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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

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

SEVENTH YEAR, No. 53 — VANCOUVER, B. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, ~~1915~~ 1915 — (In Vancouver City, $2.00) $1.50 PER YEAR

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPIER NEW YEAR

SAYS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IS BETTER

It Will Give a Voice in the Public Bodies to the Minority

Designed to Kill Monopoly of the All Powerful Politicians

[By John H. Humphreys]
General Secretary British Proportional Representation Society.

Proportional Representation is a new method of election, the object of which is to ensure that all citizens should obtain representation on elected bodies.

Proportional Representation is spreading. The idea is making headway in every democratic country. Members of parliament are compelled to think about it—to institute inquiries—to pass P. R. bills. The up-to-date pressman knows that P. R. is one of the subjects which will occupy more and more space.

The writers who use their pen to stimulate their readers into tackling the problems of the world, such as H. G. Wells, Arnold Bennett and others, press the claims of P. R. Yet, to judge from those whom I have met—many British Columbians have but a vague conception of what P. R. is.

Proportional Representation.

What is Proportional Representation? The idea of voters voting in proportion to their voting strength. This does not mean that all electoral districts must necessarily be of equal size. Victoria may still continue to return four—and Vancouver six members.

What it does mean is that all the citizens within Victoria, and all the citizens within Vancouver should, so far as practicable, obtain representation. Under the existing system of voting, if one party polls 51 per cent. of the votes of Vancouver, it will probably secure all six seats. Under Proportional Representation, if labor polls one-sixth of the votes, labor will secure one representative even if the other parties poll the remaining five-sixths.

Under Proportional Representation, there cannot be a monopoly of representation in the hands of any one party. Monopoly almost invariably breeds corruption, and in every case monopoly destroys the moral fibre the vital force of the party which possesses it.

Some Changes Required.

The following changes in the electoral law will give Proportionate Representation:

(1) Constituencies returning only one member should be grouped into larger electoral districts, each of which will return several members of parliament, the number of members being dependent upon the population. No change need be made where, as in Vancouver City, the district returns six members.

(2) Each elector will have but one vote. It does not matter whether the district returns five, six or more members; in each case he will have but one vote.

(3) This vote will in certain contingencies be transferable, the transfer of the vote being always, however, under the control of the elector who gives the vote.

This system of Proportional Representation is known as the single transferable vote.

Why Large Electoral Districts.

When a constituency returns only one member, only the largest party or group of citizens secures representation. It is not possible to divide the representation.

When as in Vancouver, a constituency returns six members, it immediately becomes possible to share the representation—to give to each party the proportion of seats to which its voting strength entitles it.

Why Only One Vote.

A constituency returning several members is the first requirement. The second is that each elector should have one vote. Why? Vancouver elects six members and under the present system each elector has six votes. What is the result? The largest party can place all its six nominees at the head of the poll; it can monopolize representation.

This would be impossible if each elector only had one vote. Suppose there are 30,000 votes polled in a Vancouver election—one vote by each of 30,000 electors. It follows that if 5000 electors have given their one vote to one and the same candidate—that candidate must for a certainty be one of theose elected. He will have obtained 5000 votes and only six candidates in all can obtain as many as 5000 votes. The single vote in a constituency returning six members guarantees representation to every one-sixth of the electors.

Why a Transferable Vote.

The single vote is made transferable in order to ensure fairness of representation as between one party and another. When an election is being held neither candidates, agents nor electors know what the result will be.

In one constituency, the leader of a party may be a candidate. Instead of getting the number of votes requisite for election—say 5000, as in the example given above—he may obtain 10,000 or double the number. The votes given in excess would in ordinary circumstances be wasted. The popularity of the leader instead of being a source of strength, might result in the loss of a seat.

This difficulty is overcome by making the vote transferable. The elector votes

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1915 IS DEAD
RING OUT THE OLD

ANNO DOMINI 1915 was the most disgraceful in all human history. The only creditable thing it did was to die.

But as long as the written record of men remains, the year that is gone will stand in the eyes of posterity as a monument of folly, in an age and a world equipped with powers for the best diverted to the worst.

Science, through the flash of genius instinct, and the patient persistence of myriad devotees, has given to man the innermost secrets of Nature, and rendered the powers of earth and air subservient to his bidding.

Applied mechanics have made it possible for him to shake himself free for ever from the bondage of toiling from sun to sun for the mere physical needs of his existence. The wizardry of wheels has thrown open wide to him the portals of the larger life which means the bigger, better man.

Civilization—meaning the purging from him of his ape strain and cosmic slime—is there waiting his acceptance. But the cunning of his hands has outstripped the unfolding of his mind, and the gifts of the gods, which might have brought him all good, are turned to purposes which have brought more consciously created suffering and misery upon men than have ever before been crowded in a year of the world's life.

They call it Progress; that veneer of vicious symbolism and fatuous vanity which, in one process of the suns, has been ripped from its underlying rottenness.

It was a house set on the sands, and washed into the maelstrom of madness and staggering folly by the accumulated pressure from the oozings of its own sewage. And what of the future, when the last abandon of its ruin passion shall have been spent?

This new year, and the new years yet to come? What of them?

LABOR DELEGATION TO MAKE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Trades Congress Executive to Interview the Government

There Are Many Matters to Present to Dominion Government

The usual annual deputation of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress to the federal government will take place next Thursday, when Premier Borden and members of the cabinet will receive the deputation. A change in presentation and complexion of the deputation has been necessitated owing to war conditions, it being anticipated that no legislative matters will be presented for the coming session, thus congress will accommodate itself to the circumstances.

Munitions Questions Foremost.

The position of the deputation will be to advance matters affecting the wage-earners connected directly with the furnishing of munitions and supplies to the militia. A single exception will be made in this regard on behalf of the Federation of Letter Carriers, who will, through their secretary, A. McMordie of Hamilton, present a petition to the postmaster-general setting forth several requests for the advantage of the Dominion letter carriers. The other members will deal with munitions and supplies as affecting their several crafts.

Composition of Delegates.

The deputation will comprise President J. C. Watters and Secretary P. M. Draper for the executive of the Congress; T. Moore, Niagara Falls, Brotherhood of Carpenters; J. H. Kennedy, Toronto, Sheet Metal Workers; J. Watt, Toronto, Journeymen Tailors; W. F. Bush, Toronto, Garment Workers; J. Bruce, Toronto, Plumbers and Steamfitters. A machinist representative, it is expected, will also be in attendance.

Parliamentary Committee Meeting.

The parliamentary committee of the central labor body will hold its regular meeting next Wednesday evening, Jan. 5, at 8 o'clock.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL IN SESSION

Candidates Are Selected to Contest Municipal Elections

Good Attendance and the Best Meeting Held for Some Time

President Wells called the last meeting to order at 8 p.m. A fair attendance of delegates were present.

The executive committee reported that they had a meeting with the local Brewery workers regarding their new agreement and President Wells, J. Day and C. Sivertz were appointed to deal with the matter in conjunction with the Brewery Workers.

Under Head of New Business

Delegate Sivertz reported for the parliamentary committee that the convention of the union men in the city had been held and Messrs. J. Day and C. Sivertz had been unanimously chosen to represent labor in the forthcoming aldermanic election; also a committee was appointed to carry on the campaign and solicit funds from the various unions in the city. W. Nunn was appointed as chairman and F. Holdridge, secretary of the committee. The report was adopted. Several communications were received, one from J. M. Telford, Saskatchewan, asking why do not more men attend church? The letter was referred to the executive committee to reply.

One from the Longshoremen's local re longshoremen being included in the new compensation act was handed to the president to deal with the commission at Vancouver, B.C.

Trade conditions showed no change from the last time.

Munition Classes in Schools.

Under new business the president spoke for some time regarding the matter of munition classes in the night schools. The general impression around the city was that the Trades and Labor council had originated the idea, but such was not the case, therefore the executive committee were instructed to take steps to disillusion the public on the matter.

The call for the B. C. Federation of Labor convention was laid on the table till next regular meeting when delegates, if any, will be appointed and vice-president for the district will specially appeal for a good attendance next meeting.

Delegate Day spoke regarding the proposed new labor paper. He had been meeting with success in the matter of securing promises of advertisements and he was of the opinion that the day was not far off when we should have a local labor paper. The report was received as progress.

In view of the fact that the meeting was late in getting through business it was decided to hold a special meeting for the purpose of considering the new constitution and by-laws.

After a very good meeting the council adjourned till the 24th of December.

Trail Is Overcrowded Now.

The following advertisement appeared in the columns of Vancouver Daily Province last Monday inght:

"City of Trail, B. C.,—Notice to Workmen—Men looking for work are warned not to come to Trail, British Columbia, as there is an over supply of men for all departments. W. E. B. Monypenny, city clerk."

Distressed Damsel—Oh, sir, catch that man! He wanted to kiss me!

Pensive Pedestrian—That's all right. There'll be another one along in a minute.

WINNIPEG LABOR VICTORIOUS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

Organized labor in Winnipeg has met with great success in the municipal elections there. The following have been elected for the various wards: W. B. Simpson, Typographical union, alderman ward 6; John Queen, Coopers' union, alderman ward 5; W. J. Bartlett, councillor, Blacksmiths' union, municipality of Assiniboia; H. A. Southall, Street Railwaymen's union, councillor, municipality of West Kildonan; J. L. McBride, Electrical Workers, councillor, municipality of Assiniboia. Those are the elected, and J. L. Wiginton, Bookbinders, was only one vote behind the winner in ward 7, Winnipeg. A recount of this vote is being asked for. R. A. Rigg, secretary of Winnipeg Trades and Labor council, was a member of the city council last year. During the term of his office he was elected a member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. In view of his duties in the provincial parliament he decided not to run for the city council this year.

WILL NOT PAY WAGES FOR WORK TO WOMEN

Conservative Trade Unions Must Widen Their Constitutions

And Industrial Evolution Will Require It to Be Done

[By Helena Gutteridge]

The daily press of Vancouver, and no doubt throughout the Dominion of Canada, on Monday last contained a full report of an address and appeal from David Lloyd George to a gathering of some three thousand trade unionists and workshop stewards, in the city of Glasgow.

The British minister of munitions, in urging the dilution of skilled with unskilled labor, stated that on the acceptance of such a proposal by the trade unionists, depended not only victory for Britain and her Allies, but the saving of numberless lives of their fellow men in the trenches.

The Eternal Sacrifice.

Just how much sincerity there is in such an appeal is speculative, both the workers and the women, right down the ages, have at every crisis in the history of a nation, been called upon in the name of patriotism and unselfishness, to sacrifice something they have fought for and hold precious, so that the governing class may cover past errors and the capitalist class by exploitation in the name of patriotism, make more profit.

The Facts As They Are.

However, apart from the question of the "glorious opportunity" of gaining the victory and saving their country from Prussian militarism, is a still more important matter to trade unionists, both at the present time when the war is going on, and more so after the war is over, what will be the effect on the wages and status of skilled trade unionists, if the Amalgamated Society of Engineers refuse to open their unions to unskilled labor, who are even now working on munitions, and becoming skilled.

The facts must be looked in the face, the present British government has been in office over ten years, and a majority of the present ministry holding their portfolios for that length of time, and are supposed to be familiar with international affairs, and a knowledge of the possibilities for or against war at any time during the past ten years.

The responsibility therefore, for lack of munitions, lies not with the workers, but with the government, and now the supply of munitions must be materially increased to win the war and cover the errors of judgment of Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues in the cabinet. To do this, both skilled and unskilled labor will be employed; in fact, many unskilled are working on munitions now, and whether the Amalgamated Society of Engineers suspend their rules or not, the labor employed will be just the same, with the exception that, if taken into the union, the unskilled can be better regulated in the interests of both skilled and unskilled.

If the A. S. of E. and other trade unions, with a big membership are wise they will take notice of the hint given by Mr. Lloyd George in his address.

Threat of Female Labor.

Alluding to the excellent work he had seen done by women during the last few days, he said that if the men failed to adhere to the government's programme, there were other alternatives that had already been recommended. If the hint means anything at all, it is certainly a thinly veiled threat to use unorganized women to do the work and undoubtedly at less pay.

The Women Warned Them.

For many years past women, and suffragists in particular, have been urging the A S. of E. to open their ranks to women, especially in those branches of the trade under their jurisdiction where the manipulation of comparatively simple machinery is such, that it matters not whether the labor be skilled or unskilled; and where employers have already installed women to run the machines.

But again and again with the true British obstinacy and shortsightedness of the male worker, and his conviction of the inferiority of women to his splendid self, the A. S. of E. went blindly on. Of warnings they had many, on one occasion in the Midlands of England, a strike, or rather a lockout, occurred in some of the shops under the jurisdiction of the society. To break the men down, the employers put women in charge of the machines vacated by men, and, of course, paid them less money.

They Will Get a Jolt.

The men, instead of reading the signs of the times rightly, and taking the women into their union, and recognizing them as workers in a competitive labor market, whose employment and conditions should be regulated by the organization, called the women "blacklegs" and "scabs," antagonizing them, and playing into the hands of the employers.

The members of the big conservative craft organizations of males have a rude awakening before them, and at no great distance of time, for, in spite of the request of the federation of women workers and the recommendation of Mr. Lloyd George that they should receive not less than a pound a week, many private firms with government contracts are paying their women

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1916 IS HERE
RING IN THE NEW

ANNO DOMINI 1916 is likely to mark an epoch in working class history the world over. Autocracy under an infinite variety of names, challenges Democracy to a fight for the future.

Spread over the surface of things is the war which, in the perspective of time, is gradully coming to be looked upon as a last desperate move by semi-feudal militarism, and vested interests jealous of its flesh-pots to set back all the forces which were working, each in their own way, to make the world a better place to live in for the men and women who by labor of brain and hand, do its daily work.

Below the surface, there are signs of the birth of a new social consciousness born of the terrible experiences of the past sixteen months.

The war itself, despite the real intent of those who have schemed for it, has forced upon society lessons in mutual aid and collective action for self preservation in a national sense.

The socialization of industry can be accomplished in a few hours when the business of death requires it. Later, people will want to know why it cannot be done when only the business of living is engaging their minds and labors.

It depends upon how far this is recognized before the ultimate result of it can be determined.

Howsoever it may befall, there are great things doing these days, for all who have eyes to see, and minds to think out their meaning.

After this madness there will be lessons aplenty; written in language of blood and fire; of world agony and the despair of millions who died paying the age old price exacted of those who do not understand.

CANADIAN SOLDIERS CLOTHING IS SWEATED

Girl Workers in Toronto Do Not Receive a Living Wage

Favored Middlemen Take the Cream Off the Contracts

The Canadian soldier is asked to go as a champion of the women and children of Belgium and northern France, of Britain, and of Canada. He has donned the khaki, with the maple leaf showing bravely on cap and collar. What would the soldier say, asks the Ottawa Citizen, if he knew the very khaki clothing he wore had been made under conditions verging on girl slavery in Canada?

Sweating on Military Work.

Khaki clothing is being made in Toronto, under certain militia contracts, where the girl workers are said to be little better than sweated wage-slaves. They work long hours, twelve hours or more a day, on piece work where the price is cut to the sweating level. They seem to have no trade union organization to protect them. But they have had the temerity lately actually to ask for better pay. The rate allowed for finishing of khaki trousers is 6 cents per pair. They are asking for an increase of one cent!

72 Cents from Morn Till Night.

The finishing off work on a pair of khaki trousers includes sewing on 11 buttons, and doing certain necessary hand stitching, as well as taking out all tacking threads left in during the machining operations. It is virtually an hour's work; and the pay is 6 cents. The girl slave at the end of twelve hours work will have 72c due to her! But supposing a girl to have exceptional skill, with eyes never tiring under the strain—even the finishing of 16 pairs of khaki trousers per day will mean 4 cents less than a dollar for the day's slavery—and the work would have included sewing on 176 buttons, and an equally laborious amount of stitching and picking out of threads.

The Trail of the Profiteer.

Hon. A. E. Kemp, M. P., has denied the charge made in the clothing trade journal, Men's Wear, that a militia clothing contract had been placed with a real estate agent. But has every clothing contract been placed with a genuine clothing manufacturer? Has every contract been carried out by the person receiving the order from the war contracts committee? Or has there been sub-letting and profiteering middlemen? This country should know. It has to pay for the clothing. Does it pay at a rate of 6 cents an hour for girl slavery? Or is the price only a sweat-shop price after the profiteering rat has been devoured by middlemen? Civilians might at least stir from their firesides to wipe out the sweat-shop, while the soldiers are handling the enemy abroad.

Trades Council Next Week.

The regular meeting of Vancouver Trades and Labor council will be held in Labor Temple next Thursday evening. The recent appeal sent out to the unions urging them to be fully represented at all meetings of the council, has been producing good results of late. All delegates to the council should be in their places at all the meetings. Otherwise they should not be delegates, but stand aside and let others take their places.

Washington Federation Convention.

Officers of the Washington State Federation of Labor have issued a call for the fifteenth annual convention, to be held in North Yakima, beginning January 17.

FED'S COGITATING CRITIC ON THE WARPATH

War Making a Class of Get-Rich-Quick Gun Traders

Eminent Political Parrot Performs for Benefit of Parliament

[By W. M. C.]

Speaking at a meeting in aid of the war emergency fund of the Church of England Waifs and Strays society, the Marquis of Crewe relieved himself thusly: "The studendous tax which was being made upon the manhood of the nation created a sense that in future years there would be no real place for the idle and thriftless, or for those who, for any reason, were not engaged in some work of value for the nation."

Just who the old fellow was hinting at is a bit of a guess; but if he means to take them all in, from both extremes of society, we will second the motion.

He Must Like War.

From Everyman: "It is not an open secret that this war is producing a new class of 'nouveaux riches' of war traders rapidly transforming into millionaires? A war millionaire told a friend of mine that during the last twelve months he had made £250,000 in net profits, and that he would not mind if the government took £200,000 of it."

If the modest gentleman would kindly furnish his name and address, we would relieve him of any further anxiety in the matter.

What the Parson Thinks.

In a letter to his congregation, the Rev. Mr. Somervihe, Selkirk West United Free Church, who is acting as a chaplain at the Dardanelles, expressed himself as follows: "Away in the distance we were shown the spot where line upon line of our country's noblest and bravest sons have been lying dead for months, rotting through exposure, and shrivelling to skeletons.

"Could anything bring home to one more vividly the inhumanity of those conditions of modern warfare, which debar the dead from burial, and prevent even their identification discs from being collected? It may be that war may once have had its uses as a factor in developing some of the higher qualities of human character. But if ever there was such a day, it is surely past for ever now.

Modern warfare is heathenish and devilish past all description. One great cardinal triumph of the forces that annul progress, and retrogress towards primitive barbarism." There are many

(Continued on page 3)

UNION MEETINGS IN LABOR TEMPLE DURING NEXT WEEK

Sunday—Bartenders.

Monday—Boilermakers, Electrical Workers No. 213, Brewery Workers, Tailors.

Tuesday—Bricklayers, Cigarmakers, Amal. Carpenters, Railway Firemen.

Wednesday—Press Feeders, Tile Layers, Plasterers.

Thursday—Garment Workers, T. and L. council.

Friday—Hod Carriers and Laborers, Railway Carmen, Patternmakers, Letter Carriers.

GERMANY'S CHOICE WAS REVOLT OR WAR

Expanding Capitalism Determined the Conflict in Europe

Nationalization of Industry Is Likely to Be the Next Order

[By W. W. Lefeaux]

My impression of the European situation? Yes, I have necessarily a few ideas on the subject, but to foretell a solution when one's proposition itself must be based upon unknown quantities is, to say the least of it, a somewhat dubious proceeding.

War Is no "Mere Incident."

One cannot well pass the situation over with the classification of a "mere incident," nor yet with the other extreme of being "the end of capitalism"; both of these pronunciamentos are open to very apparent and grave objections.

Maybe a glance at events leading up to the present struggle will enlighten us a little or, at most, not befog us.

Observers of European developments for the last forty years have had a field of speculation before them unparalleled in the history of human society.

The Most Important Epoch.

The advent of modern industry, with its harnessing of natural forces and introduction of machinery has stamped the closing years of the last century and the opening years of this century as an epoch surpassing in importance any other period in human history.

Has not this period evolved machinery of production by means of which society, or the working portion of society, can produce many more times the amount of commodities necessary to its own subsistence?

And the history of the evolution of the machine, with its consequent industrial expansion of all nations that have called upon it for assistance, is the basis of the history of modern Europe.

Britain Had the Lead.

Great Britain obtained the start in the race. Due to its insular position and extended sea coast it had for generations been fairly secure from invasion and had developed a very successful maritime population of world traders, freebooters, pirates, slavedealers and missionaries.

Britain's industrial development was practically undisturbed while the other European countries were being overrun by invading hosts from neighboring states or were marshalling all their available manhood to pay the same compliment to the fellow next door.

The Art of Colonizing.

In the meantime the Englishman sailed the seven seas and planted himself where he would. Peacefully if convenient, otherwise if not. He got there anyhow. If his religious emissaries were not successful in implanting a desire for Lancashire cottons, Yorkshire woollens, Birmingham-made idols and other ingredients of civilization, then other means of "opening up" the country had to be resorted to. He usually found it necessary [illegible] of "trade" and "civili[illegible] proclaim him[illegible] and sundry [illegible]

Nobody ca[illegible] the unavoida[illegible] opment and h[illegible] body else woul[illegible]

But we may p[illegible] remark that it might have been [illegible] with a trifle less cant and hypocrisy.

However that may be, conditions and natural instinct determined that he have the start as the world's biggest trader and provider.

Hence the particular conditions of this war.

War Brewing for Many Years.

The drama or holacaust we have before us is the war for which Britain and Germany have been shaping themselves for many years, driven thereto by the inexorable natural laws of the evolution of human society.

Foreseen? Yes decidedly. Accidental? Not by any means!

Britain had attained the premier industrial position in the world's markets and it was a vital matter—a matter of life and death—that she retain that position. Without markets for the products of its productive working class, Britain was doomed to stagnation and anarchy.

The Rise of Germany.

The rise of modern Germany since the days of Bismarck and the Franco-German war has been meteoric and phenomenal. It is a subject of infinite interest to the student and thinker, affording a wonderful illustration of the play of events and circumstances on the human mind and the "determination" of human action. The subject is altogether too large to deal with here, but we may notice the outstanding features.

The comparatively recent confederation of German States into the modern German Empire presented a nation of various groups, sharply defined, with agriculture as its chief and almost sole industry—except fighting—and a dominant ruling aristocracy of feudal lords and kings that ruled by right of might and were never troubled by any question of their divine appointment. Add to this a setting of warlike nations on all sides, and a Britain on the seas, and we have a picture of the problem faced by the strong individuals that condi-

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"Unity of Labor: the Hope of the World"

FRIDAY.....DECEMBER 31, 1915

OUR SEVENTH YEAR ENDS with this issue, and we desire to show our appreciation of "whatever gods there be," and who have in the fulness of their wisdom permitted us to survive to such a ripe and hearty old age, by wishing all our readers A Happier New Year. We say "happier" with deliberate intention bred of a year of recollections, which will not rank among the happy ones for the working men of British Columbia.

WISHING YOU A HAPPIER NEW YEAR.

• • • •

The dead year may bury its dead, but their experiences live after them as memories and lessons which should serve as an instruction to those who are left. And unless we much misjudge the signs, the prospect which awaits organized labor here during the coming year will need all the accumulated wisdom of past experience to enable it to weather through; there is nothing to be gained by being doleful or pessimistic, but there is every reason to be cautious, and by thoughful provision beforehand, to anticipate the difficulties likely,so that they can be met and handled in such fashion as will leave the least amount of ill after effects.

• • • •

The B. C. Federationist itself has had a rather trying year to contend with; a year which has seen several labor papers, both in this country and Britain pass out of existence. The war forced the strictest economy on us, both in the matter of size, and general running expenses. But we have much to be thankful for. Chief in this respect is the continued support of subscribers. During the year we have very considerably increased our circulation. That is chiefly due to the practical support of well-wishers who desire to help us over this period of industrial depression. And so, to them and to all our readers, we again wish A Happier New Year.

MR. WALTER RUNCIMAN, president of the British board of trade, has the true profiteer mind, as he very conclusively proved at the time of the South Wales miners trouble a while ago. As minister of agriculture before the war, he was also a shareholder in the firm of Cammel, Laird and company, one of the shipbuilding firms in the armament ring.

MAKING THINGS PLAIN.

• • • •

His proclivity for displaying the huckster attitude was further illustrated last Thursday in the British house of commons when he said:

> So far as commerce is concerned, Germany is a beaten nation, and it is for us to see that it does not recover. German trade in South America and the east has received a serious blow and it is the duty of the board to see that our business men have every advantage.

Gradually as the war goes on, this question of trade advantage is being spoken of much oftener by those in authority. Bludgeoned Belgium hardly gets any mention now. But if any indemnity is ever to be paid by Germany for the ravaging of that country, it will have to be paid out of the profits of German commerce.

• • • •

Germans talked about France in 1871 much the same as Mr. Runciman is now talking about Germany. But in these days, with the internationalism of finance and commerce, it is a practical impossibility to annihilate the economic life of a big manufacturing and trading nation; and especially one so highly skilled in the technical processes of manufacture as Germany is admitted to be, even by the bitterest of its commercial and other rivals. Argument to the contrary may be very popular while the passion of the war is upon the nations, but in the end it will prove to be one of the great illusions which Mr. Norman Angell strove to dispel from the minds of superficial economists some years ago.

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE is the most original in one of the most un-original aggregations of political bunglers that has ever been called a British government. If he were not, he would never have dreamed of the notion of going to Glasgow to address 3000 trade unionists on Christmas day, about loosening up their rules so as to allow—as the news despatch puts it—of "dilution of skilled with unskilled labor," so that war munitions can be made with greater speed and in increased quantities. The cabled report of the proceedings contains some notable passages; and assuming that it was first passed by the censor, it seems as though, reading between the lines, the gathering was a decidedly strenuous one to say the least.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT GLASGOW.

• • • •

After recording the opening theme of the speech, in which reference is made to the need for an adequate number of skilled mechanics to keep up the supply of war munitions, the following passage occurs:

> The minister of munitions' scheme to amend the trade union regulations was proposed by a committee, including seven trade unionists.
>
> "We don't trust trade union leaders," several voices in the audience cried.
>
> "Whom do you trust," Mr. Lloyd George demanded, and the voices replied:
>
> "Nobody."
>
> Mr. Lloyd George then proceeded to explain how the national gun and munition factories were being established throughout the United Kingdom, and that 80,000 skilled workers were required.
>
> "You won't get them," someone in the meeting declared. "I come here and face 3000 Glasgow trade unionists, the minister shouted in reply. "Will that gentleman venture to go to Flanders and face three thousand British soldiers in the trenches?"

Going over that carefully, and bearing in mind a number of things, including some of the industrial struggles which have taken place on the Clyde in recent years, leaves one in a very difficult position to judge the accurate value of the various explanations which suggest themselves.

• • • •

We can quite believe there are those who would rush into the hastily formed opinion, that this outburst was due to the existence of a substantial body of incipient but revolutionary opinion among the workmen concerned. That, in our opinion, is one of the ideas most likely to be farthest from the truth. The probably true explanation is, the well-known economic jealousy which exists to some extent almost everywhere among skilled workmen, when their material advantages are threatened by the encroachment of the unskilled. That may not sound very nice to everybody, and will very likely rub some fur the wrong way in cases where the cap fits. By this, we do not wish to be understood as holding any particular brief for any particular element concerned in this incident. What we want to do if possible is, to correctly appraise the precise meaning of the sentiment which was present in this meeting, according to the foregoing report.

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO there were some thousands of unemployed men in Canada. A big proportion of them had been purchased by the government by bonuses to transportation companies. In order to reduce the distress, governments, both provincial and federal, were urged to institute relief measures of a productive nature. To make this practical, it was suggested that money be taken up by the government on loan, bearing guaranteed interest the same as other loans of the government.

COULD NOT FIND MONEY FOR THAT.

• • • •

It was pointed out that from a strictly business standpoint, such a plan would provide ample security for the money invested, because by the time it had been spent a productive enterprise such as farming, and so on, would represent the money invested. But those plans were discouraged with callous indifference, considering the appalling destitution which prevailed from one end of the country to the other. It was implied that they were well meant, but hopelessly Utopian.

• • • •

When it is a question of a war loan a different attitude is manifested. It is not our object at this time to criticize the purposes to which the materials which will be purchased with the proceeds of that loan, will be applied, any more than to point out that they are entirely destructive. Surely then, money invested in a productive scheme such as those suggested to relieve unemployment, would have been at least as wisely employed.

• • • •

From a merely selfish and exploiting standpoint, it remains a mystery why the plans suggested were not eagerly adopted. The only explanation of it seems to be that the men in control of the administration of government in this country, do not understand enough about the rudiments of political economy to enable them to carry out thoroughly their own desires in the matter of exploiting to the limit the labor power of the working class in Canada.

WHILE RICH MEN HIGH in political place in Britain are telling the common people how necessary it is that every economy should be practiced by them in order that the sinews may continue to be provided to carry on the war, some interesting practices of their own to the contrary are being brought into the limelight. The lord mayor's banquet in London, that annual gargantuan guzzle indulged in by the civic notabilities of that city, is commented upon thus by the London Herald:

THE PRECEPT AND THE PRACTICE.

> The lord mayor's banquet was an outrage and a disgrace. The Daily Sketch is to be congratulated on securing the menu card—a menu card consisting of wines, liqueurs of every kind; turtle soup at 15s. a quart! This outrageous banquet was sat down to by the prime minister of England and his colleagues, together with the archbishop of Canterbury, all of whom are continually calling upon the poor to practise economy. We are not sure if Lord Devonport was present or no, but this man who is known in labor circles as champion strike breaker, had the audacity in the House of Lords on Wednesday to demand in the name of economy that separation allowances to the wives and dependents of soldiers and sailors should be cut down. When will the governing classes understand that there can be no social peace, no national unity while these kind of practices and proposals are carried on? There is only one remedy: True national ownership, true national service, then these sort of gluttonous orgies which Lord Mayor's banquets bring before our eyes will be things of the past.

Mr. Eustace Miles, the "food expert," a while ago published some recipes, telling the poor of England how to make really nourishing soup from potato parings and other vegetable offals, so that they might economize their food resources during the war. After careful perusal of the foregoing, his unsolicited advice on gastronomics acquires increased interest. Why not tell them to eat grass, like one of the thoughtful gentleman who lost his head during the French revolution.

CONSCRIPTION PROPOSALS in Australia have met with very well-organized and determined opposition from organized labor. This is following the lead taken up by the last convention of the British Trades Union Congress. In Australia an attempt was made by some of the bigger capitalists to stampede the nation into conscription through the medium of the Universal Service league, which did not live long as the result of the outcry raised against its proposals, and the exposure of its constituent membership.

CONSCRIPTION NOT WANTED IN AUSTRALIA

• • • •

As an erample of the arguments put up by organized labor, the following by Edward Kenendy, secretary of Melbourne Typographical union is worth perusal. He said:

> The governments of the world did not ask the man of wealth to give his wealth for the war. They asked him to lend it to them, and offered him 4½ to 5 per cent., practically for all time, on what he had lent them. But they did not scruple to go to the worker and ask—nay, often demand—that he should give up his all, his life. Would they treat the worker and the man of wealth alike—for example, would they go to the worker and value his life at, say, £3000, and guarantee him 4½ to 5 per cent. on that sum for himself if disabled, and for his wife and children if he fell?
>
> If the British government seeks to introduce conscription over there, organized labor will have something similar to say to the wealthy in that "the richest nation on the face of the earth."

EDOUARD VAILLANT, member of the chamber of deputies from the department of the Seine, is dead at the age of 76 years. He was first elected to the chamber of deputies in 1893. Vaillant was a member of the Paris commune. He was born in 1840, was a doctor of science, and studied medicine both in France and Germany. During his sojourn at Heidelberg university he joined the international workingmen's association. At the time of the Franco-Prussian war he returned to Paris, being attached to the national guard, and during the siege of Paris devoted himself to spreading the doctrines of the internationals.

ANOTHER NOTABLE DEPARTURE.

• • • •

When the insurrection of the Paris communists was suppressed in 1871, Vaillant was obliged to flee to England and was condemned to death. When amnesty was declared he returned to France. He concerned himself with militant political socialism, and was elected in 1884 a municipal councillor of Paris. Later he was elected several times a deputy, and in 1913 was a candidate for the presidency of the republic. On that occasion M. Poincare was elected on the second ballot with 483 votes, Jules Pams receiving 296, and Edouard Vaillant 69.

• • • •

Vaillant was opposed to war. He was famed for his discourse in the French chamber of deputies in support of a limited period of army service. He favored a democratic militia instead of a standing army. He was the co-author with Keir Hardie of the resolution that was to have been presented to the international congress in 1914, calling for a general strike of workers in munition factories to prevent war.

The Labor Leader says:

> In Berlin, we are told, ten thousand men and women marched through the central streets crying for peace and singing, "High with the New International."
>
> "High!" How much higher? We thought it had already been blown about as high as a kite in Berlin.

"Lounger," writing in the Victoria Week, says: "I know nothing about politics, and therefore am led to ask, what to the average man may appear a very childish question. 'What is a machine?'" We cannot think of any place in the whole of this province where this innocent abroad should be able to get the information he seeks quicker than in Victoria. It is rotten with "machine."

Mr. C. B. Stanton, who has succeeded to the parliamentary seat rendered vacant by the late Keir Hardie, made his "maiden speech" almost before he stepped over the threshold of the house of commons. He referred to "the hypocritical nonsense of saying that the people were afraid of conscription?" If they are afraid of it they will most likely get it. If they are not, they likely will not get it. Mr. Stanton sounds very much like "a delegate for the first time."

For sheer stupidity and narrow-mindedness, the moving picture censor in Vancouver is the limit. He is storing up trouble about as quick as anyone we know just now.

Mr. Codlin Tisdall and Mr. Short Macdonald will be the candidates at a by-election if one is held in Vancouver. They will both come out "for the good of the people." We feel both can be expected to do the people good—and plenty.

Although we say it what shouldn't, still the Phoenix Pioneer, commenting on the B. C. Federationist, observes:

> This is the only labor paper west of Winnipeg, and we might add the only publication discussing fearlessly the economic questions affecting labor.

We looks towards our contemporary and likewise bows.

Street railwaymen of Oakland, to the number of one thousand, last week decided by a referendum vote of their union membership to subscribe as a union for the Tri-City Labor Review, the official newspaper of the Alameda county central labor council. The street railwaymen of the bay city are evidently of the same progressive turn of mind as their fellow unionists in Vancouver, who subscribe as a body for The B. C. Federationist.

The Colorado Fuel and Iron company, of which John D. Rockefeller is the moving spirit, tells its employees they must become teetotal on January 1st. The company has issued a bulletin in which it says:

> "Exercising your arm lifting glasses does not give you the kind of strength that puts the punch into your work with the pick."

Think it over—and don't forget those 20 or more women and kids burned and alive at Ludlow.

There are now three sections in the German social democratic group. Dr. Liebknecht and one or two colleagues are militantly opposed to the war and are fearless in their opposition to the German government. Dr. Bernstein, Dr. Kautsky, Herr Haase and a strong central group are in favor of immediate steps being taken towards peace, but are more moderate in their denunciation of the government. Herr Scheidemann and the majority, which has supported the prosecution of the war, are in favor of Germany immediately proposing peace terms, but are prepared to continue their support of the prosecution of the war in national defence.

The almost allround incompetence which the war has revealed of the nucelus of British politicians which constitutes the government, brings to mind a portion of one of George Bernard Shaw's notable prefaces. Therein he says:

> Under the head of "Government by Bullies," he says:
>
> We are bluffed by hard simpletons and headstrong bounders as the Russians were bluffed by Ney; and our Wellingtons are thread-bound by slave democracy as Gulliver was thread-bound by the Lilliputians.
>
> We are a mass of people living in a submissive routine to which we have been drilled from our childhood.
>
> Dotted about among us are a few spirits relatively free from this inculcated paralysis,. And we see these few rising as if by magic into power and afflence, and forming, with the millionaires who have accidentally gained huge riches by the occasional windfalls of our commerce, the governing class.
>
> And how can this rabble of the casual products of luck, cunning and folly, be expected to know how to govern.
>
> This estimate was prophetic.

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ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL.—Meets second Monday in the month. President, H. J. Bothel; secretary, R. H. Neelands, P. O. Box 66.

BARTENDERS' LOCAL No. 676.—Office, Room 208 Labor Temple. Meets first Sunday of each month. President, James Campbell; financial secretary, H. E. Davis, Box 424, phone Sey. 4752; recording secretary, Wm. Mottishaw, Globe Hotel, Main street.

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BROTHERHOOD OF BOILER MAKERS and Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, Vancouver Lodge No. 194—Meets first and third Mondays, 8 p. m. President, A. Campbell, 75 Seventeenth avenue west; secretary, A. Fraser, 1151 Howe street.

COOKS, WAITERS AND WAITRESSES Union—Meets first Friday in each month, 8:30 p. m., Labor Temple. A. Graham, business representative. Office: Room 206, Labor Temple. Hours: 8:30 a. m. to 10; 2 to 5 p. m. Competent help furnished on short notice. Phone Seymour 3414.

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PATTERN MAKERS' LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA.—Vancouver and vicinity. Branch meets 1st and 3rd Fridays at Labor Temple, room 205. H. Lightscales, president, 276 Fifty-sixth avenue east; Jos. G. Lyon, financial secretary, 1721 Grant street; J. Campbell, recording secretary, 4869 Argyle street.

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JOURNEYMEN TAILORS' UNION OF AMERICA, Local No. 178—Meetings held first Tuesday in each month, 8 p. m. President, Francis Williams; vice-president, Miss H. Gutteridge; recording sec, C. McDonald, Box 503; financial secretary, K. Paterson, P. O. Box 503.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, NO. 226—Meets last Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. President, R. Parm, Pettipiece; vice-president, W. S. Metzger; secretary-treasurer R. H. Neelands, P. O. Box 66.

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VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets first and third Wednesday, Labor hall, 1424 Government street, at 8 p. m. President, A. S. Wells; secretary, F. Holdridge, Box 303, Victoria, B. C.

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BARTENDERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE of America, local 784, New Westminster. Meets second Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Secretary, F. W. Jameson. Box 496.

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FRISCO CARPENTERS VOTE ON FIVE DAY WEEK

The Result of the Ballot Will Be Known Early in January

If Adopted the New Rule Would Be Made Permanent

That five days of eight hours shall constitute a week's work for union carpenters of San Francisco and vicinity, is stipulated in a proposed amendment to the constitution of the local District Council of Carpenters.

Referendum Result January.

The proposed amendment has been submitted to a referendum vote of affilated unions, and the result of the balloting will be known early in January. If adopted, the Building Trades council will then be requested to ratify same before the five-day week is inaugurated.

To Be Permanent Rule.

It is proposed that the five-day work week for carpenters shall be permanent, and not, as is the case with some other organizations of the building trades council, maintained only through the winter months, when there is an unusually large number of unemployed building mechanics.

With the adoption of the shorter work week there will come no reduction in wages, the carpenters still to demand a minimum wage of $5 per day for each day they are employed.

Affects Four Counties.

The object of the reduced work week is to furnish employment to a larger number of carpenters.

If the proposed amendment is adopted, it will affect union carpenters in the following counties: San Francisco, Alameda, Marin and San Mateo.

MICHEL MINING NOTES

Methods of Western Coal Operators Give Many Causes for Friction.

MICHEL, B. C., Dec. 26.—The mining company here is this week taking another rock tare, though it is only about six weeks since the last one. The miners are not represented on this occasion, so the company will have its own way. The men are becoming so aggravated and dissatisfied with the squeezing methods of the company for the past few months, possible only because of the large number of unemployed and their wretched poverty, that almost anything is apt to arise out of the desperation, in which the question of "agreements" will not be such an important factor.

The commissioner of the Western Coal Operators' association was in camp this week, investigating a yardage dispute along with Mr. B. Caulfield and President Graham of District 18, U. M. W. of A. No agreement was arrived at, and the knotty problem has been referred to an independent chairman.

Your correspondent entirely agrees with a recent writer to The Fed. who emphasized the value of the labor press, particularly because a paper can be circulated in many campzs where union men are forbidden employment. "I have worked in camps in Utah where it was impossible for a union man to make his identity known, but even there labor papers crept in to such an extent that effective educational work was accomplished and the way paved for the organizations which exist today.

In a province like British Columbia, where modern slave plantations obtain in plenty, it is highly necessary that a paper like The Fed. be sustained and pushed into every camp in the mountains.

If war times should happen to squeeze The Fed. out, the progress of organized labor will be retarded immensurably. It is the plain duty of all who can dig up a sub. to do so."

SYNOPSIS OF COAL MINING REGULATIONS.

Coal mining rights of the Dominion, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and in a portion of the Province of British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years at an annual rental of $1 an acre. Not more than 2,560 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Applications for lease must be made by the applicant in person to the Agent or Sub-Agent of the district in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyed territory the land must be described by sections, or legal subdivisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked by the applicant himself.

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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FED'S. COGITATING CRITIC ON WARPATH

(Continued from Page One.)

of us who can heartily endorse these views without going either to the front, or the back of the front, to have them driven home.

Tariff Reform Tricks.

The special commissioner of the Sunday Chronicle says: "I find that the British hosiery makers are not wishful for a higher tariff. They want one to enable them to compete on equal terms with the Germans in our market."

There is a great deal can be said about this tariff business; but, for the present, the following point may be noted. Freight rates from Canada and the United States to Britain have greatly increased of late. That excess freight is equivalent to a protective tariff in favor of British-grown products.

But British farmers have increased their prices almost to the full equivalent of the excess freight which the produce of these countries must pay. That is how "tariff reform" will work, and this little plaint about the Germans is only another move of the "artful dodger."

Just Mere Talk of Law's.

The stress of the times is germinating new thoughts in high places. The following excerpt is taken from a speech by Mr. Bonar Law, British conservative leader and cabinet minister, and was lately made in parliament: "We are asking these men who go to the trenches to give up everything, not merely their capital, but perhaps their lives.

"I agree with him, (Mr. J. H. Thomas) that we have no right whatever to make a demand like that unless we are prepared to spread it over the whole nation, and to take from every man and every class anything that is necessary to bring this war to a successful conclusion. I do not agree—I am going to speak quite frankly—in thinking that you can have perfect equality, that one man will be exactly the same as another.

"That cannot be either in war or in peace; but I do say this, and I think the government have shown they are acting up to it to a considerable extent—we have shown it in many ways—that to my mind it is a small thing to demand the wealth of the people of this country in comparison with demanding that they should risk their lives." Just the same, there appears little danger of the present government conscripting either land or capital or even nationalizing them.

Bingo! Tut! Sure Not, Etc.

The British government, according to reports, lately offered Cyprus to the Greeks; but so far we have not heard any reports of them offering Britain to the British.

The archbishop of Canterbury has told his clergy not to enlist. Wonder if the Defence of the Realm act will be invoked here!

The increased tithe (tenth) shae of the farmers' extra profits to the clergy of England is 1½%. Mr. Snowden, M. P., was informed by the chancellor of the exchequer that this extra clerical picking was not subject to the excess profits tax. Phillip must have forgotten himself, if he ever thought that they would.

Still Doing Their Bit.

The British ship owners are still busily engaged "doing their bit," (and their country.) When war began, coal freights from the Tyne to London jumped from 3s to 17s per ton. When the government interfered, the rate fell to 7s 6d.

This extra rate is causing the poor of London to pay 6d per cwt. to the ship owners, thus proving conclusively that class barriers and class hatred have entirely disappeared from our midst, and we are all one family, with King George as the pater. But there's a snake in the grass, in the form of the ship-brokers.

Recently a deputation of distressed ship-brokers appealed to the president of the board of trade that the government's action in dealing direct with the ship owners had "threatened to make serious inroads into the business of the brokers." And the official account of the interview said that "Mr. Runciman was not at all unsympathetic." Lord preserve the parasites!

Who Gets the War Loan.

The Dominion labor department has asked for more evidence in the following charge made by Toronto union leaders:

That "A" secured a contract from the government and re-sold it to "B" for $3000 cash and a bonus of 50 cents a pair. The net result of this deal brought $9250 to "A," who was not a tailor and had no machines for making uniforms. The order was for 12,500 pairs of pants. The workers got 26 cents all told for making the trousers.

Mr. John H. Humphreys.

Mr. John H. Humphreys, general secretary of the British Proportional Representation society was a visitor to the Fed. office this week. An article by him on the subject of proportional representation—a proposal which has been endorsed continually by organized labor in Canda—appears in another column.

Japanese in California.

At a lunch given last week by Baron Shibusawa, Japanese financier, to several trade union officials, these workers frankly told the Oriental banker that the opposition to the Japanese in California is not racial, but economic. It was the fear that the Japanese, through ignorance, would take their jobs because they would work cheaper, and thereby lower the living standards, that American wage workers objected to this latest invasion.

Baron Shibusawa acknowledged that his country must reckon with organizations of workers, as industry develops in Japan.

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WAR HIT SEVERAL BRITISH LABOR NEWSPAPERS

The Herald and The Daily Citizen Were Put on the Rocks

Courts Make Embarrassing Decision for the Union Executive

About a year ago, says a writer in the Firemen's Magazine, England possessed for the first time in its history two daily labor newspapers, the Daily Herald and the Daily Citizen.

The first of these ran practically without any capital at all and was sold mainly on the clever labor cartoons of Will Dyson. The other, the Daily Citizen, was supported by large grants from all the leading trade unions. But in the end the war killed it, and it joined the Herald in the grave.

A curious aftermath of this is a declaration in the law courts recently that the executive council of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders should repay to the unions' funds a sum of $5000 which they had invested for the union in the Daily Citizen company.

The action was brought by one member of the union, and the executive council will also have to pay his legal costs. This society has 60,000 members so that from this point of view the investment was beyond the powers of the union as laid down by its articles of association.

WESTERN FUEL MUST PAY

Maximum Compensation Awarded Dependents of Protection Victim.

His Honor Judge Schultz, sitting as an arbitrator under the Workmen's Compensation act, has ordered the Western Fuel company, Nanaimo, to pay a sum of $1500 as compensation to the relatives of the late James MacIntosh, a miner, who was killed in an explosion in the Protection mine on Aug. 27, 1914.

The company had made a voluntary settlement of $1500 with the relatives of Richard Munro, who was killed at the same time as MacIntosh, but refused to settle the MacIntosh case. The company through its counsil, Mr. Joseph Martin, K. C., took the ground that MacIntosh had, contrary to the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation act, exploded the charge himself instead of waiting for the fireboss to come, and was therefore the author of his own disaster.

The hearing of the case was marked by considerable feeling between the counsel engaged. His honor took the view of the case put forward by Mr. I. I. Robinowitz, counsel for the brothers and sister of MacIntosh, namely, that there was nothing to prove who fired the shot, and there was no presumption that it was MacIntosh. The award of $1500 and costs is the maximum allowed under the present Workmen's Compensation act.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Trades and Labor Council.
January 3, 1890.

Delegates elected to Trades and Labor council: Painters, Dan O'Dwyer, C. Jordan. Bricklayers, W. Towler, G. F. Cook, A. Leonard. United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Jos. Dixon, J. L. Franklin, W. P. Brown. Typographical, F. W. Fowler, John A. Fulton, A. B. Campbell. Stevedores, Wm. Davenport, Frank Britton, H. Brooks. Hod Carriers, F. Gale.

Wm. Towler, on behalf of the working card committee, reported that the cards had been printed, and handed to the secretaries of the various building trades unions.

A Strike in Seattle.

Low wages is the reason for a strike of 400 employees of the Seattle Construction and Drydock company. One-half of these workers are boilermakers and shipbuilders. The strikers demand higher rates and pay for overtime.

An old woman on the coast of Maine has become wealthy catching live seals for $25 each. In the cities it is not uncommon for a girl to become rich by catching just one live lobster.

HOLLY AND POTTED PLANTS FOR CHRISTMAS

What more welcome at this season than a box of berried holly or a growing flowering plant? These make gifts valued at far above what they cost—far more welcome than anything at four times the price.

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Well berried holly in fancy boxes exactly suitable for Christmas gift. Ready for mailing or shipping, per box 50c

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For Men

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FOR $1.25 A GARMENT—Medium weight, unshrinkable wool underwear in fine elastic rib finish.

COMBINATIONS are available in all three weights at twice the price of single garments.

Two heavier weights in the same finish at $1.50 and $1.75 per garment.

Please note that these are prices of a year ago.

Best Workshirt Value at $1.00
The makers tell us it is value for $1.25 in all other stores where sold. We believe this to be true, for there are few stores that can or care to sell at the fine margins that Spencer's do. Made of heavy twill, tough, almost untearable. In plain khaki and black with pin stripe. Large, roomy fitting. All sizes to 17½.

Men's Pyjamas, $1 a Suit
This is the garment nine buyers out of ten want. A suit that has every useful attribute—a suit that is well and roomily made of good quality, soft finished, striped flannelette. For $1.00 this garment offers remarkable value. All sizes.

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Call whether you have coupons or not.
Special offers for Christmas and the New Year, contained in our new Premium Bulletin just issued. Write for catalogue of premiums and special offers.
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You can save money by saving your coupons off Royal Crown Soap, Royal Crown Washing Powder, Royal Crown Naptha, Royal Crown Cleanser, Royal Crown Lye.
The Royal Crown Soaps Ltd. Vancouver, B.C.

B.C. ELECTRIC

Special Notice

December 28th, 1915

The B. C. Electric Railway Company wishes to announce that its sale of Tango Tickets will be discontinued at all points after December 31st next, and will be replaced by a green ticket, six of which will be sold for 25c and which will be available on the street cars in the Cities of Vancouver and Victoria, not only until midnight, but during the whole time the car service is running.

The new tickets will entitle the holder to the privilege of a transfer.

As the supply of Tango Tickets is limited, and it would be obviously unfair for them to pass into the hands of a few, the Company has decided, between this date and the 31st of December, not to sell at any one time more than eight tickets (25c), on the cars, or sixty-four tickets ($2.00), to any one person at the Company's Offices.

Tango Tickets in circulation on December 31st will be accepted on the cars until January 31st, 1916. After that date any outstanding tickets, provided they are not less than eight in number, will be redeemed by the Company at its Ticket Offices at Carrall Street and at Granville Street Stations.

B.C. Electric

Carrall and Hastings Streets Phone Seymour 5000

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JEWELL, M. L., 341 Pender St.....Seymour 1444
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NEWS-ADVERTISER, 301 Pender St.....Seymour 1026-41
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PACIFIC PRINTERS, World Building.....Seymour 9592
PEARCE & HODGSON, 513 Hamilton Street.....Seymour 2928
ROEDDE, G. A., 616 Homer Street.....Seymour 264
SCANDINAVIAN PUBLISHING CO., 317 Cambie St.....Seymour 6509
TERMINAL CITY PRESS, 2408 Westminster Road.....Fairmont 1140
THOMSON STATIONERY, 325 Hastings W.....Seymour 8520
TIMMS, A. H., 230 Fourteenth Ave. E.....Fairmont 621R
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SAYS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

(Continued from page 1)

by placing the figure 1 against the name of his first choice. The vote is credited to that candidate. The elector places the figures 2, 3, etc., against the names of other candidates. If the elector's favorite has received more votes than he requires for election, the returning officer will transfer the vote to the elector's next choice.

The transfer is controlled by the elector—the returning officer merely acting on the instructions given by the elector.

Meets Case of Split Party.

Sometimes a party nominates more candidates than it can carry to victory. A party might number 5000 voters, but if these votes were scattered over the candidates, none of the candidates might win.

The transferable vote means this difficulty too. The elector can vote for his favorite and express preferences for the others. The candidate who has fewest votes (after all excess votes have been transferred from candidates who have a surplus) is declared defeated. The votes given to him are not wasted. They are transferred to those candidates whom the electors have marked as their next choice.

In this way the 5000 votes which may be scattered over three candidates will (if the electors have so marked their preferences) find their way to that candidate who is most popular and he will be elected as the representative of the party.

Fair Representation Secured.

The returning officer acting upon the instructions given, builds up groups of equal size, each of which secures one representative. If a party has two such groups, it secures two members, if three, it secures three members and so on.

This system has been tried out in several countries. Tasmania, South Africa, etc., wherever it has been tried, the results are so fair that the system spreads. The labor government of South Australia is pledged to introduce a bill providing Proportional Representation; the New South Wales government will apply Proportional Representation to the election of the municipal council of Sydney; New Zealand has passed two Proportional Representation acts—one to elect the legislative council, the other to allow municipalities to adopt it. Proportional Representation in different forms is spreading throughout Europe.

The Attitude of Labor.

The Proportional Representation movement attracts the support of men of all parties who desire the efficiency of democracy as expressed through representative institutions.

Jaures, the leader of the French socialists whose assassination was a great loss to the world, worked most strenuously for Proportional Representation, because it would make for clearness of thought in political campaigns. Each party would be concerned with the advocacy of its own policy.

Herr Branting, leader of Swedish socialists, says: "I am an avowed advocate of Proportional Representation. Of the opponents of Proportional Representation, when it was first introduced there are scarcely any that have remained so, nearly all of them having become convinced both of its fairness and of its practical advantages."

Similar testimonies could be quoted from all countries in which it is in force.

Attitude of Canadian Labor.

But what has been the attitude of labor in Canada. At the federation of labor conventions held in British Columbia, the principle of Proportional Representation was endorsed.

The question now is, what will labor do to bring it about? Let it press for its application to election of Vancouver municipal council. Let it press for its adoption by all candidates at the next provincial elections.

Brantford Labor Candidate.

H. C.Symonds, the corresponding secretary of the Brantford, Ont., Trades and Labor council, is coming out as a candidate for the office or municipal street railway commissioner.

Machinists Are Victimized.

Machine shops in Medicine Hat engaged in turning out shell work have discharged a number of hands for joining the International Association of Machinists. Up to the present time the efforts of officials of the organization to have these men reinstated have not met with any tangible results. The government is not essaying to bring about a settlement, as the employees of the firms who have signed agreements with the I. A. M. have threatened to come out on strike if things are not straightened out. As machinists are steadily growing scarcer, a strike at this time would completely tie up the industry in Medicine Hat.

IS YOUR NAME ON THE VOTERS' LIST?

A municipal, a provincial and a federal election will take place during the next few months. Unless YOU are classified with the Indians, lunatics and propertyless women, register at once. Do it now or hold your peace on election day!

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WILL CONTROL THE WHEAT HOGS IN AUSTRALIA

Government Takes Charge of the Whole of This Year's Harvest

Will Take the Corn from the Farmers and Handle It for Them

[Special Australian Correspondence]
[By W. Francis Ahern]

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Dec. 10.—The governments here are rapidly extending their ramifications in all directions, especially in the matters governing the ultimate living cost of the people. I have detailed from time to time some of the matters we have taken in hand, in these columns.

Control of Wheat Harvest.

The latest matter taken in hand by the Commonwealth government is the control of the wheat harvest of Australia. Here was a golden opportunity for the private speculator and market rigger to make a fortune. But the experience of last year has prevented all this.

While yet the harvest was ripening the Commonwealth government was hard at work working out problems for the nationalizing of the supply and the marketing of the product.

How It Will Be Done.

I have already shown how the freights were fixed, how 1000 ships are wanted to carry off the golden grain. A full plan has been drawn up providing for the financing, handling, transporting and sale of wheat.

The state governments are to act as sellers of the wheat on behalf of the farmers in each state. All the existing machinery for the handling of the wheat trade will be utilized, but shippers and agents, instead of buying for themselves, will act on behalf of the government on a small commission basis.

An agreement has been made with the banks under which the farmers will be able to secure advances for the wheat they store with the millers or the government agents.

A farmer, for instance, on delivery of 1000 bags of wheat at the recognized depot, will receive a receipt which he will be able to negotiate at the bank on the basis of up to 72 cents per bushel of his grain.

Government Owns the Wheat.

From the time he delivers his wheat, it is government property, and will be handled, after shipment, by the various agents-generals and high commissioner in London, who will control the sale of the grain at the other end of the world.

At the end of the season, calculations will be made and from this amount the expenses of the entire business will be deducted, and the balance handed back to the farmers, less the advances made by the banks.

Farmer Gets Better Deal.

By this means all element of risk will be avoided, as the farmer will be paid a flat rate—since all sales will be pooled till the end of the season.

Special provision will be made, of course, for millers securing grain for use in Australia on the same basis of profits to the farmer.

The great secret about the whole matter is that, for the first time in history, the government will take the matter of risk off the shoulders of the farmer, and he will be able to calculate just how much he will get for his entire harvest.

He will not be forced to sell to market riggers, as of old, and be robbed of half his profits, simply because he has no money.

Under the Australian system he will deliver his wheat, get a 75 per cent. advance on it from the bank at once, and the balance when the harvest is over.

WILL NOT PAY WAGES TO WOMEN

(Continued from page 1)

workers only one half or three-quarters that amount.

Arranging it Nicely.

The managing director of one firm pursuing this policy is the representative of the minister of munitions for that particular district, and the only redress open to the women is under the munitions act; where, in this case, the representative to whom they must appeal is also the employer.

What It Means.

In the Clyde district, women are receiving fifteen shillings per week, working side by side with semi-skilled men receiving thirty-five shillings per week.

Meantime, the women are learning, and when a more compulsory form of conscription removes the man for military service, the woman will slip into his place at half his wage, and help train more women, who will eagerly take up work both in the name of patriotism and to earn a small amount more than at their previous trade.

Where Ignorance Is Bliss.

Through lack of training in economics and organization, the average woman will accept joyfully the wage that, to her, is an advance, and through sheer ignorance lower the standard wage set by men, after years of strenuous work.

And what about the men the women are competing with and meantime learning the trade? Their simple faith in the government is astounding. When first the need arose for women to come forward and by doing men's work, set men free for military service, a committee of trade union leaders and government representatives met and agreed that the women receive a minimum of one pound a week.

What Is Awaiting Them.

The government representative promised that women would be employed only while the war lasted. The simple faith that trusts in a government promise will get a rude awakening; especially after the war, and perhaps sooner, when he is told by employers that the wage of one pound a week being now sanctioned by trade unionists, has become the standard, and he does not care whether it be man or woman.

The tendency of employers is already in this direction. The Engineer, an employers' publication states that the introduction of woman's labor can be used to reduce the payments to men, because it has been proved that men are paid too much for work that can be done without previous training.

However, a few have their eyes open for:

The New Statesman in an article on "Women's Wages," makes the following trenchant remarks: "For trade unions to try to act by keeping women out of the trades, is not only unfair to women, but in the conditions which result from the war will be doomed to failure. Under these circumstances there is only one adequate defence for labor—namely, to insist that women's and men's scales of wages shall be the same. It is no good talking about "equal pay for equal work," for that much-abused doctrine provides too many loopholes for the evasive employer. In whatever trade or occupation women's labor can be used as alternative to men's, the trade union will have to fight for a minimum time wage which, after any unnecessary probationary period for either sex, is the same for man and woman. The critical nature of that fight must be obvious to anyone. It can only be won by a reversal of the ordinary trade unionist's attitude towards women's labor, and by his late awakening to the elementary fact that it is only by organizing her labor that his own organization can be protected.

It is somewhat like using a steam hammer to crack a nut, but if the awakening could only be through the war, the war has accomplished one good thing.

GERMANY'S CHOICE REVOLT OR WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

tions have forced to the front in the German Empire.

No Bourgeois Revolt.

No rising capitalist class in Germany has been forced to summon the proletariat to its aid to overthrow an unbearable feudal state for the government has long recognized and encouraged, by all means in its power, industrial expansion.

No French aristocracy had to be dethroned by the drastic purge of a Paris commune.

Feudal lords had not to be relegated to a back seat by the aid of the proletariat as in Britain.

Bismarck and his kind saw to it that conditions were not made sufficiently irksome to the bourgeois to compel them to overthrow their peculiar form of government, although of recent years the heavy burden of taxation has been responsible for much ominous grumbling and gathering of storm clouds. The strain could not have lasted much longer without internal eruption of some variety.

Was Capturing Markets.

By collective effort and highly developed efficiency, Germany was fast capturing the open markets of the world, and becoming a serious menace to Britain's commercial supremacy. But the open markets were few and Britain saw to it that the choice places of the earth were not left for Germany or any other country to exploit.

At the time that Britain was planting its flag all over the globe, Germany was too busy with internal organization and defensive measures to take a hand in the game, even if Britain had allowed it. Too late the German government awoke to the fact of the vital necessity of commercial expansion by colonization, etc., if profits were to be realized from the labor of the German working class and the wheels of industry kept running.

Choice. War Without. Revolt Within.

Two outstanding factors determined the German government on war. The first was the threatened bourgeois revolt against the taxation necessarily imposed by the semi-feudal government, and secondly, the necessity of providing the German proletariat with work in never failing quantity. As long as the proletariat or working class of any nation has plenty of work it will remain content and the German government was well aware of the fact. In order to provide work, ever increasing markets must be found, for the workers become more productive every day (unfortunately for them), and this the German government could not do.

And the result? Undoubtedly the relegation of Germany to a secondary position among the powers for she cannot be allowed to win from the Allies' point of view, even if it takes ten years to beat her and involves the nationalization of all property in Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy.

If Germany Wins.

The triumph of Germany would mean an invincible German Empire for her superior industrial organization alone would drive the rest of the industrial world into bankruptcy—not to mention the indemnity.

Germany's sudden rise and effectiveness has driven her far ahead of the other nations. Hence she must be destroyed. Her collective efficiency was too efficient in production for herself and her neighbors and she must be halted in no uncertain manner.

And after that? Who knows? Most probably increased efficiency in the other European nations and a setback in Germany.

How Long Will War Last?

How long will that last? The various stages of modern capitalism are certainly not getting any longer. The outlook just now is that the war will last long enough to force the various nations into state capitalism and if state capitalism is wisely engineered—from the capitalistic point of view—its life can probably be prolonged quite a period.

If the various governments do not take a lesson from Germany, and protect their proletarians by paternalistic legislation, the said proletarians will be forced into revolt and anarchy will reign for a while which would most likely only lead to the same legislation.

Social reform—as hinted by Lloyd George and others—will no doubt be the programme and the workers will be assured work, corned beef and cabbage.

Of intelligent class-conscious action, by the working class, I have very little hope.

Plenty of work, a stomach full of the contents of the average dinner pail, and an occasional football match, will keep even the "free British workingman" wonderfully and marvellously happy.

The Armament Octopus.

Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron company in Britain has made a net profit of £103,822 this year. Last year the net profit was £65,096 and the year before £2267.

Want National Labor Bureau.

The proposal to establish a national labor bureau system for Canada has been endorsed by a gathering of representatives of a number of societies and municipalities in the Montreal district.

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LAST WEEK'S WINNERS

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