

LABOR COUNCIL

LAST NIGHT

Will Ask the Federation to Draft a Compensation Act for Workers

Proposed Cut of City Laborers' Wages Is Strongly Protested

A fairly attended meeting of the council met at 8 o'clock last night, under the chairmanship of President H. H. McVety. A few new delegates were initiated, as follows: Messrs. Stridge, Bunce, Healy, Webb and Heelwright.

The council decided that it would endorse the scheme which certain persons submitted for the establishment of a 10 cent soup kitchen. The council wrote saying that, in response to the request of the Trades and Labor Council, the office of the city clerk would be kept open from now to the end of the month, during the evenings, for the convenience of workmen who are entitled to be on the city list, and who wish to register.

South Wellington miners wrote acknowledging the \$50 contributed by the council to aid the victims of the recent fire which devastated that town. A convention call of the American Federation of Labor was filed. The council contributed \$25 to the B. C. Herndonist, as part of the expense of preparing special matter inviting a next convention of the Trades and Labor Council to Vancouver.

The council returned to be represented on the civic relief committee through an organization called the Social Service Council, and had claimed to be represented directly, which request had been agreed to by the mayor.

Workmen's Compensation. The parliamentary committee recommended that the council write the B. C. Federation of Labor, suggesting at the special committee appointed to the proposed workmen's compensation bill, to be printed and distributed among working men of the province.

City Laborers' Wages. The council appointed a committee to go to the city hall, and protest the proposal to reduce city laborers' wages from \$3 per 8-hour day.

Del. Sully wanted the meeting to take its views on the question plain. He said, it would affect many men besides the city workmen. It would be taken as an excuse for a general reduction of laborers' wages all over the city.

Delegate Kilpatrick said he would be the question to be decided by the workers' union which would have the latter before it tonight.

Delegate Pettipiece pointed out that the Trades and Labor Council was entitled to more than a word when such a question was to be decided. The council fought for the \$3 per day for laborers some years ago, and had used it by agitation into a political issue, and the electors of the city had approved the council by plebiscite in its favor.

Capitalism places the workers on exactly the same plane as its inanimate machinery—mere means of production. Both are speeded up to the minute, whether the time be long or short.

Commercial Telegraphers reported conditions very slack, many being laid off. The cooks stated that they had put Allen's cafes on their unfair list. Painters had 80 members out of work. Their wages had been reduced on the Vancouver hotel job from \$4.50 to \$4.00 per day.

Machinists reported that the C. P. R. had decided to have practically no repair work done here in future. A new big shop had been erected at Calgary and the work was to be done there instead. This matter is to be taken up with the city council also, in view of the exemption from taxation and the free water which the C. P. R. receives at the expense of the city.

The steam engineers want the city to re-establish its free employment bureau. It was reported that the federal law calling for an 8 hour day on work carried out for the Dominion government was being violated at the dock being built for the government at the foot of Sallsbury drive.

BUILDERS WANT THE CAUSEWAY TO BE DONE

Ald. Cottrell Says Laborers' Wages Are Now Too High

A Reduction Would Reduce Wages on the False Creek Work

The persistent talk about reducing below the minimum of \$3 per 8 hour day, found its way into the meeting of the railways and bridges committee last Wednesday night. It arose in connection with the building of the concrete causeway which is to take the place of the present wooden bridge leading into Stanley Park at Coal harbor.

A committee of non-union champions from the builders' exchange appeared in response to a generous-hearted impulse to do the workmen of the city a good turn. They urged "that the duty devolved upon the government and the city to do all it possibly could to relieve the very serious conditions which threatened the laboring men of the city this winter. They were not pressing the city to do this work by contract, although it could be done cheaper that way, but if they had money available for this and other work, it should be started."

It was the plight of the laboring men which they were concerned about, not the profits which might come their way if the job was done by contract.

When the question of the laborers' \$3 per day came along, Alderman Cottrell of Ward 6, has been trying to have that wage reduced for some time, and as recorded in The Federationist, even went so far, a week or two ago, as to come to the Labor Temple to see if the Trades and Labor Council would back him up in his efforts. At this meeting of the railways and bridges committee, he strongly advocated contract labor, and declared that the city was making a great mistake by keeping up the \$3 wage when contractors could get men for \$2.

There is more in this proposal than many workmen are aware of. In the first place, city laborers are only making \$3.25 per week—providing they do not have to stand off for rain—because they are working two weeks out of every four. Then again there is the agreement made between the city and the Canadian Northern Railway company last year, with regard to the filling in of False Creek.

When the contract was first drawn up the wage clause read that workmen on the job should be paid "the current rate of wages paid in the city for similar work." The Trades and Labor Council vigorously opposed that clause and asked that the specific wage of \$3 for eight hours should be paid to laborers. Finally, after protracted effort, the most that could be got was that the wages of laborers, engaged on the work of filling in False Creek, should be the same as paid by the city to its laborers.

The work of filling in is now going on and is to be pushed ahead this winter. So it means that if the city reduces laborers' wages below \$3 for city work, the Canadian Northern railway company will be able to lower their rate also.

Alderman F. Woodside, the chairman of the committee, pointed this out, and voiced his opposition to contract labor, stating that in his opinion the city should use this opportunity of providing work for unemployed men at day wages.

An Interesting Prophecy. "It may interest this country to know that there will be a sensational development in the European situation on or about September 23. On that day there will be a secret conference in Europe which will cause Russia to desert the allies and support Germany. We will get the news here about September 25 or 26. I know what I am talking about."—A. K. Graves, New York, an ex-German spy.

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eight. They had sent \$50 to relieve South Wellington fire victims. Commercial Telegraphers reported conditions very slack, many being laid off. The cooks stated that they had put Allen's cafes on their unfair list. Painters had 80 members out of work. Their wages had been reduced on the Vancouver hotel job from \$4.50 to \$4.00 per day.

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The Minister of Labor is to be notified, also the local fair wages officer for the Dominion.

Delegate Miss H. Gutteridge announced that the local Council of Women were calling a mass meeting to deal with the question of the great number of unmarried women and girls of all occupations who are out of employment. She pointed out the gravity of this from a moral point of view, and said that the time and place of the meeting would be advertised in the newspapers tomorrow and Monday night.

LOCAL RELIEF COMMITTEE'S PROBLEM

6500 TRACKMEN VOTED TO REJOIN CONGRESS

Org. W. R. Trotter Does Good Work at Winnipeg Convention

Congress Executive Council Assisted in Release of Miners

Unionists generally throughout Canada will be pleased to learn that W. R. Trotter, western Canada representative of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, has been successful in securing the reaffiliation of the Canadian membership of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-way Employees, numbering some 6500. The trackmen have been in annual convention at Winnipeg during the past week, and Org. Trotter was present to press the claims of the Congress upon the delegates.

Besides this splendid work for the Congress, Org. Trotter has accomplished much in the way of stimulating interest in the national labor body among the unions of Winnipeg. A number of Winnipeg delegates left for St. John during the week, and among them was Mr. Trotter, who will represent Vancouver Trades and Labor Council at the Congress convention.

Helped the Miners. Now that all save one of the imprisoned coal miners of Vancouver Island have been released, it may not be out of place to mention that President J. C. Watters and the other two members of the executive council of the Congress played an important part in the result. They worked unceasingly among the authorities at Ottawa, and, backed by strong influences in B. C., were in no small measure responsible for the release of the miners.

PRINT SHOP CONDITIONS Messrs. Cowan & Brookhouse Purchase Plant of Lefaux Bros. A number of changes have taken place during the past month in local printshop circles. In a few cases it has become necessary to hang up the "high sign," while all of them have reduced their working forces. Consequently a couple of dozen more printers are frequenting typ. union headquarters in the Labor Temple.

Secretary Neelands reports more travelling cards being issued than received. During the week Messrs. Cowan & Brookhouse purchased the printing plant of Lefaux Bros. (E. T. Kingsley) and have moved from the Dunsmuir lane corner of the Labor Temple to the basement occupied by the latter, and The Federationist is issued from the "merger" premises this week.

RAILWAY BROTHERHOODS FEEL THE "WAR" PINCH The railway brotherhoods membership is feeling the pinch of the war panic and industrial collapse along with the rest of organized labor. No attack has yet been made upon their wage schedules, as is the case among the smaller and meaner employers, but tire-crawlers have been cut on western divisions at least two-thirds. All other railway employees in the operating department are likewise affected. War IS hell.

Even the Conservative daily press now admits that the High Cost of Living Commission's report will be useless. The Labor press of Canada pointed the inevitability of the present partisan admission at the time the commission was appointed.

LET US KEEP TO BUSINESS opinion: "Another feature observed in New Zealand was, that the indolent worker, entering on a minimum wage on which she could live, lagged, lacked incentive to jump higher, and sometimes lagged so that she had to be dismissed for laziness." The pressure behind men and women in the dawn days of the race was that of hunger. If they did not catch their minimum wage of enough to eat, they died. Can it be that this worthy scribbler would have us accept the inference which he so plainly occurs; that young women workers are still so crude and elemental that nothing short of hunger will extract service from them in return for pay?

The callousness of the mental attitude reflected in the words quoted is typical of the "impartial scrutiny" exercised by the unbiased inquirer whose findings are put into his hands when he sets about his job. Grant, for the sake of argument, that the facts are true. Girl workers in New Zealand may be more profitable to their employers when they begin for less than a living wage. The hope of some day getting the nourishing food they need, and the pretty clothes and amusements young girls are entitled to, may hold them to their tasks with a desperation lacking under the certainty

If the inside story of the work of the committee which is engaged in distributing the fund collected for the relief of dependents of reservists and others gone to the war were known it would expose a story of want and destitution absolutely appalling. Unemployment had kept hundreds of these families on the very edge for long enough before the war started and the last push was all that was needed to send them over into the abyss of poverty. They are, of course, all women and children.

In addition to those in the city itself, there are many from South Vancouver and outlying parts, where the severity of the unemployment of last winter has not abated to any measurable degree during the past summer. In addition to these particular kind of cases there are thousands of others equally as bad. It is confronting the authorities with a problem such as they little expected would ever have to be faced, and the idea is growing that one central civic relief body, directly under the control of the city council, should be formed. Such bodies as the associated charities—which worked very well as long as they had nothing to do—should be done away with or merged in a central body.

At any rate, the need for a more comprehensive plan for dealing with the general privation which prevails, is obvious. Everybody knows some cases within their own circle of acquaintance, but very few realize the extent of poverty in the city and the degree of intensity with which it has fallen on some families.

The situation is becoming graver with each day and sooner or later it will either have to be met with something more effective than charity or the accumulated distress will be more than any one group of men can handle.

The part to be played by the Trades and Labor Council cannot be of a financial kind, but it can, by practical suggestion and participation do something towards the general result. At the session of the committee this week, Jas. H. McVety, on behalf of the Trades and Labor Council, suggested that this would be a good time for patriotic people to discharge their Oriental domestic servants and replace them with some of the hundreds of white women who are daily haunting the female employment agencies for work.

The chief difficulty with these patriots up to the present has been that they have only been willing to give a white girl half the wages they pay to a yellow man.

FEDERATION OF LABOR FORCES. Tasmania Unionists Follow Example of Other Australian States. The state of Tasmania is but a small island off the south coast of the Australian mainland, but it forms part of the great Australian commonwealth. It was only natural when the great unions of Australia formed a federation for solidarity that Tasmania would do the same. According to latest advices from the island state the unionists, who number some 10,000 in all, have resolved that the time is opportune when they will band themselves into one big federation. The movement has been on the cards for some time now, but last week the matter received the official sanction Hobart Trades Council. All that remains now is for a conference to be called of the whole of the unions that the final touches may be put on the matter. The consolidating of the unions means much to the unions of that state. At the present time unions are in two camps, so to speak. There is the political party and the industrial party. The new amalgamation will have the object of cementing the two bodies and handling all matters, whether political or industrial, from one head. This will bring Tasmania into line with the other Australian states.

While The Federationist regrets a reduction to four pages this week, there was no other alternative. During the last six weeks its revenue has been cut in half, for causes at once apparent to every one in Western Canada. As soon as conditions will permit, The Federationist will keep up with the procession.

The "Colo'd Gen'man" at Butte. If every one had any doubt as to the causes underlying the Butte labor troubles, it ought now to be completely dispelled, says the Spokane Labor World. It is the same old game that has been played against the workers time and time again, until it would seem that the workers could not again be fooled by this hoary tool of capitalism. At the outbreak of this trouble The Labor World voiced the suspicion that the Amalgamated Copper Mining Company, the copper trust, was behind the split in the Butte Miners' Union. This suspicion is now confirmed beyond any reasonable doubt, and for the time being the trust is on top and the power of the unions broken.

Any trade unionist in possession of information likely to interest readers of The Federationist will be doing a service by sending it along.

of getting the eight dollars and fifty-three cents a week on which they can just exist. Go even further, and say that their employers themselves may be under the pressure of an economic situation which inclines them to choose between paying low wages or giving up their business to others with less scruples.

But none of those factors, or any other, can in the slightest degree justify paying a girl, of all workers, less than she needs to maintain personal fitness and self respect. To those who take but casual interest in such matters, the path to improvement may seem beset with difficulties, but to those who know what it often means, all other considerations are sub-merged beneath the appalling possibilities behind the fact of just one girl who gets just one dollar less than the least amount she can exist upon. Critics, barren of the desire to tackle the question fundamentally, find solace for their ineptitude in the hoary old horrors of that school of political economists who fill the gap left by them when they ignore the human element in industry by babbling of "the survival of the fittest," and sundry other jungle ethics as applied to human affairs. Of all English ideas it is the most stupid. Born in Manchester, it postulates the theory that starvation stimulates ambition. "Give 'em lots of bible, some beer, a little bread, and we can keep 'em in such shape as will make our fortunes." Nearly all the statues of successful merchants which deface the already ugly streets of the great textile cities of northern England, have been built of such material—and they certainly look like it. The fact that they are permitted to remain there shows that we still have a long road to travel. When a move is made, it will be women who will point the way.

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN MEXICAN HISTORY

Evacuation of Vera Cruz by Forces Hastens Day of Reckoning

Zapata to Enforce His Land Policy or Fight with Carranza

The United States government has ordered the evacuation of the port of Vera Cruz by American forces. The Constitutional government of Mexico is going to take control of the city again, and the Carranza administration is going to be recognized by Pres. Wilson. On the surface it looks as if peace was assured in Mexico, but the second part of the tragedy is yet to come. The common people are not in accord with the agreement made between Carranza and the United States government, because the oil fields will remain in the hands of the Standard Oil, which means the practical ruling of the country by the magnates of 29 Broadway. The latest action of the United States government brought out a confession of the inability of the Wilson government to cope with the situation.

The situation will greatly serve the Zapata followers' interests in their campaign for the extension of further territory. These forces have been holding their positions in the Southern States since last April and although not actually fighting, they are ready to take the field and carry on their work throughout the country. Zapata has refused to attend a convention that Carranza called for October 1st in the capital of the republic. He has refused to tie himself by any promise of assistance and once more he has made the statement that nothing but the occupation of the land by the farmers can stop his armed movement. The new government is afraid of the renewal of the campaign, and is taking all kinds of precautions to prevent the forces of the other states, disgusted with the agreement of Carranza and the Standard Oil, from supporting the Zapata plans.

REDUCED TO "WAR" SILENCE BUT STILL IN THE FIGHT While The Federationist regrets a reduction to four pages this week, there was no other alternative. During the last six weeks its revenue has been cut in half, for causes at once apparent to every one in Western Canada. As soon as conditions will permit, The Federationist will keep up with the procession.

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OBJECT LESSON FOR PROSPECT OF PEACE

THE UNORGANIZED SAYS BROWN

President of Timber Workers' Makes Instructive Comparison

Says Unionists Should Start Organization Revival Next Spring

J. G. Brown, president of the International Union of Shingle Weavers, Sawmill Workers and Woodmen, with headquarters at Seattle, was a visitor in New Westminster and Vancouver during the week. On Tuesday he met a number of sawyers and fliers at the Labor Temple, when the question of organization was discussed.

Pres. Brown, in common with other union officials, is of the opinion that industrial conditions will continue very dull throughout the coming winter, but is likewise confident that next spring will witness a general revival of business. He advises trade unionists to stick to their guns and mark time for the next few months; and then to start an organization revival campaign.

"If there ever was any proof needed," said Pres. Brown to The Federationist, "to show unorganized workmen the advantages of organization, surely the present crisis is supplying the lesson. In the timber industry everywhere the organized workers are the last to receive a cut in their wages. Show me a hundred per cent. organization and I'll show you a bunch of men who are maintaining wages under adverse circumstances. True their staffs may have been reduced, but the organized workers are 'dividing up' the work, i. e., they are inaugurating shorter hours, putting into effect five-day week laws and otherwise looking after their membership. It is surely an object lesson for the unorganized workers of the Pacific coast."

Mr. Brown says that in Washington, too, the industrial panic prevails, though probably not to such an extent as in B. C.

A. F. OF L. CONVENTION To Meet at Philadelphia on Monday, Nov. 9. The thirty-fourth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor will be held at Philadelphia, Pa., beginning November 9, and will continue in session from day to day until the business of the convention has been completed.

The official call says: "It is, of course, entirely unnecessary to enumerate the imminent important subjects with which our forthcoming convention will concern itself, but the reminder is not at all amiss that every effort must be made to broaden the field and means for the organization of the yet unorganized workers, to strive to bring about more effectually than ever, a better day in the lives and homes of the toilers, to defend and maintain by every honorable means in our power the right to organize for our common defense and advancement, for the exercise of our normal and constitutional activities to protect and promote the rights and interests of the workers; and to assert at any risk the freedom of speech and of the press and the equal rights before the law of every worker with every citizen; the tremendous conflict now being waged in Europe and its possible consequences and results, not only upon the people of European countries but upon the people of America, as well as on the whole civilized world, must of necessity receive the deepest solicitude consideration of the working people of America. These and other great questions of equal importance will, of necessity, occupy the attention of the Philadelphia convention."

A. F. OF L. Pres. Gompers on War. Intimating that the European war is one solely of an aggrandizement and conquest—"a war to divert to peoples from their constructive work of humanizing and democratizing tendencies"—President Gompers of the A. F. OF L. predicts that its outcome will be a world government and a world federation competent to maintain peace. He declares the war will mean the "vanquishment of autocracy, the emergence of a society in which the people shall be supreme and in which men's thoughts shall be given to the things of peace. In the general reorganization that will follow the war, the workers must have voice and influence. That voice and that influence have ever been used for liberty, justice and humanity."

Dissatisfaction in Valcartier. The Federationist is in receipt of a letter from one of the volunteers now at Valcartier, in which he declares that probably the choice of rustling for a living in Vancouver this winter might have been preferable after all to life in a military camp. The food is "punk" and to make matters worse the authorities are inoculating them with typhoid antitoxin, with the result that many are suffering and three are reported to have died. Some of the recruits have refused to stand for the treatment meted out, which has resulted in their being let out.

U. S. Unions Are Pleased. The passage by the United States senate of the Clayton bill, the provisions of which exempt labor unions from the workings of the Sherman Anti-Trust law, has occasioned much pleasure among unionists. They express themselves as highly pleased with the vote, which was 46 to 17, and almost all agree that the credit for securing its passage belongs to the American Federation of Labor, which had backed the bill.

"Have you had any breakfast?" queried the chairman of the chapel of the printer tourist. "Not a drop," quoth the p. p.

IN COLORADO IS BRIGHTER

Plan of Conciliation Proposed by U. S. President Woodrow Wilson

U. M. W. of A. Officers, at Trinidad, Will Consider Its Adoption

TRINIDAD, Colo., Sept. 15.—Today, one year after the miners decided to strike for an enforcement of Colorado mining laws, 125 officers and members of the United Mine Workers of America are meeting here to decide whether or not they will consider a plan of conciliation suggested by President Woodrow Wilson. The text of the proposed agreement follows:

Whereas the industrial conflict in the coal mining fields of Colorado has disrupted the peace of those sections of the state to the extent that a state of war has practically existed for some time, and, whereas, a temporary peace is maintained by the presence of federal troops,

Therefore, there should be established a three-year truce, subject to: 1. The enforcement of mining and labor laws of the state. 2. That all striking miners who have not been found guilty of violation of the law shall be given employment by the employer they formerly worked for, and where the place of the employee has been filled, he shall be given employment as a miner at the same or other mines of the company. 3. Intimidation of union or non-union men strictly prohibited. 4. Current scale of wages, rules and regulations for each mine to be printed and noted. 5. Each mine to have a grievance committee to be selected by majority ballot at a meeting called for the purpose, in which all employees (except officials of the company) have the right to participate.

Members of said committee must be employed at least six months at the individual mine before being eligible. Married men to be in the majority on each committee. Grievances to be first taken up individually with the proper officer of the company. Failing adjustment, they can refer to their local grievance committee for further consideration with the mine officials. Still failing agreement, the matter shall be submitted to a committee composed of three men to be appointed by the president of the United States, and which shall be representative of each side, with the third member to act as umpire, whenever necessary. This commission shall, during the three years of truce, serve as adjusters or referees in all disputes (whether individual or collective) affecting wages, working and social conditions.

Said commission shall devote primarily all the necessary time to the consideration and adjustment of such disputes. 6. It is understood as a condition of the creation of said commission that during the life of the truce— (a) The claim for contractual relations is to be waived, but this shall not prevent the voluntary agreement between any employer and their employees during the life of this truce. (b) No mine guards to be employed, but this does not preclude the employment of necessary watchmen. (c) In the establishment of the truce the presence of the federal or state troops should become unnecessary. (d) There shall be no picketing, parading, colonizing or mass campaigning by representatives of any labor organization of miners that are parties to this truce, which will interfere with the working operations of any mine during the said period of three years. (e) During said truce the decisions of the commission in cases submitted shall be final and binding on employers and employees. (f) There shall be no suspension of work pending the investigation and reaching a decision on any dispute. (g) The suspension of a mine over six consecutive days by the company may be authorized for cause satisfactory to the commission, but not pending any dispute. (h) Willful violations on any of these conditions will be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the commission.

Employers and employees each to pay one-half of the expenses of the commission.

Berlin Socialists' Message. The Berlin branch of the social Democratic party has sent out a message to their comrades throughout the world. An extract reads: "We now see the uncurbed tyrant surrounded by his parasites, directing the most desperate devilish and selfish campaign ever waged against humanity. With the toilers in all lands we have no quarrel, and to-day we extend our hands in the heartiest friendship to every French, Belgian and British democrat. We know that the eternal revolution proceeding in our midst will depose this despot whose insatiable egotism is drowning Europe with the blood of its workers and wage earners."

Believe in Publicity. The unionists of Australia are doing things. The Daily Herald has been launched in Adelaide, South Australia, and on Nov. 6 another paper, the World, will be started at Sydney, New South Wales. Arrangements are also being made to convert The Worker, a weekly at Brisbane, Queensland, into a daily. This ought to make a formidable battery for labor on the world's smallest continent.

"Homes that are homeless, children that are fatherless, mothers whose boys are in nameless graves—such is the sacrifice. War's glory is in its calamities, the widowed woman it leaves behind; the unborn babes who can inherit naught but sorrow and bondage. Out of the wreckage of Europe must rise a race of men whose common sorrow will make for them a common brotherhood, a unity of purpose, a new destiny."

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"Unity of Labor: the hope of the world."  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1914

THE B. C. WESTERN CATHOLIC is very desirous that the mayor of the city should instruct the police to suppress what it calls the soap box orators who are preaching sedition and blasphemy at sundry of the street corners of the city each night. The sentiment expressed by our local contemporary is not a new one.

In fact, we recognize in it an old acquaintance, who flourished like the proverbial green bay tree, with a very lusty but short lived career, during the mayoralty of one James Findlay, whose doughty deeds in the way of head-cracking earned for him the sobriquet of Findlaykovsky, and the disgust of the conservative party machine, which had put him in office, to such a degree that, at the end of his year, they kicked him out to make way for a saner and broader man. We are not so much interested in any particular brand of politics, whose advocates may come beneath the disapproval of our religious contemporary, as in the principle which is involved. Neither do we see how street speaking can produce much effect—either good or bad—when it has to compete with the continuous rattle of street cars, the ringing of their bells, the tooting of automobiles and the countless other noises which go to make up the hideous din which goes on from early morn till late at night in the city streets.

The B. C. Western Catholic speaks, in the same article, of the advantages which are part of the privilege of living in a British community. Quite so. One of them is the liberty to speak freely about anything under the sun, without having to go to prison for doing so—as is the case in some parts of the world where the religion of our contemporary has far more influence on the administration of the law than it has in the average British community. Free speech is by no means a spontaneous gift from the ruling class to the masses. It is a matter of governmental policy, based upon a knowledge gained by years of experience, of the weak spots of the working class. The secret of it is this. So devise the policy of government, that the masses get the impression that they are governing themselves, then you can do as you like with them. The logical outcome and application of that idea is nowhere seen so practically illustrated as in the very heart of the city of London itself. Just inside Hyde Park, every "ist" and "ism" on the face of the earth are given all the room and freedom to express themselves which even the most ardent devotee might desire. The consequence is, nobody interferes, very few take any particular notice, and nothing happens to seriously disturb the sway of the ruling class, which looks with approval on such gatherings, as the safety valves necessary to maintaining itself in authority.

About this little matter of "sedition" and "blasphemy." It is not quite clear what is meant by our contemporary. The terms are used in an indefinite way, without anything to indicate precisely what is to be understood by them. Perhaps it is meant that the sayings complained of are subversive of the supreme authority and the teachings of the church on whose behalf the B. C. Western Catholic speaks. Bearing in mind the denunciations which have been issued from that quarter against the advanced sections of working class thought, the reason for the action of our contemporary becomes a little plainer. Still, we believe that it would be difficult to disprove the contention that every man and every movement which, in all the history of the world have contributed anything to the progress of mankind, were, in their day, denounced as seditious and blasphemous. Christ himself was crucified for it, and millions of others who, in their time, and according to and labored long and hard for the benefit of mankind, have been sent to suffering and death by authority sheltered behind the craven's excuse of sedition and blasphemy—the martyrs of Smithfield and St. Bartholomew's eve amongst them.

However, we have no reason to think that the chief magistrate of this city will lend his authority to extremists, either religious or otherwise, in the manner which his narrow-minded predecessor did. He will see that the object of our contemporary is, to use public feeling as a tool with which to deliver a blow for them against people who profess a political belief for which the B. C. Western Catholic has a keen

dislike. As long as their partisan wrath can be appeased they will be satisfied. But there is more than a usual amount of social discontent abroad just now, as the result of the vast amount of unemployment and general economic depression which prevails, and it will be wise on the part of the authorities to give that discontent an opportunity of expressing itself in speech.

THE McBRIDE-BOWSER government evidently does not intend to make any attempt to alleviate the appalling condition of unemployment and economic depression which prevails throughout the province, if the people can be kept quiet and things allowed to muddle through somehow. As an aggregation of political mediocrities they are, from a working class standpoint, a tragic joke at the best of times, but in face of the present crisis their ineptitude and indifference is the rankest insolence to thousands of the working men and women who, in one part or another of this province are literally starving. Every deputaion which has gone to Victoria during the last twelve months to try and urge them to action, has been entertained with the flow of dialectical drivel which McBride keeps permanently on tap for such purposes. But nothing has been done for the very simple reason that, by doing nothing, McBride did not feel that his political prestige would be at all impaired. The condition of the people does not worry him as long as it does not threaten his political power. And there has not yet appeared any combination of forces formidable enough to scare him into action. But unless we are much mistaken, the present situation is so acute, and is pinching so many people who in previous times have not felt the pressure, that an agitation to demand that a special session of the legislature be called to devise ways and means of alleviating conditions, would receive so much general support that McBride's political sagacity would grasp the meaning of it, and he would be forced to act.

The main factors of the situation as it confronts us to-day are these. On the one hand are thousands of acres of land, capable of being made arable and productive of the things which the people of this province need for their every-day existence, and will continue to need for just so long as we live here. On the other hand are thousands of unemployed men, able, anxious and willing to secure that land in return for the labor needed to make it productive. In the task of bringing those men and that land together, what obstacles are there in the way other than those deliberately seen or made by those in Victoria who control the political power of the province? McBride's usual answer is, that there are now no available tracts of land sufficiently large and at the same time close to the few big cities. Also that the government has no money—or the means of raising any—for carrying out such a scheme. Take the land difficulty first. There are millions of acres, many of them comparatively near to the cities, which have been handed over by the government during the past six years to individual, and coporations, of speculators. They have held those lands in the hope of selling them to settlers at fancy prices, and out of the monies thus received to pay the nominal price charged for the land by the government in the first place, and to pay taxes on unsold portions until such time as they were disposed of. But the land boom has burst. Buyers have not been forthcoming. And in hundreds of cases not one cent has been paid by those speculators as yet. In fact, the \$9,000,000 surplus which McBride made out of the province had to its credit last year, was nothing more nor less than the money owing to the government by speculators who do not intend to pay one single bean until they sell their land, unless they are forced to do so.

Now why should not those lands be taken back by the government, then cleared, and put into holdings of various sizes from ten acres upwards? Work would be provided for thousands of unemployed, who could be given first call on the land when it was ready for cultivation, and instead of thousands of industrious citizens falling into the hopeless desperation which continues unemployment breeds, they would have a chance to live under self-respecting circumstances. But McBride would say: "We have not got the money to float the scheme, to pay for the clearing, and to make the loans which these settlers would need to finance them to start out with." If there is the will the way would come of itself. If the credit of the people of British Columbia is good enough security upon which to borrow money for the personal advantage of private shareholders in the Pacific Great Eastern and other railway companies, it is certainly good enough to back up a productive enterprise of such a public character as the one we suggest. The further objection will be made that money cannot be borrowed now owing to financial conditions. Very well, there is the chance for McBride to show whether his government contains one statesman, or whether they are all what they seem to be—scoury politicians. Let the government take the bull by the horns, and issue government script in the form of notes of various denominations to be paid to those who do work or supply material for carrying out the scheme. Those notes would exchange for commodities, and would be the expression of real wealth produced in the shape of land

made fertile and productive. If the government showed that they were really in earnest, it is doubtful if they would have to go to the point of actually issuing that script. For this reason: It would mean that the state was going into the banking business, and it would be a blow at the private banking monopoly, which is the worst of all the commercial vampires which are sucking the very life blood of that portion of the inhabitants who are the real and actual wealth producers of this province. If such a move could be set going it would open the eyes of thousands of the voters of British Columbia, in such a fashion as would start them thinking along lines which would bode no good for the gang of political pirates who are now in control of the administrative and executive power of this province.

FOOD CRANKS always seem so funny when they are serious, and so serious when they are funny, that to the ordinary person they are a very difficult quantity to understand at any time. One of the most widely known of the "food reform" experts in England, is Eustace Miles who has commercialized the gastronomic crankiness of the grape nutters and the fruit fanatics with considerable material advantage to himself. The Eustace Miles restaurants are nothing less than an institution in London. He has also produced quite a deal of literature on the subject of food from the standpoint of the faddist. But of all he ever wrote he never put forth anything quite so naive as a letter which he sent to the press at the outbreak of the war, and in which he showed how economy may be practiced in the matter of food. The gentleman says:

FEELINGS FOR THE PROLETARIAT  
Sir,—The war will soon cause distress to the poor. Let those who can, save the peelings of potatoes, carrots, apples, and the outside layers of onions and leaves of cabbages, lettuces, pea-pods and marrow seeds. Wash these well, let them simmer in water, and after straining, add milled bread crumbs and crusts, milled cheese, and some soaked and cooked peas or beans or lentils, and distribute to the needy, or else send to some central place of distribution. It would mean a little individual trouble, but would cost hardly anything, and would help a good deal.

EUSTACE MILES.  
Now that strikes us as being a really statesmanlike proposal to make in the richest country on the face of the earth, especially just now.

It looks like one of two things—either the babbling which comes from the lopsided mentality of a faddist, or that damnable insolence which assumes that nothing is too poor for the poor. Just now in England, the authorities are calling on every able-bodied man, who can possibly do so, to take up military duty. Alright. The chief part of that burden will fall on the poor. But as long as there are so many rich left in England, there should not need to be any among those left behind who are so poor as to have to eat the garbage-can soup so highly recommended by Miles. Men in England are told that the present situation has broken down all class barriers. Let it be shown in practical fashion. Let the rich break down their walls and fences which surround their parks and coverts which teem with hares, rabbits, partridges, pheasants and deer, for daring to take one of which, the poor are sent to prison in ordinary piping times of peace. Let them give never so lavishly of the fruits of the land stolen for them by their ancestors from the common people, and yet not all the piled-up heap of their giving can put the breath of life back into one bullet-riddled body. "Give them the peelings of potatoes, carrots and apples," forsooth! Marie Antoinette, when told the poor had no bread, asked why they did not eat cake. Foulton, told the same thing, advised them to eat grass. The head of the first parted company with the rest of her anatomy on the scaffold; the latter's finished on a lamp-post, the mouth filled with grass. History has a nasty habit of repeating itself.

Three years ago the only talk heard in public places was about lots and real estate speculation. Now the only thing to be heard is talk about hard times. One is the logical result of the other.

The legislature of the province of Manitoba met in special session last Tuesday to deal with conditions brought about by the war. Are conditions worse in Manitoba than British Columbia, or is it that the people of this province can be more easily fooled?

The ultra conservative London Times, under the head of advice for war-time says: "Explain to the young and the ignorant what war is, and why we are forced to wage it." This is alarming. Can it be that now that the Harmsworth group control the Times they intend to make it tell the truth? Unthinkable!

The Russian government has changed the name of the capital from Petersburg to Petrograd. The official reason given is that the "burg" at the end of the old name was too German. There is, however, a place near Petrograd called underground dungeons where thousands of the best and bravest of Russia's men and women have gone insane in filth, chains, and starvation. That name too, has the same German "burg" at the end, but there is no mention of

changing it. Even if the name was changed, the prison would still remain. Siberia and "Bloody Sundays" are not dead yet by a long way.

An injury to one is the concern of all—in theory. Just now—in practice—a job for one is the envy of all, and so is the lucky slave who gets it.

Even Miles' potato peeling soup is better than McBride's "courage and confidence" when it comes to practical things as compared with a politician's platitudes and mental bankruptcy.

Bullets are impersonal. They go as far, whether they are directed from the rifle of a prize-fighter or a poet, and they pierce with equal ease the brain of incalculable value to mankind, and that which is not worth its keep. They do not turn aside because it is not well that a young man should die before his time. The philosophy of bullets and shells, and the war lords who direct them is that men—if they happen to get in the way—are so much material to be destroyed.

Quoth the Winnipeg Voice: The patriot is the man who makes patriotic speeches at meetings and then sits on a board of directors to raise the price of necessities to the hero's family. Be a patriot—it pays—a hero doesn't know any better.



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- \$8.75 for the double breasted heavy wool auto coat with a military collar.
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## ROYAL CITY UNION DELEGATES IN SESSION

### News-Ad. Reporter Barred for Making Inaccurate Reports

### Reports of Committees Indi- cate Activity of Cen- tral Labor Body

NEW WESTMINSTER, Sept. 9.—Pres. H. Knudsen presided over the regular meeting of New Westminster Trades and Labor Council, held this evening. Credentials were accepted from Martin Pratt, electrical workers; Wm. Jardine, cigarmakers; Geo. Atkinson, plumbers.

Communications—From Mayor Gray, in re public meeting for purpose of looking after dependents of service men. Filed, as delegates had been sent to meeting. From school board in re night school courses. Filed, as delegation had been named, but was unable to attend. From Moving Picture and Projecting Machine Operators' Union, Local No. 348, Vancouver, stating that they had unionized the operators at the Royal and the City theatres, but had not organized the Edison theatre here. Received and referred to locals to patronize the two unionized theatres. From D. S. Cameron, tendering his resignation as a trustee and chairman of the municipal committee, and withdrawing as a delegate because of the impossibility of keeping together the Retail Clerk's union, which he represented. Received and resignation accepted. From the Vancouver News-Advertiser, in re the debarring of their representative as a result of alleged untruthful statements regarding proceedings of the Council. Laid on table till next meeting.

**Local Sale of Debentures.**  
Thos. Turnbull was given the floor and delivered an address on his plan to form an organization of individuals who would subscribe a certain stated amount monthly for the purpose of purchasing unsold city debentures so that development work could be done by the city this winter and a large amount of interest money now going abroad be retained here. After Mr. Turnbull stated that only white labor could be employed on work under his plan, the council endorsed it and Delegate Yates was selected to represent the council at a meeting to be held by various public bodies to consider the details of the plan.

**To Aid the Needy.**  
Del. Maider reported on the public meeting in the city hall, held for the purpose of devising ways and means of caring for dependents of soldiers. He stated that care would be taken to see that the needy ones were provided for and those who did not need assistance would not receive it. Report received.

**Reports from Unions.**  
Types—The Daily News has gone out of business, leaving five more printers out of employment.  
Plumbers—About the same, but a little more doing in the steam-fitting line.  
Barbers—Pretty quiet, another unfair shop (the Cosmopolitan) in town.  
Bartenders—Pretty quiet; about a dozen men out of employment, and may be worse.  
Cigarmakers—All working, but some on a limit.  
Brewery Workers—Not much doing.  
Moulders—Just about as bad as ever known, but prospects are brighter, as there is some work in sight.  
Painters—Pretty quiet, about two working.  
Timber Workers—Tried to get Chinamen to join them on strike, but failed; feel assured that unless wages are restored in this province, the tariff will be replaced on shingles going into the United States, to preserve the equation with the higher wages now paid in the States.

Steam and Operating Engineers—

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J. J. TAYLOR  
One of the imprisoned Vancouver Island miners recently released on parole. The father of eight children, an officer of the U. M. W. of A., and a vice-president of the B. C. Federation of Labor. Sentenced last year to two years penal servitude.

Things not so good as usual, several men laid off.

**Electrical Workers**—Only about two laid off, good as seen for awhile.

**Street Railway Employees**—Worse conditions than for years; mechanical department laid off twenty men and may shut down car shops and lay off 40 more men.

**Hod Carriers**—Nearly all gone soldiering, about three left in town and at least one working.

**New Officers.**

W. E. Ivison was elected trustee in place of D. S. Cameron. T. A. Barnard, W. Yates and C. Cropley were elected on the municipal committee, vice D. S. Cameron, D. McGuire and J. McLean. Jas. Peeney was elected to the auditing committee in place of Jas. Mackie.

**Committee Reports.**

Report of progress by the executive committee was received and the committee was instructed to call the attention of the provincial government to conditions existing at Fraser mills and ask that the provisions of the Truck act be enforced there.

Answering a question by Del. Cropley as to the work contemplated by the city council this winter, Del. Dodd said that day labor would be employed on the outfall for the Glen Brook sewer, to cost \$10,000; outfall for Sapperton sewer, with pipes, will go over \$40,000, other sections to run \$10,000; reservoir, \$45,000, may be by day labor; stable on Eighth avenue by day labor, \$8,000; and then the outside routine work. Some of the work will be started soon and others only talked about. Columbia street paving will run close to \$100,000. Bitulithic paving problematical.

Del. Stoney said A. S. Mills & Co. now carried union shirts and collars as a result of demand for them by unionists, and they deserved the patronage of the unionists. Del. Flynn said J. E. Brown carried a large line of union goods and has an ad. in The Federationist and deserved his share of the union men's trade.

Del. Cropley asked for information about waterfront leases made by the City Council without the anti-Asiatic clause, and was informed by Del. Dodd that some firms objected to the insertion of the anti-Asiatic clause in their leases, and won out in the council, despite his objection and contention that it was unfair to similar concerns that had the clauses in their leases. It looked to Del. Dodd as though the city council favored Asiatic labor. Del. Cropley believed Del. Dodd should be commended for his attitude in the matter and the Trades and Labor Council should insist that the white labor clause should be inserted in all waterfront leases.

Answering a question by Del. Paulsen, Del. Dodd said that the city intended to lease all the street ends along the new wharves and that small boats would be taken care of at Tenth street, where there are about seven acres. Del. Paulsen wanted to know where cannery boats would tie up, as well as strange boats. Del. Dodd said lessees must allow boats to tie up at their wharve when their own ships are not there, and a scale of wharfage charges is being arranged. On motion of Paulsen-Maiden, the council went on record as strenuously objecting to the city council leasing the street ends, especially Eighth and Sixth streets.

### The Norway Way—and Canada.

There is at least one European government that is attempting to play fair with the people, even though it be necessary to choke the life out of the robbers who plunder the public by boosting food prices, observes Max Hayes in the Citizen. The government of Norway decreed that prices on articles of food, coal, coke, wood, meat, mineral, oils and such commodities, shall be fixed by the authorities. The raising of prices was attempted as soon as the news of the war reached Bergen. The government took swift and sure action and in two days prices were at normal again. The reason that the blood-suckers let go was that a number were thrown into jail and others were forced to make restitution for overcharging. There was no red-tape about it, and the government did not start in to make a silly investigation into something that everybody knew about.

### Those Who Can May Do.

Some union, somewhere, asked for a raise of wages in these troubled times, and as a result we were treated to an editorial, the burden of which was that unions should refrain from asking higher prices for their labor, says "Working Card," in the Regina Leader. We have yet to see the editorial which will condemn the employers for reducing wages, which action seems to have become a matter of course, amongst the unorganized. Nor do we see the merchants refraining from raising the price of the commodities they are selling. It seems to us that it is perfectly in accordance with existing conditions for every one to raise prices except the worker, who seems fated to be the goat which ultimately bears the burden.

During the past week or two a large number of Federationist subscribers have been notified of their expiration dates, along with return slips for renewal. It may become necessary for The Federationist to cut off delinquents, not as a matter of choice but of necessity. However, if there is a wage-worker in Canada who desired The Fed. and lacks the price let him or her drop a card to this office and it will be done. The Fed. has no desire to become a Weekly Wall, but, along with others, it is feeling the pinch of industrial stagnation and consequent unemployment among its readers.

## CHURCH PROPERTY SHOULD BE TAXED

### Peace Party Should Include Prohibition of Manufacture of War Arms

### Churches Have Failed to Do Their Part in Pre- serving Peace

[By Ald. Jos. A. Clarke, Edmonton]  
The public institution or person that can make the most out of the most distressing circumstances or conditions, is the one that, in the long run, will be most remembered by humanity. The terrible war of greed, selfish ambitions, aristocratic jealousies and ignorance now engulfing the allegedly civilized and Christian portion of Europe, is indeed a hard condition to secure any advantage to the human race from.

The conclusion that no peace should be signed that did not prevent that hereafter any private company or person for profit should be allowed to manufacture any engine of destruction for sale to any government or private individual, and to be made broad enough to include battle or war ships, dreadnaughts or submarines, cannon, armor plate, fortifications or small arms, is one good step.

That all countries should be bound by an international agreement, which would prevent the starting of a war (for remember, these civilized countries actually start war before they declare it), without ample notice and consultation and authorization from the representatives of the people, who will be affected by the war when it does come, but more important than all, in my opinion, is when I write this, because stress has not been laid upon this aspect of the case, excepting in a very superficial way, by the publication to date, is that the countries now at war are Christian countries.

The facts are, that, owing to the claim of the various Christian religions that they are primarily the servants and representatives of the Great Apostle of Peace, all the combined property of the combined Christian churches have been to all intents and purposes, in all the countries now engaged in this war, exempt from taxation, facilities for the accumulation of tremendous incomes free in many cases by actual taxation or by facilitating the collection of alms or voluntary contributions for church purposes, have been encouraged more than any other class that ever was associated in the collection of money for other private use, not even excepting the collection of money for government purposes. The capitalization of the property exempt from taxation, and the money which the connivance of the government enables the religious denominations to collect, would in a very few years amount to more than the entire cost of the war, and I believe that the campaign of permanent peace which must follow this war, must take into consideration the fact that no leaders of any church and no governing body in any church in any of the countries involved, has made any effort to throw the weight and power of their influences on the side of those who believe that the war should be stopped before it began, that the shedding of blood should be prevented.

If there is any justification now, or ever has been for this tremendous subsidy of the human race, regardless of belief or disbelief, in any or all of the various Christian denominations, that justification must be that any crisis, such as arose about the first of August, the influence of the church, to prevent the shedding of blood, to prevent the normal followers of the Prince of Peace from shedding each other's blood, to prevent the fighting machines of different Christian nations from making countless orphans, all these included in the Prince's words, solemnly uttered, "Suffer little children to come unto me," and that in spite of this subsidy, in cash paid continuously for 2000 years, there has been no result beneficial to the human race, from either an individual or the entire Christian churches combined, then it is up to the alleged Christian nations to find if such an enormous subsidy should not be used for some other purpose, more beneficial to the human race. It is up to those who believe that murder is a crime whether carried on by an individual, a corporation, a nation or a nation with the connivance, support and prayers of the church, is just as much murder in one instance as the other, to refuse to longer subsidize such a useless appendage of Christian nations as the tax exempted church property, and it is a matter of very grave doubt if the church, generally speaking, have not earned the confiscation of all their property by their inactivity or by their publicly siding with one or other of the belligerents, in the present war and adding sacrilege to uselessness of representatives of the one church praying to the one God for success of both sides in the bloody slaughter.

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In answer to a communication from the parliamentary committee of the local Central Labor body, Mayor Baxter announces that arrangements have been made to keep the city clerk's office open for the registration of voters, between the hours of 7:30 and 9 o'clock every evening, except Saturday. The new arrangement went into effect last Wednesday. Every qualified municipal voter in Vancouver should avail himself or herself of the opportunity provided for registration. There is now no excuse but negligence.

**No New Discovery.**  
 The United States Commission on Industrial Relations at its recent session in Lead, S. D., discovered that 3000 employees of the Homestead Mining Company are practically slaves. The testimony showed that no employee is permitted to enjoy the right of membership in a labor organization. Applicants for employment must submit to a physical examination and must state their political affiliations.

The rapid increase of armaments could only end one way—the way it has done. A man cannot stand on tiptoe beyond a certain length of time. Military competition could scarcely have been pushed further. There had to be a let-up—or bust up. The proximate cause—Austria's irritation against Serbia—was trivial enough. But the real cause was national jealousy, suspicion and hatred—carefully nursed and exploited everywhere by the military class and the noisy few who find a profit in war. The grand stock in trade of these formers of war is that of false patriotism which is merely a modern extension of the tribal sentiment that made the Indian who lived on the south side of the creek consider it a pious duty to kill one living on the north side whenever he got a chance. Whatever the cost of this war there will be another some day if racial hatred is allowed to be cultivated by those who profit from it.

It is civilization that is being shot down by machine guns in Europe. There are Erlichs serving as privates in the ranks and in the French corps are Rostands. A bullet, then, not only kills a man, it destroys a generation of learning, annihilates the mentality which was about to be humanity's instrument in unearthing another of nature's secrets. The very vehicles of progress are the victims. It will take years to train their equals, decades perhaps to reproduce the intelligence that was ripe to do its work. The chances of the acquisition of knowledge are being sacrificed. Far more than half of the learning on which the world depends for progress is turned from laboratories and workshops into the destructive arena of battle.

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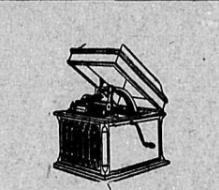
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