

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTANT AUSTRALIA

Labor Premier Is Brazenly Pushing His Scheme of Conscription

New South Wales Takes a Hand in Safeguarding School Children

[By W. Francis Ahern]

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Sept. 23.—(Special to The Federationist.)—At the moment of writing the Labor party members of the National parliament are sitting behind closed doors in secret session, deciding the great question of forcing conscription upon the Australian people. It seems that Hughes, the Labor prime minister, is not going to honor his "scrap of paper" after all, that scrap of paper which he gave the Australian people in July, 1915, when he said: "In no circumstances would I agree to send men out of Australia to fight against their will."

Prepared for the Worst.

Labor in the commonwealth of Australia is now prepared for the worst, whatever that may be. The turn of events for the past week has clearly shown that the conscription issue is to be forced by the premier, if possible. Last week he was in Sydney, where he delivered some speeches of muc hignificance to those of all shades of political opinion. Sydney is the particular electorate of the premier, and it was but right if he had anything to say that he should come there to say it. Of especial significance was his address to trades unionists. Many who heard it felt sure that the actual time for conscription was close at hand. He said: "The time has now come for you to pay for the privileges you enjoy. Labor must not expect to be exempted from the fiery trial through which all must pass. I want you to look at this crisis and remember that you cannot avoid your responsibility. This is not the time to haggle, for all institutions and traditions are in the melting pot. What is the good of printing about internationalism now? I look to you to support me." But these words it appears that internationalism, insofar as this Labor premier is concerned, has collapsed like a house of cards. There is little solace to be found in the reflection that he has merely followed in the weak, and perhaps vain footsteps of many another in the various warring countries, who have been lifted to positions of power and trust by the workers, only to desert and turn traitor to the cause at the first blast from the "ram's horn" of nationalism and ruling class patriotism.

Will Still Fight.

Australian Labor has put a persistent and grand fight against militarism so far, and this fight will not be given up. There will still be a vigorous struggle against conscription before the scheme is put through to a successful conclusion. If we are to eventually succumb to the shackles of militarism, we will not go down without a fight that the military schemers will remember. When I consider the huge organizations throughout Australia that have thundered forth "no conscription," I feel sure, come what may, that Australian Labor will still have a voice and will still use it with deadly effect. If we are to have conscription we will do it on our own terms. We will demand that every man at home will receive the same pay as every man at the battle front, and that every woman, from the wife of the governor general downward to the last dependent of the last conscript will get the same allowance.

A Compromise Reached.

A message comes to me over the telephone at this moment that although the meeting of the Australian Labor party in Melbourne is not yet over, it is freely rumored that a compromise has been arrived at. It seems that the unionist members who are dear set against conscription have won the fight in the caucus room, and the Imperialist party has been beaten. The compromise arrived at is that all single men of military age will be called up for training, under the provisions of the Defence Act, instituted by Labor some years ago. These men will go into camp for four months. (It since transpires that the matter of conscription is to be submitted to a referendum, the necessary steps thereto having been taken by the federal government.—Editor Federationist.)

Something Else in the Wind.

It is also rumored that another serious matter as regards the international outlook has now cropped up, and that the face of Australia must be prepared to face another situation after the war is over. What that is, I am not permitted to say, having been sworn to secrecy before the information was given me. It is, however, a matter that has been given a great deal of attention by the American press of late. In a later despatch I shall have something to say concerning the Defence Act of Australia and what is possible under it, and to its relation to the men now about to be called up.

Giving the Doctors a Jolt.

The minister for education in the state Labor government of New South Wales has stated that 77,000 school

HOW CHARITY MONGERING FLOURISHES IN WAR TIME

Begging and Blackmailing Schemes Spring Up Like Mushrooms—A Disgrace to Both Dominion and Empire—Safe Nesting Place for Meddlesome Busybodies and Nose-Pokers—Sidestepping Obligations

PERHAPS NO MORE SCATHING condemnation of the present system of property and civilization can be found than is embodied in the fact that the vulgar and degrading institution of charity becomes one of the chief bulwarks whereby the system is maintained. Nothing can be more vulgar, mean and vile than to be compelled to become the recipient of charity, in order to hang on to the thread of life. It is, and it must be, repulsive to every human being possessed of even the rudiments of healthy manhood. That it is utterly repulsive to every normal human being is proven by the well-known antipathy of the average person to the acceptance of it. It is well-known that the poorest of the poor will suffer the very extreme of poverty before asking for assistance and accepting charity. That the institution of charity affords a nesting place for a choice assortment of conscienceless busy-bodies and pious nose-pokers, is a matter of common knowledge. This contemptible institution affords an excellent field for the exercise of their peculiar brand of impudence and vulgar propensities. And that they carry their impudence and vulgarity to the very limit of indecency and coarse display, goes without saying. It is a matter of course. That which feeds upon vulgarity will bring forth vulgarity.

Central Body to Meet Next Thursday Eve

Every delegate of every union in Vancouver should be present at next meeting of Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, Thursday, Oct. 19. Several questions of public interest will be up for consideration. President McVey will submit his report as the council's delegate to the Toronto convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Visitors are welcome at all meetings, as well as the representatives of the press.

Activity Among Carpenters

Two Representatives Busy Building Up the Two Vancouver Locals.

The two locals of the Carpenters' union, Locals Nos. 617 and 2647, are busy these days making new members. The two representatives report that at each meeting for the last month the special feature of the meetings has been the initiations, something over thirty members having been admitted at the last four meetings. The dispensation from the general office for the reduction of the entrance fee expenses at the end of the present month, and from the 1st of November old rate, viz., \$5, will prevail.

The district council has been reorganized with Geo. Hardy as chairman, and H. Page secretary-treasurer.

The district council Carpenters' card will be in force from the next meeting of the different locals, and it is pleasing to note that the carpenters seem determined to bring back the old days so far as their organization is concerned.

The different locals meet as follows: Local 617, each Friday and Local 2647 every Tuesday, until further notice.

The Workings of this "Patriotic Fund" Scheme by the Following Verbatim Copy of the Communications Being Sent Out by the "Fund" Manipulators to the Wives and Other Dependents of the Men who have gone to the front.

"Dear Madam: I have been instructed by the executive committee to request that you will call at room 301, Vancouver block, 736 Granville street, on Tuesday next, Oct. 11, 1916, between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m., in order that we may obtain a fresh record of your application for assistance from this fund. When calling, do not fail to bring your marriage certificate, also the birth certificate of your children, if you have children.

"It is important that you call on the date and at the time above specified, as until we have a fresh record of your application no further assistance can be granted from this fund, therefore it will be to your own interest to comply with this request.

"Yours truly, (Signed) 'C. H. BONNER, Executive secretary.'

"P. S.—Bring this communication with you."

It does not require particular keenness of vision to discover the intent and purpose lying behind the above communication. The fine Italian hand of the professional charity-monger was never more plainly disclosed. If any law can be found in the charity applicant's title, the charity allowance will be cut off. It makes no difference in this case, although the husband and father are seeking enrolment upon the "roll of honor," if certain requirements cannot be met, or certain bourgeois conventions have not been strictly complied with, sustenance for the soldier's dependents is to be immediately cut off. That is the threat openly carried in the above document. In the eyes of the professional charity skete it is far better to conserve the funds gathered through beggary and blackmail, for the very laudable purpose of satisfying the needs of charity pirates themselves, than to allow an extra penny to fall into the hands of some perhaps sinful though needy person. It may perchance occur that some soldier's wife, and the mother of his children, may be unable to bring documentary evidence that some sky-pilot presided at their union, and gave them permission to comply with the divine command to "multiply and replenish the earth." In such case the wife and mother, and her offspring shall not eat, at least out of the "patriotic fund." The father will still continue to be good enough to fight for the Empire and die for it, but those he loves and whose care he was foolish enough to leave to the tender mercies of patriotic "funds" and such impudent schemes, will not be good enough to be fed, even by charity. The governments of both the Dominion and the Empire deserve the execrations of every decent and honorable person, for not having long since nipped all of these begging, blackmailing charity schemes in the bud. They are each and all, either an insult to both Dominion or Empire, or unmistakable evidence that they are as completely lost to all sense of decency or shame as are these charity manipulators themselves.

The Labor movement is the constructive force in the industrial world which brings system, organization and opportunity for progress into industrial relations between employers and employees. It is the democratic medium by which the toilers can work out their problems, remedy wrongs and secure for themselves ever increasing opportunity for better living.—Samuel Gompers.

TRYING TO ORGANIZE JITNEY AND MOTOR TRUCK MEN

In Case of Failure Unions Will Boycott the Jitney Lines

Auto Drivers Working Long Hours on Interurban Lines and Routes

NEW WESTMINSTER, Oct. 12.—An attempt to organize drivers of jitneys and interurban motor trucks, and in the event of failure, a boycott of these lines of transportation by organized labor, was projected at the fortnightly meeting of the Trades and Labor Council here last evening. A resolution was passed instructing the organization committee to proceed to organize a union which will, as laid down in the A. F. of L. regulations, comprise teamsters and chauffeurs, the latter to include only drivers of private automobiles, but jitney bus drivers and operators of freight autos.

In the meantime, the council will recommend union labor to purposes of which are organized and work under conditions satisfactory to organized labor.

The individual delegates will also take the matter back to their respective unions.

Del. Knudsen, for the cigarmakers, said he felt confident that his union would be prepared to impose a fine on any member patronizing the "unorganized job" should it be found that the jitney men will not organize.

President Stoney, representing the Typos, spoke on the same lines.

Delegate Dodd predicted failure in the attempt to organize jitney drivers, because so many of them drive their own cars.

Delegate Yates said that the B. C. E. R. is employing five freight crews fewer than before the interurban autos went into the business, and that the drivers of these autos are working anywhere from 12 to 20 hours a day in competition with the crews on the way freight trains of the B. C. E. R., who have a nine-hour day.

The resolution will also call on the Trades and Labor councils of Vancouver and Victoria to take similar action.

I. T. U. ARBITRATION SYSTEM

To Be Broadened During Coming Year to Include Commercial Offices.

A letter received by The Federationist this week from President M. G. Scott of the International Typographical union, reports important progress in the matter of securing an arbitration agreement with the United Typothetae and Franklin Clubs of America, which have just concluded a convention at Atlantic City.

In Aid of Returned Soldiers' Fund.

Capt. W. D. Jones, an old member of the Amalgamated Carpenters' union, is selling flowers to-day at the post office corner in aid of the returned soldiers' fund.

The Lemieux Bill Has Been Given a Solar Plexus by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Compulsory arbitration with the thumb-screws of the worker has at last been recognized by the workers and will no longer tolerate its conditions. The Thetford mines was obviously the last straw. Arbitration is a good thing, but the Lemon Act as administered to the workers, has proved to be a ghastly failure in most instances. Hence the action of the parliament of Labor.—Winnipeg Voice.

LEGISLATIVE WORK DONE BY B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR

Secretary-Treasurer Wells Discusses Federation Activities and Meets Many Objections Raised By Non-Affiliated Unions—Provincial Organization Can Most Effectively Handle Provincial Issues

[By A. S. Wells] (Secretary-treasurer B. C. Federation of Labor)

IN THE LAST ISSUE of The Federationist, I dealt with the lack of definite ideas on the part of the workers as to the need for political action along class lines, and pointed to the B. C. Federation of Labor as being the only organization in sight at the present time that was likely to receive the support of the working class in this province. Not that it is my intention to place the Federation as a substitute for a political movement, rather as the best possible means towards the aims of the industrial movement of the province. It would be folly for the workers of this province to build up a political movement based as is the Labor party in the Old Land, with its financial support largely contributed by men that have little or no faith in that party. A political movement that cannot secure the workers' support without the aid of the trades unions, as trades unions can be of very little service, and proves that it lacks in some essentials, it should, and will if a real political party representing the working class interests, stand without any false props, and without levies on the part of the trades unions, receive such financial support as is necessary to carry out its work. But the workers have not yet arrived at the point where they can get together to form such a political party on class lines. Any political party, based other than on class lines, cannot in the opinion of the writer, attempt to represent the working class.

Other Parties There Are.

By the above statement it is not my intention to say that there is no political party at this time based upon class lines, but rather to show that that party has not yet succeeded in obtaining the support of the majority of the workers of the province, nor even a tangible minority of them.

Functions of B. C. F. of L.

The functions of the Federation are legislative and educational, in other words, to secure such legislation as will aid the workers in their struggle for an existence under existing conditions, and as far as possible, educate the workers to the necessity for both political and industrial organization.

Some Objections Raised.

It was advanced a week or so ago to the writer, that a provincial executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada would fill the function of a legislative body in the province.

Let us see how true this is. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada annually elects provincial executives in the provinces, where no Federations exist. There may be delegates from the particular province, and the executive, as far as possible, is chosen from such delegates or from their recommendations.

A vice-president is chosen from these, who acts as chairman or general supervisor. They present demands to the provincial legislatures for legislation, and Congress conventions are taken up to a great extent with matters that are purely provincial, and after due deliberation are handed over to the provincial executives for action.

Provincial in Its Scope.

With Federations of Labor, however, an entirely different attitude is adopted. The annual conventions are held, the workers are brought together from different parts of the province, and there the questions affecting the work of the workers are given the attention of men from different sections, and the matters are thoroughly discussed and passed upon and the views of representative thought of the Labor movement of the province is the concrete result.

In the one case the workers of the province know little or nothing about the demands made in their name, and they never have a chance to discuss them until after they are made. And in the other they first discuss the matters in detail and then action is taken to present the demands of Labor.

If for no other reason than that the Federation brings the members of organized labor from all parts of the province together annually, the Federation must be the most efficient.

New Conditions; New Tactics.

True, these conventions have, like Congress conventions, at times appeared like resolution factories, but the policy of the Federation, adopted at the last convention, that the concentration on one or two special matters and all energies directed to the object of achieving the one or two objects, has paved the way for new tactics, which will eventually lead to better results. The policy of having vice-presidents in all parts of the province to make reports and to watch the moves of capital is another step in the right direction, and if organized and carried out, and with the support of the Labor press, should give all organized Labor full reports as to conditions and happenings in every section of the province.

Publicity Medium.

Referring to the educational functions of the Federation, this has been a factor in the past. Will anyone deny that the publicity given the Vancouver island strike by the Federation had no educational value, and that due to that publicity the Bowser government to a great extent was discredited, and the class nature of the government, and the so-called justice that was meted out? Will any provincial executive of Congress be able to do the work along these lines, or as followed out by the Federation during the recent agitation for an adequate Workmen's Compensation Act?

Effective Work of B. C. F. of L.

When the story of how that piece of legislation was secured and the part the Federation played in it is known, then it will be readily seen that without the financial aid rendered to the executive of the Federation by per capita payments, and the backing of the locals affiliated that our requests would not have been so favorably received.

The Federation stood for thousands of organized workers, who centralized their efforts, through the Federation, and by centralizing the efforts to secure further legislation, and to place before the workers of all sections of the province the things that take place from time to time, by giving publicity to the activities of the ruling class, and to their encroachments, will be of great advantage in the endeavor to build up our industrial and political movement.

Federation What We Make It.

In other words, the Federation is an act

THE B. C. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Org. C. O. Young of the A. F. of L. Comments on the Same

Idaho Unionists Will Have a Similar Enactment Instituted

As an evidence of the widespread interest in British Columbia's new Workmen's Compensation Act, effective Jan. 1, 1917, a letter this week from Mr. C. O. ("Dad") Young, an old-time organizer of the American Federation of Labor, at present working in Idaho, is of particular interest and significance. Writing to J. H. McVey from Wallace, Idaho, Org. Young says:

Act Appreciated.

"I take this opportunity to thank you for your prompt reply to my letter asking you for workmen's compensation data. I surely appreciate your letter in the way of introduction to the provisions of the act, which your provincial government has recently passed. And your discussion of the features of the law, which appeared in The Federationist, and which you clipped for me, and the published report of the commission of which you was a member, has been of inestimable value to me. I only wish that it would be possible to take the B. C. Act as a whole, just eliminating those provisions peculiar to the B. C. laws, and substitute in their stead the provisions in compliance with the constitution of the state of Idaho, and place your act as that of Idaho." Of course I am quite familiar with the Washington and Oregon acts, which you have mentioned in your commission report, and your individual discussion, and which your commission made a part of your act, or some of the provisions that you made a part of your act. I feel that your act as a whole, is superior to any act I have had access to.

The Waiting Period.

"There are but one or two points in your act that I cannot quite agree with, and perhaps that is because I do not fully understand. The matter of waiting period is not one of them, for I am of the belief that from an administrative point of view, that provision is helpful, and the loss of compensation for the brief period mentioned will be more than compensated for by the fact of a more prompt unencumbered administration.

Splendid Accomplishment.

"It would be an imposition for me to attempt to compliment you and the commission upon your splendid accomplishment in securing the passage of an act in absolute accordance with the commission's recommendations. It is a work well done.

"I have just finished a perusal of the New York act that John Mitchell kindly sent me with his comments, and while that act is splendid in many features, it has some very objectionable provisions. The tri-option provisions are repugnant to me as providing the proper method of insurance. It is useless for me to tell you that, however, for you make that plain in your discussions. That kind of arrangement may work in New York, where there is a great population, and the fact that those taking under either of the other plans rather than state insurance, will not have the effect of making the state fund a failure on account of its failure of liberal patronage. But the fact that it works in New York does not do away with the fact that it is unfundamental, and does not prove that there should be permitted any other form of workmen's compensation other than that provided by state insurance.

Idaho Next.

"The thing bothering me most at the present time, is not that we fail to understand what we want, but in the absence of a commission provided with funds, we must secure someone to draw the act that is capable of taking cognizance of state laws or constitutional provisions. The Labor boys in this state have just had a state organization since March, and are not well equipped with either money or information, and I am going to be put to my wits ends to get the act drawn. There are no attorneys in Boise or other towns in the state, the Boise unionists tell me, that they have any confidence in. But just watch our smoke; we will have the law drawn if we have to call upon lawyers other than those of the state of Idaho."

A Correction.

The wages of laundry wagon drivers in Vancouver are plenty low enough, but not quite as bad as The Federationist made Secretary V. R. Midgley say in last issue, in the report of his address before last meeting of Vancouver Trades and Labor Council. The wage runs as low as \$13.50 per week, not "\$3.50," as erroneously stated.

During the past three years the attendance upon the night school at Portland, Ore., has increased from 1817 to over 6000.

Last year there were 28 nationalities represented in the schools. This shows what Portland is doing to Americanize foreigners.

LABOR TEMPLE MEETINGS DURING THE COMING WEEK
SUNDAY, Oct. 15—
MONDAY, Oct. 16—Boilermakers; Electrical Workers; Brewery Workers.
TUESDAY, Oct. 17—Amalgamated Carpenters; Bookbinders; Railway Firemen.
WEDNESDAY, Oct. 18—
THURSDAY, Oct. 19—Maintenance of Waymen; Trades and Labor Council.
FRIDAY, Oct. 20—Railway Carmen; U. B. Carpenters, No. 617; Granite Cutters; Molders; Civic Employees.
SATURDAY, Oct. 21—Bakers.

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SECRETARY, BUREAU OF PROVINCIAL INFORMATION, VICTORIA, B. C.

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'Unity of Labor: the Hope of the World'

FRIDAY, October 13, 1916

MILITARISM, THAT curse of the middle ages, the Central European survival of which has proven the powder spark resulting in the present terrific world explosion, is again coming into its own in all of the erstwhile democratic countries engaged in the great struggle. In England, the boasted home of liberty and democracy, it is already absolute and triumphant. All of the boasted rights and "liberties of the subject" have gone a glimmering down the turnpike of the lost and forgotten, and the military jackboot is again upon the necks of a people who had fancied themselves freed from its curse for a time to come. The jails of the British Isles are full of conscientious objectors, who have availed themselves of their legal right to abstain from committing what to them is the crime of murder, the killing of others at the word of command. Every turn of the screw that can be devised by the military-mad authorities is being made to complete the triumph of Mars and the effacement of Demos. Just what schemes lie behind this rejuvenation of militarism, and that reach out into the days that shall follow the war, are not clearly defined, but he who is at all familiar with the history of militarism will have no difficulty in making a close guess. The soldier and the slave made their appearance upon the stage of history at one and the same time. Each has been the counterpart of the other all down the triumph of Mars and the effacement of Demos. Just what schemes lie behind this rejuvenation of militarism, and that reach out into the days that shall follow the war, are not clearly defined, but he who is at all familiar with the history of militarism will have no difficulty in making a close guess. The soldier and the slave made their appearance upon the stage of history at one and the same time. Each has been the counterpart of the other all down the triumph of Mars and the effacement of Demos.

As will be seen by reading our Australian correspondence, the military beast is putting forth every effort to fasten its fangs in the heart of the Australian people, a people that is accounted perhaps the most democratic on earth. That the schemes of the militarists are being foisted upon the people by a "Labor premier" by no means makes the dose any more palatable or easily swallowed. The workers themselves are bitterly opposed to these conscription schemes, and seem determined to do whatever may be necessary to balk them. There is little doubt that they will deal with such traitors to Labor as may use their power and office for so base a purpose. As the matter of conscription is to be put to a vote of the electorate, it may be turned down, but even then it is a safe bet that the beast will not quit. It has never yet been completely scotched in any country on earth, nor can it be until that slavery of which it is the counterpart, has been wiped out.

In New Zealand a most drastic conscription act has been fastened upon the people. With but four Labor members in the parliament, it was easy for the Conservatives to push the matter through. The enrolments are now being arranged, and the country is to be combed for food for the hungry ruling class cannon of Europe, and presumably for police use even in New Zealand should hurried slaves of industry be unduly hungry and obstreperous of conduct. It is little use mincing matters. These probabilities stare us in the face, and foolish is the working man who refuses to see them. The government of New Zealand, fearing the wrath of the people, has already set the elections back for at least twelve months. This effective method of hamstringing democracy is becoming exceedingly popular, and is not unknown even in this Canada of "ours." The moment a people submit to the first encroachment upon their rights by the military beast, however, all liberty is lost, for that beast never has enough until he has it all. Liberty and militarism cannot exist side by side. They cannot live and breathe the same air. The one is the direct antithesis of the other.

There is every indication that Canada is not to be allowed to escape being sacrificed to the god of war. About every old scamp whose years will exempt him from service is loud-mouthed for the conscription of everybody else who is fit for cannon food. All the old women of both sexes, and a vast majority of the young women, are also zealous advocates of it. And the pressure is steadily increasing to induce the authorities to spring the scheme. And the authorities will not need much urging, as those who are at all familiar with that breed will readily understand. This city has its contingent of conscription howlers who are getting busy of late. Amongst other things they are threatening to publish the names of those who refuse to contribute to the patriotic fund. These worthies are apparently

too dull to see that this boosting of patriotic and other begging scheme "funds," is only publicly advertising the impunctuality of Canada and the Empire. We firmly believe that a Dominion, or an Empire, that is solvent should promptly and peremptorily squelch all impudent individuals, or bands of such, who brazenly advertise its impunctuality in circumstances, by means of these begging and cadging schemes. In view of such solvency, that is the financial ability to meet its obligations, these begging or blackmailing schemes are not only a libel upon the state, but should be classed with all confidence schemes and other methods of obtaining money under false pretenses. Any man who is loyal to his country and has faith in its cause, and its ability to meet its obligations, certainly would not stoop so low as to bring it to the ignominious level of a recipient of charity. Let these impudent ones publish all the lists they may, but there is one thing sure, and that is that no one who has any respect for his country need feel ashamed to have his name appear thereon. It is to his credit and honor that he has sufficient faith in the integrity of both Dominion and Empire to feel sure that they can and will meet their obligations, without resorting to either beggary or blackmail. But when a military-mad bunch gets to going there is no knowing where or when they will stop. And this local bunch of nose-poking busybodies is about as loco as any on the map.

PROBABLY A GOOD many readers of The Federationist will remember heavy shipments of human merchandise that were made into this province a few years since, by the Salvation Army. That particular exporting and importing concern did a thriving business down to quite recent times, and its officials have broadly hinted that it expects to do a heavy trade again after the war is over. Its specialty then will be the shipment of war widows from those countries that have accumulated a surplus in that line, into those less favored lands where that class of goods may, perchance, be in demand. That would come along as a part of that great world wide trade that Canada is to build up after the war is over, and in anticipation of which every trade monger's mouth waters in copious fashion. It will indeed be a happy day for all of us when the good old days of the now busted boom shall have returned to us and the dealers and traffickers in human chattels and their wares are once more busily and profitably engaged at their merchandising occupations.

This calls to mind the marvelous discovery recently made by Mr. Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, that "labor is not a commodity," a discovery that was subsequently confirmed by the United States congress in that now famous production known as the Clayton Act. Oh, no, labor is not merchandise. It is not property. It is not a "commodity." It is a well-something else, a well, something personal, you know; at any rate it is "not a commodity," and that is all there is about it. And yet Mr. Gompers' "Weekly News Letter" of Sept. 30 chronicles the startling fact that there is an alarming shortage of negro labor in some sections of the south in consequence of large shipments of colored laborers to various northern states. It seems that labor agencies and agents representing northern companies that require the services of large numbers of laborers are shipping negroes north by the hundreds every day. These colored laborers are being sent principally to the mining fields of Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Virginia, where their services are required to take the places of those valiant foreigners who went across the sea to gallantly fight, bleed and die for the fatherland, from which they had previously fled in order to keep from starving to death.

Now just to show that the labor of the colored man is not a commodity, a piece of merchandise that is bought, sold and shipped about just like real merchandise, it may be well to note that Mr. Gompers News Letter also chronicles in the same issue that the city council of Birmingham, Ala., recently passed an ordinance making it an "offense punishable by a fine of \$100 and sixty days' imprisonment to induce any laborer to leave the city." The employers of labor have been raising a row because their black wage slaves are being enticed away by the agents of northern slave driving concerns. Hence they have called upon the local authorities to put a stop to it. They are suffering injury because of this exodus of laborers. That injury is in the nature of a financial loss. It must be, for that is the only kind of an injury that ever calls forth a law of distress and an appeal for legal redress. Now no one can claim legal redress unless he has suffered financial loss. If the employers of Birmingham are seeking protection against the depletion of the local supply of laborers, it must be for the reason that such depletion is subjecting them to material loss, that is a loss of property values. If these laborers are not properly, if their labor power is not a commodity of value to the employers of Birmingham, and through the loss of which they suffer in a manner that can only be expressed in terms of money, will Mr. Gompers please explain what the city council of Birmingham is driving at? If these laborers are not property and their labor is not a commodity, what difference would it make to the local employers of labor where they went, or how long they staid away?

Those who lived in San Francisco during the years following the death of James Lick, the founder of the Lick Observatory, with its big telescope, will not forget the Lick free baths, located south of Market street. Among the many benefactions provided for in Mr. Lick's will, these free baths were by no means the least. Under the will, provision was made that the use of the baths was to be absolutely free, provided the bather furnished his own towel. If not the charge was five cents. Needless to say these baths were always patronized to full capacity, and the beneficial results therefrom could not be measured.

What could the employers elsewhere gain by their coming? What could employment agencies get out of shipping them? The answer is plain. There is a serious leak in the labor philosophy of the astute Mr. Gompers.

The negro of the south was one time held as chattel property, and the paper titles to his body, and soul if he had any, were duly recorded in the tax lists and other public records. His removal to other localities and into other hands, without recompense to his owner would be such a glaring alienation of property that he who would attempt it would land in jail. But all that his owner would lose would be the labor power of the slave, for which he had paid in advance, to the slave's previous owner, or for the expense of raising the slave up to a productive age. Now the negro, having been freed by the civil war of 1861-65, finds himself thrown into a larger jackpot of slavery than was formerly his lot. He belongs to no particular master, except upon the instalment plan, the instalment being termed wages. This arrangement is much more satisfactory for the master's standpoint, for the reason that he can now get rid of the slave when he no longer needs him, without being to the bother of either selling or killing him. All he has to do is to cut off the instalments. But if the slave is enticed away from the immediate neighborhood of any individual masters they suffer material loss in the same manner as did the one-time chattel slave owner when his slave property was stolen, and for the very same reason. In either case the loss is a loss of property. And that property was the chattel slave. It is now the wage slave, no matter what the color of his hide. The chattel slave's labor power was owned by an individual master for life. That of the wage slave is owned by the capitalist class as a whole, and the slave himself is allowed the blessed privilege of peddling it out among the members of the class of owners and bestowing it upon the individual or concern that will grant the largest tip for the service. Oh, no, "labor is not a commodity."

SOME PERSON or persons contemplate establishing a public bathing or swimming pool in the 1200 block on Howe street, in this city. Of course, with true profit instinct, the promoters of this scheme set out to get something for nothing, if such a thing is possible. They approach the city council with a request that water shall be furnished from the city mains without charge, the amount required being 60,000 gallons, twice per week. This modest request caused a veritable flutter in a dove cote among the members of the council. The "grave and stern decorum" usually marking the proceedings of that august body gave way to almost jocular hilarity at the proposal. The proposition was met with a counter one of free water in exchange for free swimming. From this the idea gradually developed within the aldermanic caucus that it would not be altogether ridiculous for the city, inasmuch as it was being solicited for free water, to simply go a step further and provide free swimming pools for those who are so fortunate as to dwell within its glorified precincts. One alderman suggested that the matter be referred to the Parks board, with the request that the providing of a swimming pool be provided at or near English Bay, where it could be supplied with sea water. This appears to The Federationist having brought it forth. Not for a moment do we wish to suggest that it is the first idea that ever found lodgment in the incumbent aldermanic brain, but, to say the least, it is one of the best.

As a matter of fact, why should not the municipal authorities establish a system of free swimming pools throughout the city? Can any one suggest a line of action that would be more conducive to physical and moral health and general well being, than such a course? Why should not such public bathing establishments be placed at the convenient disposal of all residents of the city, absolutely free of charge, the expense thereof being provided for out of the general rates? It is a well-known fact that there is a lamentable lack of proper and ample bathing facilities in this and practically all modern cities. This is, of course, more pronounced in the working class districts. But it is a matter that can be remedied at comparatively little cost, by the city administration taking hold of it and exercising a little common horse sense. It would be a matter of comparatively little cost to establish a half dozen or so of suitable swimming pools at locations that would conveniently serve all of the city's population, and provide them with a bountiful supply of sea water. It does not cost such fabulous sums of money to lay a few miles of water pipe as to put it beyond the power of a great and wealthy city to do so. And measured by the good that could be brought to the city's population by such means, the cost is not worth mentioning.

One of Mr. Gompers' heavy hebrautions is going the rounds of the parrot Labor press, under the caption "Cats Making Laws for Mice." In view of Mr. Gompers' well-known proclivity for ignoring, and even opposing the necessity of the mice (workers) making laws for themselves, and persisting in hanging around the houses of parliament asking that the cats (capitalists) allow the mice to have an occasional favor granted them in the shape of a tiny piece of cheese, we would suggest that he obtain a copy of Esop's fables and read that interesting little story of the mice, who, in solemn convention assembled, proposed to have the cat wear a bell. He might learn that it is far less stupid for cats to rule mice than it is for mice to expect that they can bell the cats.

According to the Weekly News Letter published by the American Federation of Labor, the cost of living increased last year approximately 35 per cent. The figures upon which this conclusion is based were obtained from the office of William C. Bedford, secretary of commerce, Washington, D. C. It is now up to some responsible authority on such matters to explain to us just where and how the advance of wages so much talked about, comes in. Is there any one so ill-informed that he does not know that wages have not increased 35

Cleanliness is said to be next to godliness, and if such be the case, and who can doubt it, what better investment could a city make than by providing every facility possible for such a laudable purpose? Why should not the city of Vancouver be one of the first to adopt such a policy as one of the duties of its health department? It occurs to The Federationist that far more could be accomplished in the way of moral and ethical uplift by such means, than by all the prohibitive "thou shalt not's" ever laid down by city councils since time began. We suggest that the Vancouver city council give the matter serious consideration.

MANY A surface-skimmer becomes obsessed with the idea that the consumers of eatables, drinkables, wearables, etc., are robbed by the trust and combines that control the production and sale of such things. For instance, that versatile and earnest soul, Prof. Scott Nearing, loudly lamenteth because the people of the United States are forsooth compelled to pay to the railways large sums of money for transportation service. He evidently considers that the people are robbed by the railways. Now the people must comprise all of the inhabitants of the country. If they are robbed, who robs them? Then again, if the people obtain a necessary transportation at a less cost than they can do it themselves, where does the robbery come in? For instance, if a farmer can get his crop hauled to the market by a railway company, cheaper than he could haul it there himself, how has he been robbed? The railways obtain transportation power by purchasing the labor power of working men in the market, and turn it into cash by selling transportation to the consumers thereof, at a price less than it would cost the consumers to do their own haulage. Therefore, the consumers are not, and cannot be robbed by the transaction. True, the railways reap large surplus revenue, but as to where they get it or who is robbed in the getting, may be determined by the answer to the following conundrum: If A steals a horse from B and sells him to C for what he is actually worth in the market, has C been robbed by A? Who lost the horse anyway? Let A represent the railways, B the wage slaves in their employ, and C the consumers. Now get out your pencil and figure it out. Mr. Scott Nearing, and all the rest of you.

It seems that the liquor business over in the state of Washington refuses to down in obedience to the recently enacted prohibition law. Gigantic schemes of graft in connection with the illicit traffic are reported from Seattle. The disciples of wetness should, however, refrain from musing the apparent triumph of illicit liquor selling as an argument evidencing the failure of prohibition. The only thing it does emphatically prove is that the liquor evil is infinitely more damnable than even its worst enemies ever pictured it.

Do our zealous prohibitionists and other holier than thou folk, who are always trying to abolish sin by the decree, "thou shalt not," overlook the fact that it was that very decree itself that introduced sin into the world? When the notice was hung upon the tree in the Garden of Eden, "thou shalt not eat of this fruit," we know what effect it had upon our dear old mother Eve. Had it not been for the sign and the decree, the chances are that she would have had no desire to partake of the fruit, and the world would be without sin, even unto this day.

Under a "war precautions" regulation issued by the Labor government of Australia, "no person shall, without lawful authority publish, sell, or distribute any printed matter which refers in any way to the present war, or to the raising of troops for service in any of his majesty's forces, unless such matter has been submitted to, and approved by, an officer of the censorship staff." There must be something decidedly rotten about this war when such great pains are taken to throw the mantle of secrecy over its proceedings. Perhaps the military beast instinctively realizes that if uncovered, he can only rouse feelings of disgust in the human breast. And it's patriotism that's needed now.

According to the Weekly News Letter published by the American Federation of Labor, the cost of living increased last year approximately 35 per cent. The figures upon which this conclusion is based were obtained from the office of William C. Bedford, secretary of commerce, Washington, D. C. It is now up to some responsible authority on such matters to explain to us just where and how the advance of wages so much talked about, comes in. Is there any one so ill-informed that he does not know that wages have not increased 35

per cent. in the last 3500 years? We sometimes wonder if there is one among us so dull as not to know that wages are lower now than was over the case before, since the wage system was invented. It is surely time that working men woke up to the truth about the matter. The conditions of the slave have, and always must grow progressively worse, so long as slavery remains. Let us no longer deceive ourselves about it.

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Canada's Industrial Toll.

According to the industrial accident record of the federal department of Labor, 78 working people were killed and 389 seriously injured in the course of their respective employments during August. The record for July was 74 killed and 415 injured, and the record for August, 1915, was 77 killed and 243 injured.

BUSINESS AGENT DIRECTORY

Ask for Labor Temple Phone Exchange, Seymour 7495 (unless otherwise stated):

Cooks, Walters, Waitresses—Room 304; Electrical Workers (outside)—E. H. Morrison, Room 207, Sey. 3510; Deep Sea Fishermen's Union—Russell Kearley, 437 Gore avenue, Office phone, Seymour 4704; residence, Highland 1344L; Longshoremen's Association—Thomas Nixon, 10 Powell street, phone Sey. 8359; Musicians—H. J. Brassfield, Room 305, Salton—W. S. Burns, 213 Hastings street west, Sey. 8703; Street Railway Employees—Fred A. Hoover, cor. Main and Union, Phone Exchange, Seymour 5000; Typographical—R. H. Neelands, Room 206.

TRADES UNION DIRECTORY

Allied Printing Trades Council—R. H. Neelands, Box 66; Barbers—E. H. Grant, 1301 7th avenue west; Bartenders—H. Davis, Box 424; Blacksmiths—H. C. Caldwell, 2206 Fifteenth Avenue; Bookbinders—W. H. Cowdrey, 1885 Thirty-fourth avenue east; Boilermakers—A. Fraser, 1151 Howe street; Brewery Workers—Frank Graham, 2256 12th Avenue west; Bricklayers—William S. Dagnall, Labor Temple; Brotherhood of Carpenters District Council—F. L. Barratt, Room 208, Labor Temple; Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers—L. T. Soloway, 1157 Harwood street, Seymour 1448; Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen—H. G. Savage, 1235 Hurby St.; Brotherhood of Railway Carmen—M. D. Jordan, 1060 Granville street; Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees—E. Corado, 286 Clark drive; Cigar Makers—W. H. McQueen, care Karts Cigar Factory, 73 Water Street; Cooks, Waiters, Waitresses—Andy Graham, Room 304, Labor Temple; Deep Sea Fishermen's Union—Russell Kearley, 437 Gore avenue; Electrical Workers (outside)—E. H. Morrison, Room 207, Seymour 3510; Granite Cutters—Edward Hurry, Columbia Hotel; Garment Workers—Mrs. Jardine, Labor Temple; Horseshoers—Labor Temple; Letter Carriers—Robert Wight, 177-17th Basty street; Painters—Geo. Weston, Room 308, Labor Temple; Plumbers—Room 200 1/2, Labor Temple; Photo Seymour 8611; Pressmen—E. Waterman, 1167 Georgia St.; Plasterers—Geo. Ruah, 2276 Fortieth Avenue west, Bayview 215L; Pattern Makers—J. Campbell, North Vancouver; Quarry Workers—James Heppburn, care Coxe; Seamen's Union—W. S. Burns, P. O. Box 1365; Structural Iron Workers—Room 208, Labor Temple; Stonecutters—James Rayburn, P. O. Box Stonecutters; Sheet Metal Workers—J. W. Alexander, 2120 Pender street east; Street Railway Employees—A. V. Lofting, 2551 Trinity street; Stereotypers—W. Bayley, care Province; Telegraphers—E. B. Peppin, Box 342; Trades and Labor Council—Victor R. Midgley, Room 210, Labor Temple; Typographical—H. Neelands, Box 66; Theatrical Stage Employees—Geo. W. Allin, Box 711; Tinsmiths and Helpers—A. Jamieson, 540 Twenty-third avenue east.

PROVINCIAL UNIONS

B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR—Meets in annual convention in January. Executive officers: 1916—President, W. H. McVey; vice-presidents—Vancouver, John Brooks, E. Morrison; Victoria, O. Siverts; New Westminster, W. Yates; Prince Rupert, W. E. Thompson; District 22, U. M. W. of A. (Vancouver Island), W. Head; District 18, U. M. W. of A. (Crest's Nest Valley), A. J. Carter; Secretary-treasurer, A. S. Wells, P. O. Box 1538, Victoria, B. C.

VICTORIA B. C.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets first and third Wednesday, Labor hall, 1424 Government street, at 5 p. m. President, G. Taylor; secretary, F. Holdridge, Box 302, Victoria, B. C.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

BARTENDERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICA, local 784, New Westminster. Meets second and fourth Wednesday, 1:30 p. m. Secretary, F. W. Jamieson, Box 469.

PRINCE RUPERT, B. C.

PRINCE RUPERT TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets second and fourth Tuesday, 8 p. m. President, W. H. McVey; Secretary, S. D. Macdonald; J. J. Anderson, Box 273, Prince Rupert, B. C.

ORANGIEM LAGER COMPANIES.

B. C. FEDERATIONIST, LIMITED—Meets at call of president, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C. Directors: James Campbell, president; H. H. McVey, secretary-treasurer; A. Watchman and A. S. Wells, P. O. Box 1538, Victoria, B. C. Secretary, Room 217, Labor Temple, Telephone Seymour 7495.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE BODY

TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA—Meets in convention September of each year. Executive board: Jas. O. Watters, president; vice-president, A. Watchman, Victoria, B. C.; secretary-treasurer, F. M. Draper, Drawer 515, Ottawa, Ont.

STYOPSIS 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 in Charge 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 stated by the applicant in the person to the Agent in Charge of the district.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of \$5, which will be refunded if the rights applied for are 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 lessee of 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 necessary for the working of the mine at the rate of \$10 an acre.

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

Deputy Minister of the Interior, W. B. Unsworth, publication of this advertisement will not be paid for—30690

VANCOUVER UNIONS

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets first and third Tuesday, P. Dickey's, Executive board: James H. McVey, president; Victor R. Midgley, vice-president; 217 Labor Temple; Fred Hoover, secretary; W. G. Cotterill, assistant; sergeant-at-arms, John Sully; A. J. Crawford, Jas. Campbell, J. Brooks, trustees.

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

BARTENDERS' LOCAL NO. 675—Office, Room 409, Labor Temple. Meets first and third Sunday of each month. President, James Campbell; financial secretary, H. Davis, Box 424; phone, Sey. 4755; recording secretary, Wm. Midgley, 601 Seventh Avenue west.

JOURNEMEN BARTENDERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA, Local No. 120—Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month, Room 205, Labor Temple. President, L. E. Herritt; secretary, R. H. Grant, 604 George street.

BRICKLAYERS' AND MASONS' NO. 1—Meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 8 p. m., Room 307, Labor Temple. President, J. H. McVey; corresponding secretary, W. B. Dagnall, Box 215; financial secretary, W. J. Pipes; business agent, W. S. Dagnall, Room 215.

BREWERY WORKERS' L. U. No. 281, I. O. U. of M.—U. B. W. A. Meets first and third Monday of each month, Room 302, Labor Temple, 8 p. m. President, A. Sykes; secretary, Frank Graham, 2256 Twelfth Avenue west.

BROTHERHOOD OF TOOLER MAKERS and Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, Vancouver, Lodge No. 194—Meets first and third Tuesday, 8 p. m. President, A. Campbell, 73 Seventeenth Avenue west; secretary, A. Fraser, 1151 Howe street.

DEEP SEA FISHERMEN'S UNION OF THE PACIFIC—Meets every Tuesday, 7 p. m. Russell Kearley, business agent.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 218—Meets in Room 205, Labor Temple, every Monday, 8 p. m. President, W. McDougall, 1152 Powell street; recording secretary, R. N. Edgar, Labor Temple; financial secretary and business agent, E. H. Morrison, Room 207, Labor Temple.

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, Local 38-52—Office and hall, 10 Powell street. Meets every Thursday 8 p. m. President, J. H. McVey; financial secretary, Thomas Nixon.

MACHINISTS, NO. 182—MEETS SECOND and fourth Thursdays at 8 p. m. President, J. McVey; recording secretary, J. Brooks; financial secretary, J. H. McVey, 211 Labor Temple, Seymour 7495.

MOVING PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS' Union, Local 348, I. A. T. S. E. & M. P. M. Meets every Sunday of each month, Room 204, Labor Temple. President, J. C. Lachance; business agent, W. E. McCarty; financial and corresponding secretary, H. C. B. Ross.

PATTERN MAKERS' LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA—Vancouver and vicinity. Branch meets second and fourth Mondays, Room 205, Labor Temple. President, Ray McVey; secretary, E. H. Morrison; financial secretary, J. Campbell, 4869 Argyle street; recording secretary, E. Westmorland, 1402 West Broadway, Victoria, B. C.

STREET AND ELECTRIC RAILWAY EMPLOYEES, Pioneer Division, No. 101—Meets Labor Temple, second and fourth Wednesday, 8 p. m. President, W. H. Cotterill; vice-president, E. E. High; recording secretary, A. V. Lofting, 2551 Trinity street; financial secretary and business agent, Fred A. Hoover, 2409 Columbia Street.

JOURNEMEN TAILORS' UNION OF AMERICA, Local No. 178—Meetings held first Tuesday in each month, 8 p. m. President, Francis Williams; vice-president, Miss H. G. Morrison; recording secretary, J. McDonald, Box 503; financial secretary, H. Nordland, P. O. Box 503.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, NO. 226—Meets first Sunday of each month at 7 p. m. President, Wm. H. Youhill; vice-president, W. R. Trotter; secretary-treasurer, R. H. Neelands, P. O. Box 66.

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RAILWAYMEN OUT FOR AN EIGHT-HOUR WORK DAY

Negotiations with Railways Not Progressing Too Satisfactorily

Men Will Not Be Satisfied Except with Reduction of Working Hours

While the greatest secrecy is maintained among both union and railway officials regarding the negotiations between the Canadian Pacific railway and its employees, it is stated locally, that the question of an eight-hour day has been brought up. This, it is pointed out, also entered into the negotiations between the Canadian Northern railway and Grand Trunk railway and their employees during the summer, although the men subsequently withdrew their request. So far, a strike vote has not been taken among the Vancouver employees of the Canadian Pacific railway. Calgary employees voted 100 per cent. in favor of a strike.

Not a New Issue.

The history of the present trouble between the C. P. R. and its trainmen, conductors and engineers goes back some time, as stated by Grant Hall in the review of the situation issued by him at Winnipeg. While employees of a railway deal only with that road, the trouble was more or less paralleled quite recently on the two other Canadian transcontinental lines.

Ask for An Eight-hour Day.

Only a few months ago, Canadian Northern engineers approached the management with a demand for readjustment of the schedule. In the course of the negotiations the men asked for an eight-hour day, the agitation in the United States being then at its height. Whether the Grand Trunk employees actually demanded an eight-hour day or not has not been stated. Negotiations, however, were brought to a successful conclusion, and, as in the case of the Canadian government railways, wages were advanced. This also happened on the Canadian Northern.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the C. P. R. and its employees had not progressed very satisfactorily. At one time Grant Hall, vice-president and general manager of the C. P. R. at Winnipeg, broke off negotiations definitely. They were later resumed, however.

Some time before these events in the summer months the unions had adopted a resolution deciding that no action would be taken on the eight-hour day question until after the war. This resolution was, however, zealously guarded from publication, and, in fact, only obtained publicity through an accident.

International Organizers.

All these affairs were handled by the international organizers, with headquarters at Cleveland. These committees were composed in part of Canadian employees of the roads.

The trouble now coming to a head is due, it is said, to the victory of the United States railway employees in their fight for an eight-hour day.

"We have a nine-hour day now and it would mean taking another hour off," said an official of one of the unions Wednesday. "We feel that we are entitled to have an eight-hour day."

While he did not admit that the C. P. R. employees were actually seeking this concession, other union men here were of the opinion that steps were being taken in this direction. Full details are not known locally, however, as the actual negotiations are in the hands of the headquarters officials at Cleveland.

Take Determined Stand.

It is further stated that the employees are unwilling to accept any schedule which will deprive them from obtaining this reduction in the working hours at any time. If they do not press the matter to a conclusion at present they want to reserve the right to do so at any moment that may seem to them desirable.

There appears to have been a certain difference of opinion as to procedure between the international officers and the Canadian members and local officials of the unions. The latter were more or less willing to postpone any drastic changes until after the war. Their desire is said to be to press on to a Canadian victory now that the eight-hour day law is a fact in the United States.

Locally, as no strike vote has been taken, it is difficult to sum up the feeling of the men. Some are inclined to think too much is being made of the danger of a strike. A strike vote, they say, does not necessarily mean a strike.

On the other hand, it is generally conceded that they will back up whatever action the international officials may advise.

Federal Election.

A general federal election before the end of this year is not out of the question. So get on the voters' list.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Trades and Labor Council.
October 16, 1911.

Walking Delegate George Irvine wanted to resign, but all the unions directly concerned were in favor of continuing his services. However, Mr. Irvine agreed to act until his successor was appointed.

Delegates Fulton and Franklin reported for the Labor Day committee. Ottawa Trades and Labor council wrote in reference to the strike in the lumber trade.



From Parm's Potato Patch



OLD CY JENKINS has been spooling for a fight for the past week or so, strutting around with a chip on his shoulder, as it were. He got all he wanted down at the Dew Drop tavern last night. A poet, with long hair, wearing a big necktie over a dicky, was having a drink and incidentally discussing the war with Abe Johnson. Cy, clipped in: "Say, are you a man or a woman?"

"Have you read that Hun submarine activity may raise a crisis?" calmly replied the poet.

Cy challenged him to fight, whereupon the literary artist said: "Queensbury or Canadian?"

"Canuck," roared Cy. Then the poet went at him like a wildcat, and knocked him down, bit him, gouged his eye and blackened the other one, jumped on him with both feet, and hit him on the head with a chair.

The poet dared Cy to move while he took another lotion, and then strode away with the parting shot:

"Caveat actor. Culpa poena par esto."
(Let the deer beware. Let the punishment be proportioned to the crime.)

LETTERS TO THE FED.

Proportional Representation.

[Article 2]

Editor B. C. Federationist: Neither the second ballot, nor the alternate vote could remove the evils of the single member constituency system. On the contrary, this method has additional defects. It involves a struggle between two candidates for the support of a third party, with which neither agrees. It is quite immoral to send a member to parliament to represent views which he does not hold, and to advocate principles with which he has no real sympathy. The second ballot was not popular in France and Belgium. In Australia, the alternate vote involved a struggle of the Conservatives and Liberals to defeat the Laborites. Proportional representation is the only method of curing these evils. It does not appeal to any one party, as a party measure, for its aim is to do justice to all sections and shades of opinion. In Switzerland, Belgium, South Africa, Tasmania, etc., where it is in operation, it has given freedom and independence to both electors and representatives. It has rendered legislation more stable and popularly acceptable. No country which has experienced its benefits would dream of reverting to the evils and absurdities which are inseparable from any single member system. Proportional representation is the representation of all classes of citizens, or elected bodies, such as councils, or legislative assemblies, in proportion to their voting strength. For example: The just representation for a constituency of 70,000 electors, of whom 40,000 are Conservatives, 20,000 Liberals, 10,000 Laborites, but four Conservative members, and one Labor member, of parliament. Bearing in mind that "proportional representation" is the representation of all classes of citizens on elected bodies, such as councils, or legislative assemblies, "in proportion to their voting strength," we now proceed to note the method by which this end may be attained. (1) Unite existing constituencies into larger ones, each having regard to natural divisions of the country, such as large cities, counties or parts of counties. Give each constituency so formed a number of members proportionate to its size, the total number of members in the house being the same as at present. Redistribution and gerrymandering will be unnecessary as the representation will naturally change in proportion to the rise and fall of the electorate. The return of many members, with each constituency, makes it possible to give representation to more than one party. (2) Decide elections by a proportional system, such as that known as the single transferable vote, or the Hare system of proportional representation. The single vote enables a coherent body of electors of a reasonable size to obtain representation. Suppose that in a constituency which returns six members, 15,000 electors go to the poll as in Vancouver. As each elector has only one vote only 15,000 votes can be recorded, and if a group of 2500 electors all vote for one and the same candidate, they can secure his return. This is the form of proportional representation that is in use in Japan. It requires efficient party organization, and a well disciplined electorate to prevent wasting the party's voting strength either by concentration on a popular candidate, or diffusion over many candidates who have no chance of being returned. The defect in the single vote is remedied by making the vote transferable. In this way we secure to all parties, their fair share of representation, representation in strict proportion to their voting strength. The elector entering a polling booth does not know whether his favorite will receive more votes than is necessary to elect, or whether he will receive so little as to have no chance of election. Thus a popular candidate of any party may receive say 3500 votes, when he needs only 2500 to be elected; or a party may have scattered its votes over too many candidates, and might lose the representation which it otherwise would gain. The transferable vote provides against both these contingencies. It enables the elector to indicate the candidate of his second choice (and every further choice) to whom his vote can be transferred. (1) When his first choice has more votes than he requires, or (2) When after all excess votes have been

POLITICAL ACTION BY THE WORKERS NECESSARY

Disrupters of Labor Unions Condemned for Their Activities

With the Labor Forces Split Into Warring Factions Capitalists Win

[By John Day, Victoria]

NOTICE under the heading "In Sheer Self-Defense Labor Must Take Political Action," and then follows an article from A. S. Wells. The writer hits the right nail on the head when he states, "In the meantime, however, what are we to lay down as a barrier against the encroachment of the present system. Are we to build up for the movement such organizations as will tend towards the minimizing of the effects of the system under which we live (when some of his friends read this I can imagine their thoughts), but I for one believe a greater good can be done by this palliative scheme, and that this is the only real way to bring the workers together under Labor organizations." The answer will be but we have Labor organizations! I deny this. What we have got is a disreputable bunch of "agitators." I include myself, who have not got the sense of getting down to the business that will be of real benefit to the working class. In our councils and our conventions, the time is taken up relating to some fight between the workers themselves, and often of the most trivial character. But in my opinion the men who tend to cause the most injury are those who, although supposed to be connected with the Labor movement, have one set idea, viz., to keep up this disruption, anticipating that they will eventually gain their particular object. Personally, I admire them for their sincerity, and I count many among my best friends, but I am convinced that they would make more converts and build up their movement on a more solid basis if they would follow a more reasonable and less antagonistic method. I believe that the trade union movement is the only real movement, under the present system, that can be of any use to the working class, and if allowed to carry out its principles, the workers will eventually see that they will have no control, to adopt a political movement. But so long as we have a certain class who, having read a few chapters of Karl Marx, and believing that they are the chosen to deal out the panacea for all ills, and will persist in trying to disrupt the Labor movement, then I believe it is useless to try to gather the workers together. These men do more injury to the socialist movement by these methods, and so retard the good work that would eventually grow from the wise and reasonable system of teaching adopted by some of the real teachers of socialism. The majority of people are not ready and will not accept it by force; and even if they did accept it, of what use would it be if they did not understand it; and I for one would indeed be sorry for Canada if some of the men I know who profess to be socialists, were given any authority or power. I believe that if the Labor party would cut out all this difference of opinion, and get down to some definite system, the majority of their members who are now connected to political parties, would sever their connections and back up capable men far more capable than many now representing them, and to be found in their own ranks. But these men, when once chosen to represent Labor, must be prepared to break off all affiliations with any other body, and work for and in the interests of the Labor party. So long as the workers remain divided, it is easy for the interests that exploit the workers to fatten on their labor; and to continue to be masters of the situation. It is only when the workers get together—when fighting is necessary—can they hope to make headway, and as I have stated before, under present conditions, can it only be done by and through the trade union movement and political action.

(To be continued)

F. K.

The services of the staff at the B. C. penitentiary last year cost the country \$67,131.11. Maintenance of convicts—rations, (\$17,703.48), clothing and medicines, (\$4827.74)—cost total, \$22,531.22.

The upward jump of copper and steel stocks goes merrily on. Wall street's bull market is as happy as a lark. And the labor market? Labor power is still quoted as selling for about one-fifth of the value of its product. And it will never sell for more until it is trusted, politically and industrially, by the working class and made to work for the working class alone.—Cleveland Citizen.

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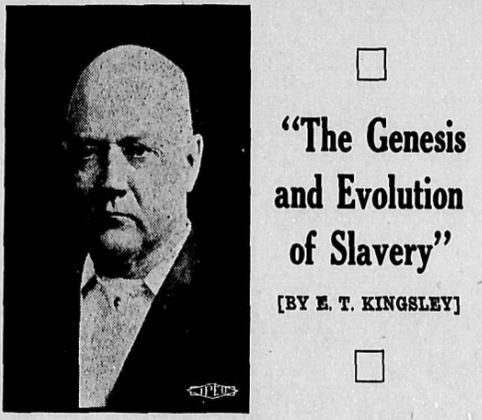
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[BY E. T. KINGSLEY]

In response to a widespread demand, The Federationist has reproduced the article which appeared in its Labor Day issue, under the above caption.

This little booklet of 64 pages contains a wealth of information regarding the economic basis of capitalist society, and the position occupied by the working class within it.

It clears up much that has long confused, not only the workers themselves, but many others who have given thought to the vexations and anomalies of modern civilization.

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PEACE DOVE HOVERS OVER BULLPEN THESE DAYS

People Will Probably Get Their Heat in the Sweet Bye and Bye

N. Y. Police Do Educational Work Among Members of Gentler Sex

NOTHING BUT peace and quietness around the "bullpen" these days. Everybody apparently happy and contented. If they have any kicks they keep them to themselves. We tried to get some information from the business agent, but all he could scrape up was that there were thirteen applications for membership from new men, and that Bro. Embleton was about to resume work. We are pleased to know that Bro. Embleton is out of the hospital again. He has had a hard time, and we hope he is feeling almost fit once more. In last week's Federationist, the account of the Trades and Labor council meeting, it was made to appear that the question of heaters for motormen was discussed. This certainly must be a misprint. If the subject of heat was discussed it must have been in connection with the insides of cars. This will be apparent to all our members of course.—[Right you are, J. E. G.—Ed. Federationist.]

Another matter that was mentioned by a delegate was the question of organizing the jitney drivers, and believe us the organizer would be up against a stiff proposition. The teamsters are the men that should be organized, and every effort should be made to gather this class of workers into the fold.

An Uncalled-for Slam.
Mr. Kidd, general manager of the B. C. E. R., speaking with regard to the patriotic fund said: "That it was not difficult to get contributions from the staff of his company, but that it was a different matter so far as the unions were concerned." Now with regard to the Street Railwaymen's union, such was not the case, as most of our members contributed to a relief fund, started chiefly with the object of assisting the families of our soldier members. The cost of administering the fund came out of our union treasury, and not a single cent of the relief fund was used for any other purpose than that for which it was started.

The Street Railwaymen are not given to talking about affairs where they have been instrumental in helping out those in need. Sufficient to say that many very substantial grants have been given from the relief fund, and right today the good work is still going on, and will continue so long as the funds last. Paying into the fund only stopped when our wages were reduced, as the men found it absolutely impossible to support their families and contribute to a relief fund out of the small wages they were then receiving.

Stubborn Strike Lessons.
We were informed a day or two ago through the daily press that during the traction strike in New York the police used their clubs freely upon the women sympathizers. This process of educating the workers may be brutal, but its very effective, and can be expected to last just so long as we vote to uphold a system that legalizes such cowardly methods of keeping the workers in subjection.

More "Farm's Potato Patch."
The "back-to-the-land" bug is again in evidence around the "bull pen," and when put up in good shape can be made to listen like a good thing. We firmly believe that the intending farmer should be given every assistance, and while the undertaking to the majority of those who have tried it has been heart-breaking, and in many cases disastrous, there is no longer any need to fear for the success of your venture if you follow the advice to be had from Bro. Speed. Bert has made a study of this problem, and is satisfied that "community farming" on a scientific basis, as laid down by himself, is the only road to success. Bert charges nothing for his advice, so wade in and get your fill. Follow his advice and you can't go wrong.

Mrs. J. T. Devine has written the members of Division No. 101, expressing her gratitude of the wreath and splendid treatment accorded her by them, on the occasion of the loss of her husband, one of our union members at North Vancouver, on Oct. 4. The deceased was 66 years of age, and died of heart failure. J. E. G.

The good Samaritan didn't wait to be introduced to the man who had fallen among thieves.

Medicine Hat carpenters have organized a union.

Bathrobe Blankets

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THE large size of these blankets gives liberal allowance for making of bathrobes and dressing gowns. These are shown in a large variety of designs in both Jaquard and Indian effects. The blankets are in popular demand which speaks well for their appearance and the value represented. Size 72x90 inches. Price **\$5.00** each.

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Send the Federationist Reports of Your Activities from Week to Week.

The Federationist wishes to serve you. This may best be done by sending to The Federationist not later than Thursday morning of each week items of particular interest to your members. Tell what has happened at your meetings, the work done by your officers and committees, and add social and personal paragraphs pertaining to your members. Most items of general interest to organized labor are crowded out of the great daily papers. Wake up, union officers, and give The Federationist the items your members wish to see in print. Let other unions know that you are alive and active, and doing your part.

WHAT BLACKSTONE SAID

"There is nothing which so generally strikes the imagination, and engages the affections of mankind, as the right of property; or that sole and despotic dominion which one man claims and exercises over the external things of the world, in total exclusion of the right of any other individual in the universe. And yet there are very few that will give themselves the trouble to consider the original and foundation of this right. Pleased as we are with the possession, we seem afraid to look back to the means by which it was acquired, as if fearful of some defect in our title; or at best we rest satisfied with the decision of the laws in our favor, without examining the reason or authority upon which these laws have been built. We think it enough that our title is derived by the grant of the former proprietor, by descent from our ancestors, or by the last will and testament of the dying owner; not caring to reflect that (accurately and strictly speaking) there is no foundation in nature or natural law, why a set of words upon parchment should convey the dominion of land."—From Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England.

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Lawyers, Doctors, Preachers and Stock Gamblers Bar "Scabs"

Unionism Is Only Bad When Indulged In By the Workingmen

NO CLASS of persons has as little sympathy for labor unions as the professional men, yet there is no other class that maintains such perfect trade unions for itself as this same professional class, says the Bricklayers' Journal. Members of the legal profession have established the ideal trade union. This trade union has absolute control of the profession in every court of law in nearly every civilized country. No man can plead a case as an attorney without having made application to and been received into the lawyers' trade union, known as the Bar association. The power of this lawyers' trade union is so great that judges bow in submission to its rules and regulations.

The Medical Association.
The Medical association, the doctors' trade union, prohibits any person, lest he be recognized by such trade union, prescribing medicine for the relief of the afflicted. They have also established professional ethics that are as binding on their craft as are the ethics of a labor union. The medical profession denounces as "quacks" doctors who ignore the rules of the medical trade union, just as a labor union denounces as "scabs" workmen who ignore their ethics, and a "working card" diploma, must be in the possession of the practitioner before he can earn a dollar at his trade.

Clergymen Must Be Ordained.
To preach, marry people and collect salary, fees and perquisites of the pulpit you must belong to the Ministers' union, the clergy, be ordained, and carry a license card.

Stock Gamblers' Union.
If you own stocks and bonds, can you go on the floor of the stock exchange and sell them? Not unless you belong to the Stock Gamblers' union; in other words, a member of the stock exchange. Do you see the farmers on the floor of the produce exchange selling their grain and farm products? Not much. They do not belong to the Produce Gamblers' union. Do drovers sell their cattle and hogs on the floor of the live stock exchange? The nearest they get to it is the office of Skinner, Bilkom & Stark, live stock commission merchants, who are members in good standing in the Live Stock Gamblers' union.

Professional Men Work Quietly.
All the professional trade unions have been far more successful in the protection of their crafts than have labor unions. While labor has been denounced by many good people for attempting to secure legislation beneficial to labor, these professional gentlemen have quietly secured laws that effectually prevent "scabbing" by non-union professional men. The lawyers, the doctors, the dentists, the druggists, have all secured laws which prevent incompetent persons working at their respective trades, yet when a labor union attempts to accomplish these same results, these same professional gentlemen join in the cry of "Down with the tyrannical labor unions."

Must Recognize Strength in Unity.
Our own states are united for the purpose of strength, both defensive and offensive. That solves the whole question for us, for them, and the only difficulty lies in making the point apparent to the worker outside the ranks of trade unionism.

We Get What We Make.
The employer opposed to unions says it's un-American to be obliged to join an association if one doesn't wish to—that a man should be allowed to work without joining a union. The laborer outside the ranks must sink a selfish wish, particularly when it is evident—it is patent—that he, the rest of his fellows, the entire labor movement, are to be benefited thereby. To hesitate even, in such an emergency, is not merely un-American, it is un-anything.

The "open" shop is a beautiful institution only when applied to plain and simple work, and about the only lawful thing the employer wants the worker to do is not to belong to a union, but work like a dog or starve.

"That's a good idea," replied the conspicuously contented citizen; "but it's impractical. If everybody were to move to Victoria our beautiful province would become overcrowded."

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Boots Will Be Getting Hard Knocks for the next few months. Inclement weather conditions will be seeking out the weak places in inferior footwear.

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The LECKIE BOOT high grade materials, for city and street wear are made of the same only, of course, on more refined lines.

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Good for one year's subscription to The B. C. Federationist. Will be mailed to any address in Canada for \$10. (Good anywhere outside of Vancouver city.) Order ten today. Remit when sold.

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Read every line of this extraordinary announcement; acquaint yourself with its terms; it means money in your pocket and will immeasurably help The Federationist to grow.

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The Federationist will pay cash money to those of its readers who are awake to their own interests and patronize our advertisers in preference to those who don't think enough of the organized workers to bid for their custom.

Save Your Purchase Slips—They are worth money to you whenever you buy of advertisers in The Federationist, save the purchase slips you get with each sale—bring them to Room 217, Labor Temple, and we will immediately

PAY \$1.00 FOR EVERY \$50 WORTH OF PURCHASING SLIPS.

We intend in this way to compensate our readers and make it worth their while to patronize our advertisers, and in turn to convince our advertisers that it pays to advertise in The Federationist.

Save your purchase slips with each sale and when you have \$50 worth of slips from any or all advertisers combined—send them in and we will immediately send you \$1 in cash.

Do not mail your purchase slips to this office until they total \$50.

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The B. C. Federationist is the only bona fide Labor paper published in British Columbia—in fact, west of Winnipeg. When you are engaged in a struggle for better conditions it throws its full power into the controversy to help you succeed. It is owned and published by the B. C. Federation of Labor, and Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, and you are therefore one of its shareholders.

In view of its great usefulness to you, is not The Federationist deserving of your support to the degree at least that you help it by the judicious use of your purchasing power?

We endeavor to organize the purchasing power of the working class of this city for the purpose of throwing it behind our advertisers; we ask you to co-operate with us and SPEND YOUR MONEY WITH THOSE WHO SPEND THEIRS WITH US.

Make the advertisers' place of business shopping headquarters for organized workers—and when in need of any commodity enumerated exercise the adopted slogan of organized labor:

"WE PATRONIZE THOSE WHO PATRONIZE US."

B. C. FEDERATIONIST
ROOM 217, LABOR TEMPLE

Phone Sey. 7495 VANCOUVER, B. C.

P.S.—We will not honor purchase slips other than those of Federationist advertisers

Ten Fed. Sub. Cards for \$10

LABOR CANDIDATES

Resolution re the Patriotic Fund—Labor Bureaux Under Discussion.

CALGARY, Oct. 10.—The Labor people will probably have several candidates in the field for municipal election this year. It is not known yet whether there will be a complete slate for every office, but there will be some candidates for most offices. The question came up for discussion at the last meeting of the Trades and Labor council. The matter is being submitted to the various unions who will be asked to nominate candidates for the different offices. A final selection will be made at a mass meeting of labor men of the city.

The following resolution was passed at the meeting:
"Whereas the patriotic fund was organized for the purpose of supplementing the separation allowance of our soldiers' dependents, and whereas, during the years 1914 and 1915 our soldiers were encouraged to enlist for overseas service by the obligation assumed by the administrators of the patriotic fund to make an allowance from the fund adequate to meet the needs of their dependents; whereas the allowance of the fund in many cases has been discontinued and in other cases so reduced as to make the soldiers' dependents' incomes inadequate; be it resolved that the state may properly fulfill its duties to our soldiers and their dependents, that the separation allowance be so increased as to make the patriotic allowance unnecessary."

The question of labor bureaux for the province was also taken into consideration. The council placed itself on record as favoring municipal bureaux, with the Dominion government establishing a central labor bureau which will co-operate with the municipal labor bureau.

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