen in the typos, to hinder labor. Hoping you will kindly insert this comment, T. J. SHENTON.

Phoenix, B. C., Aug. 5, 1914.

The referendum vote now being taken in the state of Washington will result in favor of the eight-hour day law, also state prohibition will carry by a big majority. Even the saloon men of Seattle concede the state will go dry, writes a Seattle correspondent.

If the city council spent as much time planning a scheme by which the widows and orphans in our midst could be helped as they have spent on the early closing act, the aching back of many a wonman and the pinched face of many a child would find happy relief.

The strike is still on at the Queen mine near Ymir, British Columbia. All miners are urged to stay away until strike is won.

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FRIDAY.....AUGUST 14, 1914.

STREET RAILWAYMEN'S AGREEMENT

THE STREET RAILWAYMEN and the B. C. Electric Railway company have been engaged for more than a year trying to devise a mutually satisfactory working agreement. As far back as last fall, an agreement was drawn up by a board of conciliation appointed under the federal Industrial Disputes Investigation act. From the men's point of view it was no improvement on the previous one. In fact, it was a distinct step backward in several material respects. But owing to the conditions prevailing in the labor market, the street carmen evidently did not deem the moment opportune to press for more, although a feeling of all-round dissatisfaction was felt among them. As they read and understood that agreement, it made no attempt to interfere with certain customs and privileges which had been long regarded as a fixed policy in the relation between the company and its employees. However, when the new agreement came to be put to practical test, it became plain that it was interpreted very differently by the company from what the men expected it to be. The most important point upon which this divergence of view arose, was with regard to the dismissal of employees suspected of dishonesty. The company maintained that the agreement gave them the right to dismiss, without any further ado, any employee against whom they laid an allegation of dishonesty. The men interpreted the agreement the opposite way, and fought vigorously for the right of an employee, charged with dishonesty, to an inquiry which would prove whether the allegation were true or not.

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This view of the men was manifestly reasonable, and could have been adopted there and then, by any fair-minded person desirous of settling such a question in a common-sense fashion. It was pointed out time after time by the men's representatives, that if the company were permitted to have their way unchallenged, any man might be charged with dishonesty, such as pilfering a fare-box, and discharged with the stigma of dishonesty cast upon him and without any redress whatever. The result would be that he would ever after be stamped with that stigma, and perchance debarred from securing any employment which required personal honesty on his part. In a word it would be a permanent menace to the material welfare of him and his family. It is true that the company did not say that they would necesarily refuse an inquiry into every case of alleged dishonesty, but they did assert repeatedly that they would reserve the right to decide in which cases an inquiry was necessary, and in which it was not. That, as a basis of settlement, was neither one thing nor the other. It would only have meant continual haggling and friction in the future, and the streetcar men are to be congratulated upon the tenacious manner in which they pressed for an equitable settlement of the point.

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After numerous interviews between the men and the company, which resulted in no agreement being reached, another board of investigation was applied for, and was appointed by the federal Department of Labor, for the purpose of interpreting the meaning of the agreement handed down by the previous board. This resulted in a favorable decision for the streetcar men on the question of a right to an inquiry in cases of alleged dishonesty. The award was formally accepted by both sides, but as will be apparent from the subsequent negotiations between the two parties, as reported in our news columns today, the company was still inclined to quibble. At the mass meeting of the men held last Saturday night, the whole question was again thrashed out. Since then a referendum vote has been taken as to the advisability of striking unless the matter could be satisfactorily adjusted. While we are not prepared to state the specific figures of that vote, let it suffice for us to say that they are such as to strengthen the hands of those who are handling the men's affairs. However, unless it is absolutely unavoidable, a strike at this particular time is not to be desired. And we hope that the latest reports, which tend to indicate a peaceful solution of the difficulty, will settle this long drawn out the vexatious question in favor of the street railwaymen. They have shown exceptional restraint and forbearance in face of a long series of irritating circumstances which we believe never need have arisen if the company had shown a disposition to use common sense as a substitute for quibbles and technicalities.

THE WAR AND PROVINCIAL ELECTION

IT IS A DESPERATE SITUATION indeed which does not contain some element of hope or advantage for somebody, and it seems not unlikely that this war will be a blessing in disguise to the McBride-Bowser government. The prospect of having to face a general election with conditions in the province as they are, has been taxing the political ingenuity of McBride and Bowser to the limit. The appalling extent of unemployment from one end of the province to the other; the fact that business men and firms are going to bankruptcy and dissolution, as the result of the suspension of all but the absolutely necessary part of the economic life of the province; and the general disgust which has come over the people now that the bottom has fallen out of the "boom"; have each in their way contributed to the creation of a feeling which McBride and Bowser viewed with no little uneasiness. It was a situation which could not be dispelled by the suave platitudes of the former, nor by the jack-in-office arrogance of the latter.

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The coming of this condition had been anticipated by both of them for some time. They knew that the natural working out of their policies would be bound to bring it about sooner or later. So they took time by the forelock and appointed two commissions—the agricultural, and labor commissions. That action served two purposes. It furnished them with an opportunity of recognizing in substantial fashion the services of a number of their faithful heelers and henchmen. It also served to create the impression among those who cannot see two feet in front of their nose, that the government were really desirous of using their powers for other purposes besides giving the province into the hands of railway promoters and other financial sharks. They know that the chief part of the votes which put them in office, belong to the farmers and the workers. Something had to be done to keep the game going while they secured a return to office. So the two commissions were appointed, and brought in recommendations which the government has announced will be brought down as proposed legislation at next session of the house. That proposed legislation was to serve the purpose of carrots dangled in front of a donkey's nose. It is not likely that much of it would have actually become law. That was not intended, but it would have been held out as a promise to be fulfilled providing the government were returned to power at the election to take place next spring or early summer. The government, then having got all they wanted, without giving anything real in exchange, would pass just as little legislation of value to the workers as they possibly could.

* * * *

But the coming of this war has altered the whole face of things. And unless we are much mistaken in our prophecy, McBride and Bowser will use the war situation politically to give them another term of office. They are both specialists in the art of flag-waving as a substitute for political ineptitude, and at next election they will use it for all it is worth. Then will most likely follow an announcement to the effect that "while the destinies of the empire are in peril and doubt," and "while the financial situation of the world is so unsettled," it will not be advisable to tamper with the political fabric of British Columbia. So will workmen's compensation, and other working class legislation long overdue, be likely to go into the melting pot, there to remain for another four years, or until such time as McBride and Bowser again want to use them as an election stalking horse. Such a proposal would meet meet with the full approval of the financial interests who own this government body and soul.

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As far as the mass of the workers are concerned, the war fever has them so firmly in its grip, that they would be an easy prey in the cunning hands of those who know so well how to exploit their weaknesss for political profit. Fortune's wheel makes strange turns. It is the function of your keen politicians to miss none, and convert all to his uses. The war will mean death, destitution and misery for millions. But it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and unless we are much mistaken, McBride and Bowser will make the war re-elect them and their gang for another term. Then when the inevitable aftermath of the war is upon us these legislative sops to the workers and the farmers, will be brought out again to serve their long delayed purpose of deluding both parties. The McBride-Bowser group have had some pretty shady election agents at one time or another, but never any more fitting ally than their latest recruit—the Spectre of War.

UNION TRAINING SCHOOLS

LABOR COLLEGES, for the training of young workmen for service in the labor movement, and the general question of their utility, have been brought to the front again recently. The National Union of Railway men, and the South Wales Miners' federation, in Great Britain, have recently decided to take over the Central Labor college in London. There are two such institutions in England—the Ruskin College at Oxford and the Central Labor college at London. Ruskin college was founded in 1899 by an American named Walter Vrooman. It was originally established in St. Giles, one of the most wretched and poverty-stricken districts in the east end of London. In 1903 it was removed to Oxford, where it now occupies an imposing block of buildings opened last year. It is financed by a number of the largest and wealthiest trade unions in the country, and on its committee of management are reperesented, the Trades Union Congress, the General Federation of Trade Unions, and other influential labor bodies. As resident students only males are, at present, accepted, but there is no sex disqualification as far as the correspondence department is concerned. To date, 500 students have passed through the college, and over 9000 have availed themselves of the correspondence courses. The curriculum deals specially with economics, industrial history and political science.

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The Central Labor college has only been established about four years. The principal is Mr. Dennis Hird, the gifted author of "An Easy Outline of Evolution" and other books dealing with scientific subjects in simple language. And thereby hangs a tale. Dennis Hird was the first principal of Ruskin college, and occupied that post for some time after it was removed to Oxford. He is known in England as a socialist, whose knowledge of economics can neither be confused, nor dislodged by two square meals; and when Ruskin college was committed to his care its policy and atmosphere were permeated with his political views. Now, whether it was due to the ultra-conservative tone of Oxford with its universities and traditions, or to some outside influence, or to both; from the time Ruskin college was transferred to Oxford it seemed to become conservative itself. Finally, relations between Hird and the committee of management became too strained, and he resigned his post as principal. In doing so, he made it quite plain that, in his opinion, the committee wanted the college to be a training school for politicians of the liberal-labor school, and those platform prodigies of the wishy-washy wesleyan type who have done for labor so much in British politics. Young men who are sent to the college, are elected, and their expenses paid by the unions from which they come, and Hird contended that they should be trained along lines which would make them useful servants,—not useless ornaments—of the workers who had invested their hard earned pence in the training of picked units from their numbers.

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When Dennis Hird left Ruskin College he founded the Central Labor College for the purpose of training men along the lines which he advocated. It had a hard uphill struggle from the start and met with much opposition, both secret and open, from trade union officials of the old school. If it has secured the financial support of the two powerful unions mentioned, it would appear that they are dissatisfied with the Ruskin institution, and it should result in widening the scope of work for the new school. If the new establishment represents and propagates the new spirit which has come over a large part of the trade union movement in England, it is to be hoped it will receive the support of the movement and flourish as long as it adheres to that policy. There is no need to be carping or narrow to arrive at a correct estimate of the value of such institutions to labor, but there is need to exercise care and mature judgement both in selecting the men, and in their training. Providing they can avoid the pitiful disaster of becoming "respectable," and emerge from their course with a fundamentally sound knowledge of the real and ultimate mission of the labor movement, the money invested in the experiment may repay the confidence of those who furnish it.

NO EAR FOR REASON

THE GREAT WAR that the world has so long feared threatens at this moment to engulf the human race. Already thousands upon thousands of human lives have been sacrificed to the conscienceless and insatiable greed of modern capitalism as typified in the personalities of the various governments of Europe. For years the labor movement of all countries has warned deaf ears again and again that such a conflict was inevitable if capitalism—the conquest of the earth for private gain—was allowed to continue in its greed-blinded course. The labor movement of Germany and France, Russia and England, nerved by the growing tension and warned by the signs heaping around them, were making heroic struggles to prevent the outbreak. And it is to the disgrace of the church that, in spite of the warnings so plainly to be seen, it sat supinely silent. To now make long prayers and longer sermons against the horror will neither suffice nor excuse. It is too late.

* * * *

The socialists of Germany had been refusing to vote the military measures demanded by their war lord. In France great peace demonstrations were under way, and in Russia a general strike had been called as a protest against the warlike attitude of their ruling class. Jaures, the socialist leader of France, was assassinated as he returned from addressing a huge peace meeting. So it is, that when the facts of this modern horror come to be calmly totalled up it will be found that the labor movement of Europe and of the world was the only force that, up to the very last moment, fought with every device at its command to prevent the outbreak. What the end will be can only be most dimly prophesied, but it is felt, and it is devoutly wished for by thousands all over the world, that it must mean the utter destruction of militarism.

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Out of the chaos labor will emerge stronger than ever before. The world will have an object lesson of the inhuman result of modern capitalist brigandage that will never be forgotten. Every human being whose soul is shocked by this damnable and inexcusable sacrifice of human life for the "glory" of the ruling class will be forced to turn to reason to find even a promise of that peace, prosperity and good will to men of which humanity has ever prated. For competition is war, whether human beings are sacrificed on the battlefields or in the sweatshop and mine, and the international bloody conflict now raging is the logical result of the race of nations for new territory to exploit and for commercial supremacy in the ever-lessening markets of the world. If we are really intelligent human beings, if we have the least iota of right to claim a superiority over the brutes of the forest, it is time we proved it by not only stopping this slaughter of the human race, but we should also wipe out of existence the last vestige of the unholy system that is alone responsible for the horror nowconvulsing the world.

THE MAGIC OF COAL

THE COAL MINER TO-DAY IS IN reality what the geni was in the imagination of the ancients. Could they have conceived the modern city, and translated the conception into living speech, the story would have been of more absorbing interest than it is to-day, interpreted as it is by civilization and industry, in terms of smoke and heat and misery.

* * * *

The age of the machine is the age of coal. The wheels of industry are driven round by the power-creating mineral. Every flying locomotive, every whirling machine, every melting and smelting, changing and shaping of metal is made possible by the dynamic agency of coal. The miner is the wonder-worker. On him depends the warmth, the clothing, and the feeding of millions, the moulding and making of the means whereby the nations live. Could the world's epic be sung again, the coal gnome would hold high place therein as the worker of things miraculous. Yet these benefactors of civilization, these hard-pressed toilers of the mine, are sacrificed daily. As for the community whose comfort depends on the labors of these men, it cares nothing; at the most it is mildly interested when a big disaster floods the pages of the puerile press with sensational photographs.

* * * *

Government returns just issued in Great Britain show that from there to various foreign places, no less than 76,500,000 tons are shipped annually. The British miner works and sweats, faced by danger of faulty timbering and the thousand other perils of the mines, and sends to the surface 287,500,000 tons per year. For the steel and iron trade, the shaping, moulding and manufacture of iron alone, he sends up to the surface no less than 13,000,000 tons in 12 months. For lighting, power, heating, etc., he delves from his burrows 16,000,000 tons. For the travelling public and for transport he has set the express to travel at 60 miles an hour, to fly in madness along the thin ribbon of rail. For the multiplicity of factories, turning out necessities for all and sundry, he gives his sweat and toil to the tune of another 54,000,000 tons. For the needs of the home, the warming of every room, the cooking of the humblest to the most luxurious meal, he is giving means to the extent of 34,000,000 tons. From his flesh and sinews society draws its strength and its comfort.

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To-day he is struggling for a minimum wage—a fit subject for the sardonic smiles of gods and devils. Rising from his bed when the sunshine is gilding the hills with rosy light, he descends into the darkness. There, in the depths of the earth, he burrows for coal. Death lurks in those grim and endless galleries, waiting the moment to catch and stifle him like a rat in a trap. But he is toiling for a living wage, and the whip of starvation goads him on.

An hour off the day's labor is an hour added to the day's life.

Nine-tenths of all trombone players should be executed; they are a menace to civilization.

There is no necessity to proclaim our policy from the housetops, which is always a sign of weakness and a source of information to our enemies.—B. C. Western Catholic.

Does any thinking man believe that if there were no great standing armies in Europe today there would be a great war raging over that continent? The same grievances might exist, the same differences, but, if the army was not there, these would be settled by saner means.

The report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, just issued in England shows that one person in every 260 is insane. To judge by the happenings of the past three weeks it looks as though the commissioners have done their work in very slovenly fashion. Of course there still remains the question of what is "sane."

The complete censorship now being exercised by European governments for alleged military purposes alone, is well worthy of note and study by those who believe that a general world strike of workers would put a stop to war, no matter on how large a scale it may be attempted. Collusion without communication, is impossible.

How much thinking or reasoning has there been on the part of the mass of the British people, as to why this war is necessary, and what it is for and about? Some day the working people of Europe will begin to think. International diplomacy, the dirtiest game on earth, played behind the doors of European chancelleries with the life and death of nations as the stakes will be known then for what it really is.

Says Nanaimo Herald of last Sunday:

"The Herald has many inquiries these days asking it if such and such a report from Europe is true. To tell the truth we know no more than our inquirers."

If the Herald had been as candid in the handling of the coal strike news, a lot of its statements which have been accepted for fact would never have been made.

The British investor judges the degree of civilization in any country chiefly by the respect accorded to life and property, says "The Monetary Times." The British investor has never bothered his head about protection for life either at home or elsewhere. His idea of civilization is protection for property—meaning his own property. The British investor's chief civilizing agent up to now has been quick-firing guns and bayonets used on what he calls "the uncivilized races." That is the way he "civilized" Canada, India, South Africa, etc. In his eye, a nation is not "civilized" unless its people are paying lavish tribute of profit to him or his kind. That is one reason why "civilized" nations spend far more money on things with which to kill people, than on things to keep them alive. Life is cheap. Property costs money. Hence the consideration shewn for property at the expense of life.

As the horror in Europe grows, it becomes increasingly difficult to accept the sophistry which explains it all on a basis of racial conflict. The working classes of these nations—the real nations—would not knowingly or willingly enter into a conflict in which they will do themselves infinitely greater harm, even though they are winners, than any other race or nation could do them, in peace or war. The responsibility for the beginning of this war, and for the militaristic system which hastened it, does not rest upon the working classes of Europe. They would not hate if they had not been carefully taught to hate. They would not fight if they had not been educated to believe, from childhood up, that they must fight. The blame rests upon the ruling class, partly hereditary, partly commercial, which has been ambitious to extend its power at the cost of other countries and at the cost of blood of its own countrymen. That aspect of the war is not coming out now. Wait a little while and it will be written so that all may read.

F. T. Cope, president of the British Columbia Manufacturers' association, is a real public benefactor who is anxious to provide for the families of those who have volunteered for service in the war. This is how he proposes to do it:

"It seems to me it is the duty of the manufacturers of British Columbia to do what they can to help to support those women and children, and I suggest that every employee be assessed a small amount to be deducted weekly from his or her cheque and the total to be sent each week to the honorary treasurer, M. E. G. Baynes, 615 Hastings street west, to be distributed as the executive think best. In the words of Lord Nelson, "England expects that every man this day will do his duty."

F. T. Cope is the local champion of the anti-union and open shop brigade. He wants the workers to pay in men, misery and money, and then to call the result the "public spirit" of the local manufacturers. In the words of the B. C. Federationist, "For impudent, stingy, unmitigated gall, this is the best example we have seen for many moons."

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UNVEILING OF MAIRS MONUMENT

JOSEPH MAIRS' MONUMENT
Erected by District No. 28, United Mine Workers of America, and unveiled in Ladysmith cemetery last Sunday.

On Sunday, August 9th, the members of local 2388, U. M. W. of A., Ladysmith, and the Women's Auxiliary marched from the union hall to Ladysmith cemetery to witness the unveiling of a monument erected by the members of District 28, U. M. W. of A., to Joseph Mairs, who died in prison.

Mr. Tom Doherty, president of the local, opened the proceedings and called on Mr. Robert Foster, president of the district, to speak. He, in his short address, briefly reviewed the conditions which had made it possible for martyrs to any cause, and pointed out that the U. M. W. of A. seemed to be the attack of the whole capitalist system.

Mr. John McAllister, district secretary, then briefly adressed the gathering, followed by Mr. Joe Naylor, president of local Cumberland, who ,on behalf of his members, brought the sympathy of the union there. He said he had never in his life met Joe Mairs till he had met him in prison. He mentioned how under ordinary circumstances it was impossible to find more than two men for the same cause. But under the circumstances, more than two hundred had been thrown into prison for the reason they were anxious to preserve their own lives, and during the imprisonment of Bro. Mairs he died, a martyr to the cause of freedom.

Mr. Geo. Pettigrew, international board member, was then called on to unveil the monument, and in doing so pointed how in the same cemetery there were a number of stones erected to the memory of men who had been killed in the Extension explosion nine years ago. The members of Ladysmith had formed a local union which at a later date developed to the district organization of the U. M. W. of A. When the men had attained a given percentage they elected their gas committees to examine the mines, and because these committees had found gas in the mines, then the lockout took place, later resulting in the strike on the whole island. In August last year some disturbances took place and over two hundred men were thrown in prison, among whom was our departed brother, Joe Mairs, who had received a sentence of sixteen months and died while serving it.

He hoped those present at this gathering would remember this was more than a mere gathering of people to see the monument unveiled, but that they would remember what had made it possible for them to meet and teach the lesson to the younger generation. Under ordinary circumstances they were advised to make peace with their God and follow in the memory of one who had gone before. But he, the speaker, said the best he could do was to preach the gospel of discontent thereby teaching all the lesson of the outcome of capitalism, which had made more martyrs than all the previous systems; and unless the people awakened more would follow.

If they remembered the lesson, then the co-operative commonwealth would be established and good conditions made.

The string was then cut and the monument unveiled and the following inscription shown:

Joseph Mairs, Feb. 4, 1892—Jan. 20, 1914. Native of Airdrie, Scotland.

Remember me as you pass by,
As you are now so once was I.
As I am now soon you will be,
Prepare for death to follow me.

A martyr to the noble cause—the emancipation of his fellow man.

Erected by his brothers of District 28, U. M. W. of A.

Emblem of the U. M. W. of A., and in large letters, "Mairs."

The monument is the highest on the island, fifteen feet high, and cost $425. It was made by Paterson & Chandler, of Vancouver, and everything was executed by union labor.

MISSION DISTRICT

Settlers Permitted to Work Out Taxes

[Special correspondence]

MISSION CITY, B. C., August 12.—In consideration of the shotness of money now prevailing the Mission district council has decided to permit the settlers in township 18, east of the Coast mountains, to work out their taxes on the roads of the district. This is one step in the right direction, but ratepayers ask what about opening up the Dewdney trunk road through that district? If this work was given to the men who are now wondering how to hold down their homesteads in this district this winter, it would go a long way towards developing the land in that part of the Mission district municipality.

MINARD'S LINIMENT RELIEVES NEURALGIA.

PROVINCIAL UNIONS

B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR—Meets in annual convention in January. Executive officers, 1914-15: President, A. Watchman; vice-presidents, W. F. Dunn, Jas. H. McVety, G. H. Fraser, J. W. Gray, H. Knudson, J. J. Taylor, B. Simmons. Secretary-treasurer, A. S. Wells, Box 1538, Victoria, B. C.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

NEW WESTMINSTER TRADES AND Labor Council—Meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 8 p. m. in Labor Hall. President, D. S. Cameron; financial secretary, H. Gibb; general secretary, W. E. Maiden. P. O. Box 934. The public is invited to attend.

PLUMBERS' AND STEAMFITTERS LOcal 495—Meets every second and fourth Friday of month in Labor Hall, 7.30 p. m. President, D. Webster; secretary, A. McLaren. P. O. Box 956, New Westminster, B. C.

BARTENDERS' LOCAL 784—MEETS IN Labor Temple, New Westminster, corner Seventh stret and Royal avenue, every second Sunday of each month, at 1.30 p. m. President, F. S. Hunt; secretary, F. W. Jameson. Visiting brothers invited.

VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR Council—Meets first and third Wednesday, Labor Hall, 731 Johnston street, at 8 p. m. President, George Dykeman; secretary, Thos. F. Mathison, box 505, Victoria, B. C.

MINERS' UNIONS

KIMBERLEY MINERS' UNION, No. 100, Western Federation of Miners—Meets Sunday evenings in Union Hall. President, Alex. Wilson; 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 Monday at 7.30 p. m. in the Athletic Club, Chapel street. Arthur Jordan, Box 410, Nanaimo, B. C.

CUMBERLAND LOCAL UNION, No. 2299, U. M. W. of A.—Meets every Sunday 7 p.m. in U. M. W. of A. hall. President, Jos. Naylor; secretary, James Smith, Box 84, Cumberland, B. C.

TRAIL MILL AND SMELTERMEN'S Union, No. 105, W. F. of M.—Meets every Monday at 7.30 p. m. President, James Delgarns; secretary, P. J. Bolam, Box 26, Trail, B. C.

SANDON MINERS' UNION, No. 81, Western Federation of Miners—Meets every Saturday in the Miners' Union hall. Address all communications to the Secretary, Drawer "K.," Sandon, B.C.

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SYNOPSIS OF COAL MINING REGULATIONS

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Each application must be accompanied by a fee of $5, which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall furnish the Agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, but the lessee may be permitted to purchase whatever available surface rights may be considered necessary for the working of the mine at the rate of $10 an acre.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. H. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

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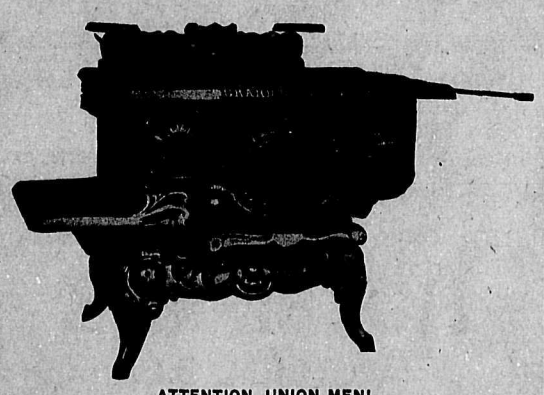

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LATE BUTTE TROUBLE IN MINER'S UNION

"Anarchists" Will Likely Get Their Fill Before It Is Ended

President Lord Throws a Flood of Light on the Situation

The Cleveland, Ohio, Citizen, so ably edited by Max S. Hayes, has this to say about the late miners' union trouble at Butte, Mont., which explains the real facts concerning the matter: "So many misleading reports and deliberate falsehoods have been sent broadcast relating to President Charles H. Moyer, the Western Federation of Mines and the Butte affair that a clear and minute statement from James Lord, president of the mining department of A. F. of L., who went to Butte from the strike district of Colorado a few days before the trouble occurred, throws a flood of light on the situation. Dispatches from Butte have been informing the public that the I. W. W. sympathizers in the W. F. of M. seceded because of heavy assessments, grafting of officials, etc., and that when the rioting began in Miners' hall while Moyer was speaking he was the first to sneak out of a back door and start for Helena.

Gunmen 'To Get' Them

Lord shows that for days before the annual celebration of the miners large bunches of hoodlums and strange faces began to arrive in Butte, as though by pre-arrangement, and Moyer, Lord and the other international officers were informed that an effort would be made by the gunmen to 'get' them at the Finley hotel. But when scouts investigated and found that the officers were on their guard, the plan was abandoned. When the officers went to the hall a mob of 700 to 1,000 hooted and howled in the street and police were nowhere in sight. Moyer lost no time in taking the platform and stated that he had the resignations of all local union officials against whom objections were raised, that an impartial president and also secretary satisfactory to all factions would be appointed temporarily, and that the books (which the rioters themselves burned that night) would be audited and a new election held by special committeemen elected by the convention itself. Nothing more fair could have been offered by an angel from heaven. Before hopelessly outnumbered, Moyer and Lord left the hall, but only after all except about a dozen had gone before. They wandered about until about 3 a. m. and then left the city.

Foolish Charges

The 'heavy' assessments complained of are in line with the rest of the foolish charges. Lord shows—and his figures are backed up by a table compiled by Secretary Mills of the W. F. of M.—that the total assessments in twenty years amounted to $74.50 per capita, a fraction over a penny a day. The heaviest assessment was during the Michigan copper strike, when for seven months the entire membership paid $2 per month per capita—but about the only complaint heard was from the cheapskates of Butte. They whined that Moyer perpetuated himself in office, but Moyer himself recommended and secured adoption of the referendum system of choosing officers, and at the last election the Butte bummery were unable to secure enough endorsements from local unions (it only requires five) to place their candidate on the ballot and Moyer was elected unanimously. So the anarchists started trouble, and they will probably get their fill before it is ended.

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VOTES FOR WOMEN

By MRS. J. A. CLARKE

Woman's Suffrage

The regular meeting of the Mount Pleasant Suffrage league will be held tonight (Friday) at 8 p.m. in A. O. F. hall, corner of Main street and Tenth avenue. Mr. Osborne will talk on "Practical Co-operation."

The object of the league is not only to gain the vote for women but to assist humanity in general and women and children in particular. All are welcome.

Justice, Not Impulse

The act of the city council in voting that all men who are civic employees and who enlist will be given half pay while away seems rather sweeping, and on the whole out of order. It is the money of the people that is being voted away and just why a civic employee should receive half-pay while away any more than a man in any other line of work is rather a queer proposition and indicates that the aldermen have acted on impulse.

If men have to be bribed to go to war then let the bribe come from those who suggest war.

Probably the aldermen in voting this way were thinking of the wives and children to be left behind. If that is the case then the wives and children of all men who enlist should be considered, not merely those of civic employees.

If the city is so generous in giving to the wife and children while the breadwinner is away at this time, why is it that in times past they have not been more generous with the widow and orphan when the breadwinner has gone never to return.

At the present time in our city we have little children going to school hungry, we have widows striving under great difficulties to maintain a family.

Lest We Forget

In a spirit of patriotic ardor the women of Vancouver have pledged themselves to give $5000 toward the $100,000 fund for the purchase of a hospital ship to aid in the relief work of the present war. The majority gave in the name of their country and king; a few gave in the name of motherhood.

After all it is the mothers who will care most whether there is a well-equipped hospital ship at hand or not when a great battle between opposing ships of mighty nations takes place, and their boys' lives are placed in jeopardy.

While the spirit of patriotism seems to be sweeping through the city let us not forget stern facts and hard realities. Cases of want and hardship are being reported. Cases that need just such summary action as did the emergency call for a hospital ship. Will the community arise to these conditions around which there is no glamor, but just hard facts?

Items of Interest

The suffrage movement has apparently made some impression upon the conservative party. For the first time women were allowed to attend the annual picnic of the party. Probably the men allowed them to go in order to prevent militancy. The women of British Columbia are each day coming to a nearer realization of what is due them and it pays those even in power to be careful.

In all the 48 states of the United States there is but one woman to represent the woman side in making laws. This senator is Helen Ring Robinson, who is a member in the Colorado state legislature. Senator Robinson has been offered the opportunity of becoming the first woman legislator to represent the people in the United States congress, but she has given up this because she feels that the present economic conditions in Colorado demand her attention. In an interview recently she said: "The work laid out for Colorado women this summer is to do their level best to help solve that threefold problem which Colorado is facing now: Immigration the relation of capital and labor, and class and race hatred. All three feed on one another, and are combined in one industrial hate. I have no patent remedy to put forth, but it seems to me that the true solution of the question is to enact the 'golden rule' into law. Our great work in the campaign this summer will be to try in the primaries and general election to put into office people who are pledged to bring about, through legislation, industrial peace and industrial justice in Colorado."

In our own province we have many women just as capable and brilliant as Helen Ring Robinson. We are only waiting for a fair deal to come into our own.

There is no doubt that before very long the leagues of the province will be formed into a strong union. A great many leagues are expressing a desire for such union. There has also been a desire expressed by some of the leagues that a joint mass meeting be held and that our own women speakers be represented on the platform.

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DUMPING OF IMMIGRANTS IN THIS COUNTRY

Jno. Keane, Ottawa, Favors Government Putting Them on Land

Men Willing and Anxious to Do Agricultural Work

In the opinion of John Keane, of the Ottawa, Ont., charities department, the present system of dumping immigrants into Canadian cities and leaving them to shift for themselves is responsible for much of the distress manifested in our larger centres of population. During the present spell of general depression the condition has been much more noticeable than at other and more prosperous times, and Mr. Keane, who has made a study of the characteristics and dispositions of many of the foreigners who have come under notice in the capital recently, is convinced that the system, not the immigrant, is at fault, says the Ottawa Citizen.

Mr. Keane considers that a very large proportion of the foreign element came to Canada under the impression that they would engage in agricultural pursuits. Most of them are small farmers or farm laborers. But dumped into the cities with little money, no means of earning more except as ordinary laborers in construction or similar work, they hive together because of a common bond of language and sympathy, and, in times of no work, become a public problem.

Mr. Keane would have the government put such immigrants on farm land in western Canada. The newcomers could be given land on a system of yearly payments and by this means would be encouraged to build up a home for themselves. The language question and the "colony" problem could be obviated by keeping the different nationalities well scattered and in the careful distribution of land.

The solution looks a sane one. It is obviously not paternalism of the kind advocated by the London Times, which considers that the colonies should take city-bred youths from the British cities, educate them in farming methods. They are willing and anxious to do agricultural work, but they have had absolutely no encouragement or any assistance. They have been invited to work as ordinary laborers—good, honest work, but not the sort of work to which they have been accustomed. We are, in short, spoiling good farmers to make indifferent laborers on railway and other construction work.

The matter is one that is deserving of investigation and prompt attention. Canada, by its policy of turning out hundreds of willing but misunderstood immigrants, is doing herself an injury which will cost many years and much money to repair.

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