

### COAST LABOR MEN ALIVE TO THEIR INTERESTS

Prince Rupert Trades and Labor Council Alive and Active  
Big Drydock to Be Scene of Lively Times in the Near Future

PRINCE RUPERT, Oct. 20.—Last regular session of Trades and Labor Council was presided over by Pres. S. D. Macdonald, and there was a good attendance of delegates. Credentials were received from J. Dean of the Engineers, and J. Pilford of the Longshoremen. "Jack" Dean is one of the "stand-bys" of the central Labor body, and was given a hearty welcome on his return as a delegate.

A communication from the legislative committee of the board of trade respecting the suggestion that the government be requested to lift the embargo on labor, was received, the chairman, at least, of the board of trade committee, contending that there is a scarcity of labor in northern British Columbia. From the discussion that followed, it was amply proven that provided a fair wage and decent living conditions are provided, there is an ample supply of labor in this northern part of the province. And that they are willing to demonstrate that fact the council named a committee to take the matter up with the board of trade.

A petition being circulated by local fishermen, requesting Hon. R. L. Borden to take steps to abolish Oriental labor in the coast fishing industry, was endorsed by the council. The Oriental question, in its other phases, is also being handled by the council.

The council has also secured the services of a notary public with a view to canvassing the city, to see to it (from a labor standpoint), that as many names as possible are enrolled on the municipal voters' list. This was where labor fell down in the last municipal campaign, and we don't intend to be caught napping again. We had enough of shouters, but we're shy on those who were able to mark the little cross.

Delegate J. Morrison, of the Electrical Workers, was elected treasurer, vice A. R. McClellan, who is leaving for Nova Scotia. "Mac" has been a good worker in the labor movement in the city, and his many friends hope his departure may be temporary.

Delegate Geo. Casey, (alderman), of the recently organized Fish Packers' union, suggested the itinerary side of labor be given more consideration. A committee was appointed to report at next meeting.

As a slight incentive for organized labor in this district to boost labor's mouthpiece in the province, the council decided to take the lead and subscribe for half a dozen copies of The Federationist, and a number of the delegates promised to do "their bit."

Organizer McCallum of the Machinists' union, is in the city in the interests of his organization. The largest drydock in the Dominion which has been slumbering for many months, will become the scene of great activity within the next few days. The censor will not permit of further enlightenment in this matter at present, but next mail more particulars will be to hand.

While conditions are by no means brisk, there are a few idle men in the city. J. Glennie, who has been holding down one of the engineer jobs at the cold storage plant for months past, has moved to new fields, and the financial secretaryship of the Trades and Labor Council, made vacant by his departure, has fallen into the able hands of Geo. Waddell, of the engineers' local.

### TYPOS MEET SUNDAY

Secretarial Notes Concerning Activities for the Month.  
Vancouver Typographical union No. 226 will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday afternoon, October 29, at 2 o'clock, in Labor Temple.

The result of the local vote on proposed amendments to I. T. U. laws, which were submitted to referendum, showed that 123 members were in favor of the proposition to decrease the number of printers necessary to obtain a charter from ten to eight, and six against. For the proposition to increase the salaries of the president and secretary-treasurer, 30 voted in favor and 98 against.

Dr. W. P. Jackman, a former apprentice in the Sunset job office, arrived in the city on Wednesday morning, having been discharged from further military service. Pte. Jackman spent a month and a half in the trenches, and was one of five who were wounded when a bomb exploded amongst them on May 14 last. After spending some time in the hospitals in France and England, he rejoined his battalion, but later was discharged as unfit for further service.

### CARPENTERS THRIVING

Twenty-five New Members Initiated During Past Week.  
The carpenters' union in Vancouver reports continued progress in the organization of the carpenters, 25 new members having been admitted during the last week. Meetings are held each week, Local 2047, Amalgamated section, meeting every Tuesday and Local 617 meeting every Friday night. The expiration of the special dispensation from the general executive board, to reduce the initiation fee, expires at the end of October, and from the first of November the entrance fee will be \$5. Every effort is being put forth by the representatives of the carpenters' union, and a membership aid supporting them to an extent that is particularly gratifying and denotes that the low wages prevailing has shown the need for renewed activity on the part of the carpenters.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE RULING CLASS

Its Swan Song of Patriotism in Appeal to Workers to Tame Submit to the Exactions of Their Masters—Men Urged Not to Force Wage Demands—Committee Dumb as Oysters About Food Prices

THESE ARE GLORIOUS DAYS. Happy indeed is he, who having eyes to see and ears to hear, accompanied with a disposition to use them, has been privileged to live during these twentieth century days, these glorious days in which a stupid ruling class is so busily engaged in stripping itself of all hypocrisy and deceit and standing forth as the very epitome of naked shamelessness and gross stupidity. That the European spectacle is the supreme culmination of a hundred centuries of class rule and class robbery, requires no further proof than the very simple fact that it has been staged by the ruling class and is being waged solely in the interest of that delectable class. It has not been conjured forth by, or in the interest of a subject class. It represents the grandest and noblest achievements that it has been possible for a ruling class to attain as a result of its efforts down through the thousands of years that it has dominated and shaped the affairs of men. That is, it is the best the ruling class has been able to do down to the present time. Perhaps it may be able to stage a more imposing spectacle later on in its career, when it shall have had more time and an enlarged opportunity to develop its powers and capabilities along these pleasing and uplifting lines.

### ENGINEERS DECIDE TO GO BACK TO THE INTERNATIONAL

A Referendum Vote Shows Only Four Opposed to Decision

Will At Once Get in Line With the International Organizations

Still another attempt to organize a "Canadian" union, or rather to keep one organized, has failed. This time it is the "Canadian Union of Steam and Operating Engineers," who have given up the ghost and decided to become re-affiliated with the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, the headquarters of which are located at Chicago. The guiding hand of the "Canadian" union was E. Prendergast, but some weeks ago he decided to do a little prospecting on his own account, and no sooner was he absent than the membership began to feel the need of some better form of organization. The matter was discussed informally at one or two meetings. Then it was decided to take a referendum of the membership and the result, as announced at a meeting held in the Labor Temple last Sunday, was that only four voted against going back to the international.

In this connection ex-Secretary Prendergast wrote that if the membership decided against a "Canadian" union, that his name be not admitted as one of the charter members of the new organization.

Mr. W. C. Byatt, the president of the former organization, was tentatively elected to the same position in the new international union, while W. A. Alexander is the provisional secretary, pending the receipt of the new charter, when all the officers will be elected.

Four new members were admitted at last Sunday's meeting, and a number of new applications for membership will be dealt with at next meeting.

During the industrial panic consequent upon the outbreak of war, most of the membership of the engineers were forced to seek positions out of town, for the reason that the good patriotic employers in town reduced wages so that it was impossible to make a decent living. Those who took their places at that time are now sick of the conditions imposed and are now throwing in their lot with the out-of-town membership in an effort to restore old-time conditions. The re-affiliation of the Engineers with the international will give the new local a chance to once more secure the hearty co-operation of all the other unions and further affiliations with the local central labor body, etc., will soon follow, all of which will help to make possible a lot of things hitherto impossible with an "outlaw" organization. The Federationist welcomes the Engineers back to the international fold, and feels certain that the decision to get in line with the rest of organized labor will redound to the credit and material advantage of the new union.

### STOP THIEF!

Plunderers in Canada Anxious to Divert Attention Elsewhere.  
We are given occasional news of how the scarcity of food in Germany is affecting the working class of that country—no doubt to try and make us thankful that we do not live there—but how about Canada? The workers live here in the midst of plenty, but cannot buy because the government allows the gamblers and trusts to boost the price of the necessities of the people while the so-called representatives of the people of Canada are utterly callous to the needs of the people. In Germany the government is evidently trying to look after the working class, but in Canada the devil for the hindmost. The Ogilvie Milling company earned 25 per cent. on its common stock after paying bond interest and two years' war taxes. Great news! Flour has gone up another 20 cents per barrel. Will some kind person kindly send us an estimate on this company's dividend for their current financial year?—Winnipeg Voice.

### Sec. Carter Returns to Fernie.

Mr. A. J. Carter, secretary-treasurer of District No. 18, United Mine Workers, returned to Fernie at the beginning of the week, after spending a week or ten days in Victoria.

### The Executive.

The Federationist believes it was Marx who defined government as the "executive committee of the ruling class." It is a creation of the ruling class, for the very simple reason that there can be no other part, parcel or faction within human society that could possibly have any use for such a contraption or institution, whichever you may be pleased to call it. Like all other great states, Canada has a government. It is commonly referred to at present as the Borden government. As if to afford its quota of proof as to the truth of Marx's assertion, the Borden government brings itself into the limelight, in connection with the threatened strike of the C. P. R. trainmen, a strike that looks at the present moment to have a fairly good prospect of materialization. According to the news telegrams the Borden government has early this week been putting forth efforts to have the representatives of the men rescind their strike orders, which called for a walkout at 5 p.m., Wednesday, unless the company acceded to the demand for an advance in wages. Premier Borden, in his anxiety to avert the awful calamity, of a bunch of sellers of labor power withholding their wares from the market until such time as the would-be purchasers thereof saw fit to come through with a price satisfactory to the sellers, appeals to the "patriotic sentiments" of the men to "avoid a controversy which would weaken our efforts in the war, and which might be attended with disastrous results to the great cause we have at heart." This illustrates the attitude of the executive committee whenever the action of the workers threatens to interfere with, or disturb the smooth running of the ruling class machine of profit or slaughter.

### The Other Side.

The price of everything necessary to satisfy the daily needs of the workers, not only those who threaten to strike against the C. P. R., but all others as well, has been going up by leaps and bounds for 'lo, these many moons. Especially rapid and pronounced has been the general advance of the cost of living since the breaking out of the war. It is of almost daily occurrence to learn that flour, meat, sugar, provisions of all kinds, clothing, etc., has gone up in price. And it is not unknown, presumably even to Premier Borden, that manufacturers and dealers have been reaping, and are still reaping fabulous profits through these high prices, out of the narrow wages and pressing necessities of the working class. But it is not yet a matter of record that the Borden government, the Canadian executive committee of the ruling class, has appealed to the "patriotic sentiments" of the precious scalawags who control the necessities of life, to refrain from shoving the price of their wares up to the very limit. Could anything be better calculated to "weaken our efforts in the war and that might be attended with disastrous results to the cause we have at heart," than to force the cost of living up to a figure that could not be met by the workers, upon whose stamina and ability to work and fight, the successful conclusion of this delectable war depends? We strongly suspect that correct when he defined patriotism as the "last refuge of scoundrels." There appears to be a strange affinity between patriotism and cash, that may have escaped the good doctor's notice. But whether the action of government is viewed from the standpoint of its utter unconcern while the cost of living goes upwards at such ruinous rates, or its frantic alarm whenever workers demand some relief through an advance of wages, the conclusion to be drawn is the same, and that is that Marx was absolutely correct when he defined government as being "the executive committee of the ruling class."

### The Poor C. P. R.

There has never been a time in all of its career, from its inception in jobbery and corruption right down to the present day, when this precious old capitalist fraud reaped such gigantic revenues as since the outbreak of war. Nothing ever brought such a rich and copious stream of profit to warm the cockles of the capitalist heart, as this wholesale and indiscriminate slaughter of human chattels in order that a sweet incense might arise unto ruling class nostrils. The C. P. R. has eagerly snuffed the pleasing odor and greedily partaken of the bloody stream. But true to the instincts of the tribe of plunder, since time began, it not only squeezes the last drop of the soul-satisfying juice out of its enslaved victims, but protests with virtuous indignation against any squawks from those same victims, and every agency of government comes gallantly to its aid in the effort to smother the squawks and induce the victims to continue to deliver the juice. One particularly humorous feature of the matter is that neither the C. P. R., or any other of the big capitalist marauding concerns has sense enough to cover up the magnitude and brazen character of their looting. Every twelve months, as a rule, they publish and proclaim to the

### MINISTER OF LABOR DENIES REPORT OF DAILY PRESS

Quietus on Ridiculous Interpretation of Industrial Disputes Act

Associated Press Inspired by Interests Detrimental to Workmen

The local daily press carried a weird Associated Press story from Montreal, "covering" the awkward position the C. P. R. employees, who are seeking "better terms," would likely find themselves in were they to go on strike. So ridiculous were some of the assertions of this "news" service that The Federationist took occasion to send the following message to the minister of labor, Ottawa:

"Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 23, 1916.  
"Hon. T. W. Crothers,  
"Minister of Labor,  
"Ottawa, Ont.

"Associated Press here this morning reports you as saying that 'employees are not at full liberty to participate in a strike after an investigation has been held as required by the act, as the findings of the board require acceptance.' Please your statement of your position for The Federationist."  
"R. P. Pettipiece,  
"Manager."

### Minister of Labor's Reply.

Following is the reply received by The Federationist from Hon. T. W. Crothers:

"Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 23, 1916.  
"R. P. Pettipiece,  
"Manager Federationist,  
"Vancouver, B. C.

"Message received. I have never said anything of the sort. Am writing."  
"T. W. Crothers,  
"Minister of Labor."

All of which goes to show how much dependence can be placed in the "news" service dished up for the edification of the workers in the daily press.

### CONGRESS EXECUTIVE MEETS GOVERNMENT

Present Pressing Demands Formulated By the Recent Toronto Convention.

The new executive council of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has issued a lengthy circular to affiliated organizations, setting forth the result of its interview with the federal government at the close of the Toronto convention. The opening paragraph says: "On the Monday morning following the close of the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the executive council held a meeting in the Prince George hotel, Toronto, with President James Watters in the chair, Secretary P. M. Draper, and Vice-presidents James Simpson, Alex. Watchman and R. A. Rigg, M. P. of Winnipeg, present. It was considered important that the Congress' bill of demands just prior to the assembling of parliament should be derived from owing to the many important matters referred to the executive council that required immediate attention. It was therefore decided that no time should be lost in asking Sir Robert L. Borden, the prime minister of Canada, for a conference, the purpose of such conference being to present the wishes of the Congress with respect to the high cost of living and the constant increasing prices of the necessities of life, also with reference to conscription and registration as a military programme during the war, and also with reference to the government utilizing their own shops for the manufacture of shells. It was agreed that the question of high cost of living should be dealt with by Secretary Draper and Vice-President Simpson, that Vice-President Rigg should deal with conscription and registration, and that President Watters and Vice-President Watchman should deal with the making of shells."

### JAPANESE ORGANIZING

San Francisco Oriental Workmen Adopt American Plan of Protection.

A Japanese central labor council, the first organization of its kind in the labor world, was organized in San Francisco during the week, at a meeting of the representatives of nine Japanese labor unions, presided over by Bunji Suzuki, fraternal labor delegate from Japan. The announced purpose of the organization was to better conditions among Japanese workmen. The unions represented at the meeting included barbers, tailors, laundry workers, garden workers, suit cleaners and day laborers.

### LABOR TEMPLE MEETINGS DURING THE COMING WEEK

- SUNDAY, Oct. 29.—Typographical Union; Telegraphers, Bro. Locomotive Engineers.
- MONDAY, Oct. 30.—Electrical Workers, No. 213.
- TUESDAY, Oct. 31.—Amalgamated Carpenters.
- WEDNESDAY, Nov. 1.—Press Feeders; Plasterers; Tile Layers.
- THURSDAY, Nov. 2.—Garment Workers; Trades and Labor Council.
- FRIDAY, Oct. 3.—Railway Car-men; U. B. Carpenters, No. 617; Letter Carriers; Civic Employees.
- SATURDAY, Oct. 4.—Bakers.

### A CAPITALIST VISION OF WHAT LABOR OUGHT TO DO

The Staff Liar in His Glory—Alleges That British Workers Repudiated Internationalism at Birmingham Congress—Chuckles Gleeefully Over Their Abandoned Free Trade and Now Advocates Protection

THERE IS PROBABLY no factor in capitalist civilization more prolific of evil than the daily "kept press." No more powerful engine for the spreading of falsehood has yet been conjured forth by the brain of man. It is an unfortunate circumstance that the vast majority of working men draw their economic and political inspiration from this corrupt and rotten source, without the thought ever entering their heads that the purpose lying behind the very existence of the capitalist press must be that of blinding them to everything that might threaten or in any manner endanger the interests of their masters and exploiters. It would seem that even the most dense person in all the world ought to have sufficient sense to know that no master or ruling class could be so foolish as to spread information, or advise the following of any economic, political or other policy, that would in any manner tend to threaten or destroy its own interests, by making its slaves and menials wise to the infamies and iniquities practiced upon them. No ruling class ever yet held the reins of power by any other means than of chicanery and deceit. No ruling class ever yet spoke the truth upon matters having any vital bearing upon its right to rule and to rob. It is self-evident that such must of necessity be the case, for were it otherwise, the truth would rise up against them by stirring their slaves to revolt, and their power to rule and rob would be brought to an end.

### A Study in Stupidity.

That the exploited millions draw their economic and political pabulum from this polluted stream of misleading information and downright falsehood, is a fact that requires no further confirmation. That such a situation affords a study in stupidity is beyond question. It is that sort of degree of stupidity that would expect to find honesty among thieves or virtue among public prostitutes. It is a stupidity too dense to be disturbed by any argument less penetrating than an ax. The plain fact of the matter is that any working man who is stupid enough to believe that his interests and those of his class, will be conserved by anything that may be advised or advocated by the "kept press" of his masters, is not fit to be allowed to run around loose. He ought to be in the home for the feeble-minded. But still, if all such were incarcerated in some institution for weaklings, the capitalists would be without patriotic supporters and heroes to fight their battles and maintain their right to rule and rob. So that suggestion falls to the ground because of its impracticability.

### The Staff Liar.

When you pick up your cherished daily paper, that fountain of wisdom and sound advice from which you draw such copious and satisfying draughts of intellectual intoxication, you may have perchance noticed seared stuff, earmarked, "By a staff correspondent." Well, that is machine-stuff, right from the headquarters of capitalist "bull-con" and deceit. It has been written and sent broadcast for the specific purpose of "getting your goat," if you are a working man possessed of any propensity or disposition to make enquiry into things on your own behalf and that of your class. A choice bunch of that sort of stuff has been going the rounds of the daily peddlers of deceit recently, setting forth what is alleged to have occurred at the British Trades Congress lately held at Birmingham. According to the versatile liar who arranged the fair tale, the Congress repudiated internationalism and emphatically declared for the most narrow and intense Nationalism. It also repudiated the time-honored doctrine of "free trade" and pronounced for that other threadbare hallucination termed "protection." A number of other allegations were reeled off by this "staff correspondent" well calculated to lead the reader to believe that the workers of Britain had abandoned every position for which they have so stubbornly fought in the past, and were now whole-heartedly in line and sympathy with their employers, upon all matters appertaining to the conditions and circumstances of employment. "The 'wish must have been father to the thought."

### The Milk in the Cooanot.

It is well-known that the British trade unions have surrendered, for the period of the war, many of the concessions they had previously gained through their struggles with their masters. But these have been surrendered only upon the express stipulation that they should be again incorporated into the operation of industries after the war. It should be hoped, however, that there is no worker in the British Isles, or anywhere else for that matter, who would place the slightest confidence in the word of either the rulers of his own country or of any other. Whenever any rulers ever surrender anything they want to keep, they only do so in response to that argument that is expressed by means of a club, and not because of any regard for any promise they may have made. The milk in the cooanot of this "staff" prevaricator is evidently disclosed in the following quotation from his fulmination: "Another striking tendency which was evident in the Trade Union Congress was the new attitude towards the employers, and particularly towards the enforcement of the old trade union conditions after the war. These rules and customs have been largely abandoned for the period of the war, in as far as they operate to restrict production on a strict agreement that they shall all be restored at the end of it, and it is beyond dispute that their abandonment at the beginning of the war could not have been secured on any other terms. Now, however, there is a distinct change of feeling evident. There was little discussion on this point, but what there was made it evident that there is no real desire to go back to the old conditions of constant strife and restricted reproduction. The trade unions will insist on the bargain to restore the 'status quo ante' being carried out, but the status quo will only be used as the starting point for a complete reconstruction of the relations between employers and employed in the light of war experience."

### COMMISSIONER JOHN T. JOY

Choice of Organized Labor Appointed By Liberals Government.

The Liberal government in Nova Scotia has finally completed the Workmen's Compensation board of that province, Mr. John T. Joy, business agent of the Longshoremen's union in Halifax being the representative of the workmen. Mr. Joy has been connected with the agitation for a compensation act since its beginning, and is admitted by employers, workmen and experts to be the best posted workman in the province on the subject. Being the choice of the workmen, Premier Murray waived all political considerations and selected Mr. Joy to assist in the administration of the new act.

### LAURA HUGHES' GOOD WORK

Miss Laura Hughes, who created such a favorable impression in a speech she delivered before the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which recently met in Toronto, has been in the Cobalt district since then where she has addressed several meetings of the workers in the cause of organization and independent political action. In every instance she was enthusiastically greeted and created a most favorable impression, the general opinion being expressed that she is on the right track and is bound to be a power in the working class movement of the future.—Industrial Banner.

### B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR TO MEET IN JANUARY

Delegates Convene at Revelstoke for Transaction of Business

Sec. Treas. Wells Gives Information of Interest to Membership

[By A. S. Wells]

(Secretary B. C. Federation of Labor)  
RECENT MENTION of the B. C. Federation of Labor and its activities in The Federationist having elicited inquiries as to when the next convention of the Federation will be held, also as to the basis of representation, induces me to place before the workers the information following:

Meets at Revelstoke in January.  
The next convention will be held at Revelstoke, during the month of January. The exact date will be fixed by the executive at a later date.

### Basis of Representation.

The basis of representation is as follows: Local unions, chartered by international unions; federal labor unions, chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada: One delegate for the first hundred members or fraction thereof, and one delegate for each additional hundred or major fraction thereof. Trades and Labor Councils: Two delegates each.

### How B. C. F. of L. Is Financed.

The finances of the Federation are derived as follows: Local unions affiliated with the Federation pay per capita on their membership in good standing, two cents per member per month, payable every six months in advance, in January and July of each year. Trades and Labor Councils affiliated with the Federation pay \$6 per half-year, payable in advance, in January and July.

### Officers of Federation.

The officers of the Federation are president and eight vice-presidents and secretary-treasurer. The vice-presidents are elected at the annual conventions, as follows: Vancouver, two; Victoria, one; New Westminster, two; Prince Rupert, one; Vancouver Island, one; District 18, United Mine Workers, one; interior, one.

### Convention Call in December.

The call for the annual convention will be issued in December, when all organizations throughout the province will be invited to become affiliated with the Federation, and to send delegates to the convention.

### Delegates Formulate Policy.

The activities of the Federation are determined largely at the conventions, and affiliated and unaffiliated bodies are requested to place before the executive, prior to the convention, any views they may hold, as to the need for remedial legislation. Now is the time for local unions and trades and labor councils to take these matters into consideration, so that the delegates attending the convention will be in a position to place before the convention their views in a concise manner, and to supply themselves with data and information on the subjects they intend to place before the convention.

As stated before the Federation can be made what the workers will. A policy of drift on the part of the component parts of the Federation will not make for progress, but a determination on their part to make the next convention a live thing, and a move towards the goal in sight, will surely bring results. Any further information will be gladly supplied by the secretary-treasurer, A. S. Wells, P. O. Box 1538, Victoria, B. C.

### CANADIAN UNIONISTS HAVE REPUDIATED DISPUTES ACT

Compulsory arbitration advocates in the United States have had their main prop swept away by the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress calling for the repeal of the Lemieux act, which makes it illegal for workers employed in public utilities to strike until the government appoints an investigating commission. The Canadian Congress is a delegate body, representing unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. Its purpose is to urge legislation on behalf of workers. It is the recognized spokesman for Canadian toilers. Employers and newspapers on this side of the line are continually pointing to the Lemieux Act as the "ideal solution" for differences between capitalists and laborers, but after a nine years' trial the Canadian trade unionists now denounce it as jug-handle and so elastic that the employer can always escape its provisions; that workers are tied to their jobs and that the employers can use the time allotted by the law to defeat their demands. During recent negotiations which threatened to end in a general railroad strike a Lemieux Act was advocated in the United States. At the hearings before the senate committee on interstate commerce President Gompers and the executives of the four brotherhoods accepted this challenge and declared the American workers were against this legislation. Their defense of liberty has since been endorsed by trade unionists who have suffered under this legislation.—A. F. of L. News-Letter.

### Edmonton Pressmen's New Scale.

After long negotiations Edmonton, Alberta, Web Pressmen's union has signed the following increased wage agreement with newspapers in that city: Foremen, \$30 a week; day journeymen, \$22.50 for 48 hours; night journeymen, \$27 for 42 hours; apprentice on fly starting, \$9 a week, with an increase of \$1 weekly every six months.

Local trades unionists should take notice that Pantages theatre is being built by union labor. "Nuff said. Help those who help you.

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**THE B. C. FEDERATIONIST**

Published every Friday morning by the B. C. Federationist, Limited.

R. Farm, Pettipiece, Manager  
Office: Room 217, Labor Temple  
Tel. Exchange Seymour 7495

Subscription: \$1.50 per year; in Vancouver City, \$2.00; to unions subscribing in a body, \$1.00

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'Unity of Labor: the Hope of the World'

FRIDAY, October 27, 1916

only of being free. And a free man could not be a laborer. Labor is the penalty of slavery.

**IF THE WORKERS** of the British Empire are not conscripted, they will be dangerous when the war ends," says the New York World. Certainly. And that is all there is lying behind the conscription scheme, either in the British Isles or in New Zealand, where it has already been put through, in Australia, where the reactionaries are now trying to put it through, and in Canada, where the same type of patriots are getting ready to spring it. No labor movement can seriously threaten in any country that possesses a military establishment based on conscription. In the face of such an establishment labor is practically powerless, and nobody knows this better than the members of the ruling class. That is why there is such a powerful move in all previously non-military countries to build up military establishments based upon enforced service. Take for instance the case of the United States. An energetic movement is on there, in the name of "preparedness," convert that erstwhile peaceful and non-military nation into a blustering and swashbuckling military power, cut upon the medieval pattern that prevails in Central Europe, and which has succeeded in throwing half the world into a blood-bath that has no precedent of like magnitude in all history. Lurking behind the cry of "preparedness" will be found every baneful and reactionary element in the land, from the noisy and disgustingly blatant ass of the Roosevelt type down to the slimy human reptile who works in the dark and stabs in the back. All of those interests that have their fangs of exploitation fastened in the flesh of the workers and that fatten upon the profit sucked from their blood and sweat, are zealous advocates of that "preparedness" that can only be provided through military and naval establishments, based upon the enforced service of the workers themselves.

It is scarcely possible that any really intelligent observer could see any serious danger of the United States being attacked by any other nation on earth. By virtue of its peculiar geographical situation, it is virtually immune to such attack; that is if anything like suitable and efficient coast fortifications were provided. In the face of such provisions, including of course, naval craft and preparations, it would be a hopeless proposition for any power or combination of powers to tackle. The thousands of miles of water upon all sides affords a greater bulwark of safety than a dozen armies "with banners." It is no easy task to cross thousands of miles of water with a force sufficient to gain a footing and successfully invade a country of a hundred million people and unlimited resources. Every naval and military man knows that. Therefore the reason for a powerful army, and conscript service, must lie nearer home. The need for such an army lies in the possible revolt of the enslaved workers because of the exactions and brutalities of their masters. These workers, can for a time be kept in leash through flim-flam and hypocritical pretense. But humbug will not always prevail. Economic pressure will eventually become so great that the slaves will be moved to revolt. Without the military power at their command to quell the revolt, the masters will lose all they have enjoyed down through the slave centuries of the past. Their rule and their robbery will come to an end. To prevent that they must not only have the industrial yoke upon their slaves, but the military yoke of conscription, as well. When the conscriptionists of Canada spring the scheme upon you, as they will in the near future, do not forget this. Remember what holds good in one country holds good in all. What is true in the United States is also true in Canada.

As a proof that a labor movement is impotent and practically impossible in a country under military conscription, it is but necessary to cite the case of Germany at the outbreak of this present war. That country contained a labor movement, that is as the term is generally applied, perhaps second to no country on earth. It was well organized, as may be well imagined by those who know anything about German thoroughness in that respect. Many a time and oft did this German labor movement engage in struggles with the bosses and these struggles were fought with as stubborn a determination as ever marked the similar struggles of the workers of any other country. The German workers therein manifested as pronounced a spirit of solidarity as ever did the workers elsewhere. But these workers were all conscript soldiers. When the bugle blast of war sounded, they were no longer working men, they were soldiers and compelled to obey whatever orders might be given them. And they did obey and went forth to kill and be killed. From the grip of this military beast they could not escape, in time of war. If any escape therefrom was to be made, it could only be made during times of peace, by overthrowing the military rule and substituting civil rule therefor. That is by means of a political victory at home, and getting rid of the military fetters which bound their limbs and nullified all of the efforts of their trade union organizations to relieve the economic pressure brought to bear upon them. Were Europe not cursed with this military survival of the middle ages, there would have been no war. It remains for all who worship at the shrine of peace and liberty to do all that lies in their power to see that no new military shackles are riveted upon

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The lease shall include the coal mining rights and the right to be permitted to purchase whatever available surface rights may be considered necessary for the working of the mine. For full information applications should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of the Dominion Lands Department.  
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There is an immense number of wonderfully good people in this world. Dear good souls who can see sleep 'o nights because of the wickedness and injustice that so afflicts the sons of men. **IS THE LABORER** But about the best and most lovable of all good souls is he who never forgets the poor laborer. He who is always busy telling others what a deserving creature the laborer is, and what ought to be done to add increased happiness to his already happy and deserving lot. This sort of a good old soul doth give voice to the biblical injunction that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," without ever as much as asking himself what there is that is worth writing home about, even if he be worthy. Of course the laborer is worthy of his hire. If he were not no one would hire him, or if they did they would fire him just as soon as his lack of worth was disclosed. He has got to be worth his hire, which is equivalent to his keep, if he is kept. If he is not he is to be gotten rid of, just the same as a farmer might get rid of a cow that was not worth her keep. Only the farmer could sell the cow to some one who was not wise to her shortcomings, and thereby save an honest penny from the loss that might otherwise be his portion. But with the worthless laborer, or he who is not worthy of his hire, as the saying goes, the case is different. He is never bought except on a try-out basis, and everybody soon becomes wise to his lack of worth, in case such luck exists. Then again a worthless cow could be killed and something gotten for her hide, so it would not be all lost, but not so with the laborer. Once he is no longer worthy of his hire, not even his hide can be turned into salvage. He is just plain everyday no good, or cultus, Sivashtically, so to speak.

But after all is said and done, a grave doubt will arise in the mind as to whether the laborer is ever worthy of his hire. What is there about the human animal that imposes upon him the degrading position in the scheme of things whereby he cannot eat without first offering himself for hire to some other animal or animals like unto himself in every respect except that of point of vantage in the general arrangements of his tribe? Why should he be an object of hire? Is there not something degrading as well as disgusting attached to such circumstances? Can there be social health, either physical or moral, in the face of the fact that a portion of the human family is compelled to offer itself as a prostitute for the gratification and convenience of others of their kind? And what else does the laborer do when he offers himself for hire? Is there any moral difference between him and the outcast and unfortunate female denizen of the redlight district? If there is a moral difference, will some reliable authority on morals please point it out?

This talk about the laborer being worthy of his hire is purely the senseless talk of those whose chief aim in life is to see that the laborer never escapes from those shackles that hold him as a thing, a convenience in the market and subject to hire. Of course this "thing" is not a man, for the simple reason that things, wares, articles of merchandise, either for sale or hire, cannot be men. Those who are subject to hire are slaves, otherwise they would not have to hire themselves to others in order to exist. The fact that they are theoretically free, because they have the privilege of remaining idle, does not alter the further fact that if they attempt to take advantage of that freedom they will starve. All of which is a most emphatic denial of all freedom. Slaves are not men. Slaves cannot be men, for slaves are property, whether they are chattel slaves, or just merely working animals who depend upon hire for their existence, i. e., wage slaves. The whole ennobled of wage slaves that infest the earth today constitutes the entire property holding of the world's ruling class. All that individual members of the ruling class have to do when they want to use a slave is to pick one out of the herd and set him at the task in hand. When no longer needed the slave is, figuratively speaking, told to "beat it," that is to go back to the herd outside the fence and vegetate until further orders. As a solace to his harried soul, only a slave has no business to have a soul, some tender-hearted and sympathetic old crummy will probably attempt to sell him up by telling him that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." But it does not alter his economic status. He is still a slave and will so remain until he and his kind develop sense enough to fully realize the degrading position they occupy as the slaves of another class, and rise in their might and smash the capitalist regime that holds them as property subject to the ignominy of hire in time of peace, and the doubtful honor of destruction in time of war. Man cannot be worthy of hire. Man is worthy

The looter and exploiter have always wrapped themselves up in the flag of the nation and proclaimed their patriotism while perpetrating their piracies.—National Rip Saw.

According to Blackwood's Magazine—an ultra-Liberal organ—compulsion in England has only brought forward 200,000 men to swell the army of five millions.—Ex.

The first line of an inspiring poem in the Pall Mall Gazette reads, "Work—like your king—enduring to the end." All "slackers" are hereby recommended to get a copy of the Gazette, read the poem and see if it will not improve their hearing so that they will be able to hear their country's call, in this hour of need.

A miner at Broken Hill, Australia, was recently fined £100, with an option of six months hard labor for having "attempted sedition among the civilian population." His offending consisted of having stated that "we have no interest with the master class. I appeal to the working men of Broken Hill to make it so unprofitable for the boss that they will drive him out of Australia." We consider ourselves fortunate that we do not live in Australia. That is the editorial we. You understand?

All male delegates to the San Francisco Labor Council met wear five union made garments bearing the union label, or they will not be allowed to sit in the council. And now we wonder what we are up against. Evidently female delegates are exempt, but why? We are painfully conscious of the fact that female garments have been threateningly abbreviated during recent years, but can it be possible that the number has been scandalously reduced to less than five per girl? But even at that number it would have been most embarrassing to any one outside of a case-hardened married man to have officiated as sergeant-at-arms, had not this female exemption been made, and even then it might not have been safe.

It is rather refreshing to hear our good single tax friends dilate upon the iniquity of taxing industry. This sounds rather good to us, but then when they declare that land should be made to pay all taxes, we begin to wonder where "we are at." It is some how or other seems to us that as taxes are payable in cash, and cash can only be gotten by first selling either the products of industry or the labor power of the industrial worker, industry must foot the bill. Come to think of it, there is nothing on earth that ever paid taxes or anything else, but human labor. This, however, has nothing to do with any payment made beyond the clouds. As labor pays it all, at least on earth, it does not seem to us that it makes any difference what taxes may be levied on. The moon would do as well as anything else. The Federationist will henceforth advocate a single tax on the moon. This will avoid all discrimination against any existing property rights, and enable us to keep peace with landlords.

But a few months since 130,000 New Yorkers marched the streets of New York in a much-heralded preparedness parade. Federal recruiting officers have succeeded in recruiting 372 men on a quota of 15,000 called for under the Hay-Chamberlain act. Evidently the god of war, at whose shrine half the world is now so earnestly worshipping, is not in very good standing with those silly weaklings that dwell in the great republic. It is very sad to know that the people of any country can be so backward in accepting the uplift of military culture, in spite of the splendid object lesson of its value being staged by civilized and cultured Europe. Perhaps Gen. Sir Sam Hughes might be induced to send a batch of honorary colonels to that neglected land to do a little missionary work along the line of inducing Uncle Sam to discard his peaceful hayseed ways and become a blustering and bombastic ass like a first-class nation ought to be, according to the European standard.

In these days of war, when the most serious problems are forcing themselves to the attention of governments and statesmen, it is with feelings of profound sadness that we are called upon to chronicle reckless displays of levity upon the part of the government at Ottawa. The government is about to give birth to an order-in-council clothing municipalities with the authority to enquire into the high cost of living. Isn't that most exasperatingly humorous? Just think of it. Authorized to make "enquiry." It is to laugh, and God save our buttons. The underlying policy of this proposed enquiry is alleged to be "publicity." It is believed that "the fear of publicity will help to prevent an undue advance in prices." When one remembers that all avenues of "publicity" are in the same hands that rake in the shekels that accrue from the boosting of prices, the joke becomes so compelling that all buttons are lost. But it is sad to see a government sink to the undignified level of bursting the buttons off the garments of its subjects, in the face of serious times and awe-inspiring world events. This funny business should be cut out.

When you are through with this paper take it along on your way to work and leave it on the car seat. Hand a copy to your acquaintances now and then. Among your friends and fellow workers are many who would appreciate a certain article. Mark the item for them; they will enjoy reading it. Thousands never had a copy of this paper to read. You can place every copy where it will find new readers. Don't destroy this copy, but pass it on.

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Electrical Workers—Victoria—S. Massey, P. O. Box 944, Prince Rupert, B. C.  
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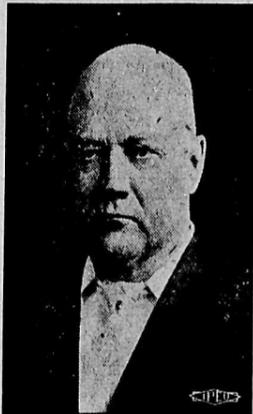
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# AUSTRALIAN EVENTS OF ABSORBING INTEREST

## The Probable Outcome of Scheme to Establish Conscription

## Yellow Menace to the Future Security of a "White Australia"

[By W. Francis Ahern]

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Oct. 7. (Special to The Federationist.)—We are right in the midst of a conscription fight most intense and bitter. The matter is to be settled, at least temporarily, by one of the most one-sided referendums ever devised. In view of the widespread opposition that is being expressed, it looks as though the scheme would be defeated at the ballot box. The most pronounced opposition is being displayed throughout Australia, not only among the Labor organizations, but amongst other bodies as well. On this referendum every one will have a vote, women as well as men, but just why women should vote on something they cannot take part in, no matter which way it goes, passes my understanding. Soldiers in the trenches will also vote upon it, and from messages that have been brought from the front—not through the post, however—the soldiers at the front are very bitter against conscription. The referendum asks us to extend the provisions of the defence act, as they apply in Australia, to foreign service. The people have been told that only single men will be wanted, yet if the referendum carries it will make it law for every boy from 14 to old men of 60—married or single—to be drafted overseas if the necessity arises. Of course, that necessity will be determined by the military powers into whose hands the Hughes administration is playing. We have scented this danger for some time, but have kept quiet about it until the government had the referendum prepared and submitted, so that it could not be altered at the last minute. Now it will be uncovered and played for all it is worth by the anti-conscriptionists. Although we are ringed about, by all sorts of rules and regulations telling us what we may, or may not say, I think the measure will be defeated. Personally, I feel sure that even if it is defeated, the government will try by still other methods to foist conscription upon Australia.

### Blazing the Trail.

The trail leading to the Prussianization of Australia has been blazed by the same fine talk about "citizen soldiery, a nation in arms, universal training, national service," and similar stock phrases, that are always doled out for the purpose. This is the same sort of stuff that was peddled by De Servan in France in 1792, by Scharnhorst in Germany in 1808, and by other militarists in countries that in after years adopted conscription. It is the sort of stuff that has always been used for the purpose of chloroforming democracy into that stupefaction that renders its throat-cutting a simple matter at the hands of its constitutional enemy, militarism. The advocates of Australian military service have spent much time during the past trying to assure us that our citizen soldiery was the most democratic in the world. They did not take the trouble to tell us, however, that through a cunning system of official secrecy all sorts of brutalities could be practiced upon the soldier without possibility of redress. Under the volunteer system the training must needs be popular, in order to urge men to the colors, and even in the case where a man, through poverty and hunger, is driven into the permanent force, to become a professional soldier, the fact that officers are frequently tyrannical and brutal is kept carefully in the background. With the merest gossip of ill-treatment, enlistment dwindles. But with conscription the case is entirely different. The officer class, trained to all the carefully covered rules and regulations, prevent all public protest and ventilation of grievances. The conscript soldier is at the mercy of his officers. He is theirs to drill, to court-martial, to imprison if they will. And if the conscript dares make complaint, even to a member of parliament, he is committing an offense punishable with jail and hard labor, for by a regulation he is, "by public protest, destroying his own case."

### Merely a Thing.

Under conscript law the recruit becomes merely a "thing," at all times subservient to his officers. He must lie when told, burn when told, kill when told, and do everything he is bidden, no matter what it may be. Under the compulsory system in Australia every youth must enroll, and there can be no resignation. And yet they speak of the democracy of the Australian army. There is no democracy in an army. There can be none, for militarism is the antithesis of democracy. It is the sole means whereby democracy is made impossible. A new application of an old adage might be made to read that, when militarism comes in at the door democracy flies out at the window.

### The Melting Pot of Slavery.

For some months past I have pointed out that the people of Australia have been threatened with conscription, and today we have it as an immediate problem with which to cope. The mad militarism of the hour has swept us temporarily off our feet, as it were. Whirlwinds of blood have blinded the workers and drawn them into the melting pot of conscript slavery. In this war we find ourselves both fighters and victims. Like other countries we are groaning under a system of production for profit, and I suppose wars will last

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### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Trades and Labor Council.  
October 30, 1891

John Andrews (Amalgamated Carpenters), took his seat as delegate to the council.

Mr. Green was appointed to act in committee to revise constitution, vice F. Davenport (Longshoremen's union).

J. L. Franklin (treasurer), reported paying J. Russell, of the legal firm of Yates, Jay & Russell, the costs of defending Walking Delegate Irvine in the recent case before Chief Justice Begbie. The crown prosecutor was Attorney-General Theodore Davis. The case arose out of the strike in the new Bank of British Columbia.

until workers refuse to wage them. They will only do this when they understand that the class war for the supremacy of the working class and the dethronement of the master class, is the war, the only war worth fighting. Militarism the world over is the hand-maiden of capitalism and the buttress of oppression, the foe of the people and the menace to democracy. And it cannot be destroyed in any one country by fortifying it in another. This seems to have been forgotten, not only in Australia, but in other countries as well. In this country militarism is placing manhood under the domination of a military caste, with civilian rights in danger and the iron heel of tyranny upon the neck of labor. Martial law and court-martial, with the coercing and shooting of strikers, will be the inevitable result. Militarism is a force actively opposed to the interests of labor, for war and brotherhood are contradictory in every way.

### Why It Came.

Conscription was bound to be attempted sooner or later in Australia. With the rise of the trades union movement in Australia, far greater than in any other part of the world, the workers were beginning to enter into their own. These whose interests demanded that workers be kept apart, fear this awakening solidarity of the wage earners, this growing sense of brotherhood. They felt the once solid ground of privilege slipping from beneath their feet. They saw their churches trembling and their thrones rocking. So press and pulp in Australia, as everywhere else, brazenly and blatantly set forth their diseased and rabid nationalism, which is as little like real patriotism as the modern priest is like Christ. Democracies are being set at loggerheads in Australia, the "dread of the foreigner" was carefully instilled into our brains, till we were duped into a war-mad race which has turned peace itself into an armed camp.

### Belief vs. Fact.

We have been led to believe that the citizen soldier could not be court-martialed. There would always be a civil court appeal from a military sentence. The citizen soldier would not be lippensied by standing orders. We were told the Australian soldier is only a soldier when in uniform, on duty only when on parade, and that there was no death penalty in the Australian Defence Act. We were told that a citizen would not be compelled to take the military oath, and that on no account would an Australian soldier, under the Defence Act, be compelled to go abroad. Now we discover the exact opposite of this to be the truth. A set of offences known as military offences, have been established, which includes any breach of any military regulation, by any member of the force. If an officer alleges that a soldier is guilty of a military offence, the officer class decides whether he is guilty or not, sentences him, and punishes him in a place controlled by the military, from which there can be no appeal to any civil court. Regulations forbid the case being taken before any civil tribunal. If a man's friends ventilate his case in the press or in parliament, the sentenced man is liable to punishment by the military for having spoken of his trouble. The soldier is compelled to take the military oath, or suffer imprisonment up to six months with hard labor. This oath swears a man to defend the king against "his enemies," and a definition of this includes any industrial trouble that the "military" considers comes within the province of the act. Although one special clause sets out that the soldiers cannot be used to quell a strike in Australia, we should not forget that at the present time military law has superseded constitutional law, and therefore, that clause is not worth the time it takes to read it. The military declaration that the country is "now in a state of military necessity," is quite sufficient to abrogate all civil law, for it is well-known that "necessity knows no law," but its own. There is but one thing that can prevent conscription being forced on Australia, and that is that the trades union movement, with over 50 per cent. of the male workers of the country in the various unions, can say "no conscription," and if they carry out their words there will be none in reality, though it may be made the law of the land.

### "Labor" Traitors Expelled.

Hughes, the prime minister of Australia, Holman, the Labor premier of New South Wales, and many members of the parliamentary party, have been expelled from the Labor movement for advocating conscription. More are to follow and while it will split the Labor party, even that is better than industrial slavery. We feel that we have done our duty in sending 300,000 men to the trenches—95% of whom are workers. The scarcity of labor is the signal for the introduction of colored labor from China, Japan and India, arrangements having already been made to that end.

### The Yellow Menace.

One thing that is developing out of this conscription fight is the national sentiment of "Australia for Australians." We are waking up to the fact that owing to the revelations that have lately come to light, Australia's place is here, not overseas. We are positive that there will be a serious problem to handle here in the Southern Seas, in the near future. It is exactly the same problem you have in British Columbia, and of which I wrote in an article in your columns of 28th July last. It may come to a actual defence of our land, for nowhere in the wide world is the sentiment of a "white" land so strong as in Australia. We know that pressure is being brought to bear on us through the chancelleries, that may mean an attempt to throw our White Australia policy overboard. I have been privileged to see certain official documents that makes the position look serious.

A requisition is being numerously signed in ward 4 for W. H. Hoop as aldermanic candidate. — Winnipeg Voice.

# RINGED IN BY CAST IRON MILITARY REGULATIONS

## Australia Struggling in the Grasp of the Beast of Militarism

## A Warning to Canadians to Go Against Schemes of Prussianization

[By W. Francis Ahern]

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Oct. 7. (Special to The Federationist.)—When the War Precautions Act was put through the Australian parliament, little notice was taken of the measure. The Labor legislators told us it was necessary in order to protect the country and its people in case of war. Some of us scented danger in the act at the time of its passage. Now we are discovering that we are ringed in with iron rules and regulations covering everything that the military authorities desire covered. Under this act the military and naval authorities have the widest and most arbitrary powers imaginable. Civil liberties could be no more completely wiped out, even by a German town fortress under siege by the Allies. When the act went through, the government promised that no abrogation of the rights and liberties of individuals would be countenanced except upon the gravest consideration. There has never yet existed in Australia any conditions that warranted the assumption by the military authorities of any of the powers made possible by the act. But the fact remains that practically all civil liberties have been abrogated by the military authorities. And we are yet told that here in Australia we are conducting our affairs just the same as in times of peace.

### Under the Rule of Mars.

Never since the time of that coarse old ruffian, King Henry VIII, has there been such a revival of militarism as now prevails right here in Australia. Our liberties are steadily slipping away from us. Mars rules, without even as much as a reference to parliament at all. The military is empowered to arrest, search and question any person at any time; to enter at any time anywhere; to seize property and detain it, and so on. Any person who has the temerity to make enquiry in regard to the condition of soldiers, renders himself liable to six months in the penitentiary. You must not speak over a telephone other than in the English language. There are heavy penalties for this. Should you desire to leave the country, and the military authorities possess any desire to prevent it, they have the power to go on board ship and drag you off and hold you as long as they wish.

### Free Speech Abolished.

Under one military regulation, the freedom of speech has been abolished. It is now an offense for a mother to plead with her own son against enlistment, or to indulge in any conversation, either public or private, that might be construed by a magistrate as likely to prejudice recruiting. Under this clause any one who finds his mouth closed as effectively as though it was padlocked. There is a sub-nuise in this regulation—known as the fatal 28th—under which the censor stands guard over any proposed publication dealing in any manner with the war, or with matters arising out of it. And it is really marvelous what wonderful and weird connections can and do "arise out of it," according to the conceptions and judgment of the military gentlemen. The censor thus has the power to make it impossible to publish anything objectionable to the military powers. There are still other methods of dealing with objectionable publications. A charge was recently put up that the I. W. W. paper Direct Action, was not "officially registered as a newspaper," although it had been allowed to pursue the undisturbed and "even tenor of its way," for some three years. But it became somewhat severe in its criticism of the war proposition, and well, the censor is, of course, a military man, so what more need be said.

### The Weapon of "On Suspicion."

The pearl of all regulations is found in what is known as regulation 50. It is a fine weapon, and its real name is "On Suspicion." On suspicion—surely that is elastic enough—your house may be entered by the military, at any hour of the day or night. Your door may be forced if, on suspicion, you are too slow in turning the key, and be ransacked from cellar to garret. You and your family may be searched, and anything and everything may be taken away and detained or destroyed, or dealt with in any other manner pleasing to the military authorities, and no matter what may be done to you and yours, you have not the slightest redress. However baseless the suspicion, you cannot appeal, you cannot obtain compensation, no civil tribunal can be approached, there are no means of questioning the bona fides of the particular officer under whose orders these outrages have been perpetrated upon you. His opinion and action are final and fatal. Under this rule the offices of the Labor Call and Socialist—both Melbourne papers—were raided and the contents of the papers taken away upon several occasions, the type smashed up and destroyed. Even the base metal was not returned. There could be no appeal against all this and the sufferers had to suffer and smile. And whose fault will it be if the workers should learn from this just what reverence for ruling class property shall be met and proper, when the day of reckoning shall come. Mad indeed is the military beast, and "whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad." Let us hope that it be even so.

"The man who gets sore at what the newspapers say about him should return thanks three times daily for what the newspapers know about him, but suppress."

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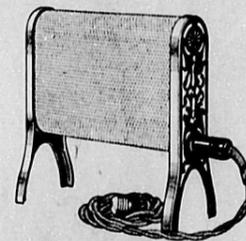
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Patronize those who patronize you. The merchants who advertise in this paper are patronizing you. Return the compliment. In this way you can make The B. C. Federationist the best advertising medium in the province.

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# BITUMINOUS MINERS BIG UNION STILL GROWING

Doubled Its Membership In Five Years That Have Just Passed

The Most Militant Labor Organization In the World

[By John P. White]

The bituminous miners' great union, approximately 400,000 strong, growing at a rate that has almost doubled the membership in five years, stands as an inspiration to every working man in the nation.

Nineteen hundred and sixteen has been a banner year for the United Mine Workers of America. Universal mine run for bituminous miners and an eight-hour day for anthracite miners, coupled with wage increases ranging from 5 to 15 per cent.—and all this too without the loss of a single day's work—were achievements that can well be termed the fulfillment of the miners' campaign for fifty years.

### Won Employers' Respect.

Never before have the operators appreciated and respected the stability of the miners' movement as they do today. The public today admits and approves the organization's platform.

The work of organizing the unorganized districts has incurred for us the bitter opposition of the powerful non-union interests, in fact, the greatest financial interests of the world. But despite this stubborn resistance the mine workers have progressed beyond the expectations of many of the most optimistic.

### More to Accomplish.

Having accomplished the eight-hour day and universal mine run, the miners are now in a position to turn their attention to future wage conferences to win a further reduction in the hours of labor and improved conditions.

There will be no let-up in the mine workers' campaign to conserve the economic and social welfare of our vast membership.

During the past year we have succeeded in suppressing dual movements, the outgrowth of factional strife oftentimes promoted by the enemies of our union, wherever an attempt has been made to create opposition to the sane progressive policies of the organization.

Throughout our jurisdiction officials and members are more enthusiastic than ever before. The splendid achievements of the past have inspired co-operative action.

Four hundred thousand men standing firmly for the principles of trade unionism, composing the most militant labor organization in the world, is the happy accomplishment of the United Mine Workers of America.

### WHEN THE FROST IS ON THE PUNKIN

[James Whitcomb Riley]

When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock,  
And you hear the kyooek and gobble of the struttin' turkey cock,  
And the clackin' of the guineys, and the cluckin' of the hens,  
And the rooster's hallylooyer as he tips on the fence;  
O, it's then's the times a feller is a-feelin' at his best,  
With the risin' sun to greet him from a night of peaceful rest,  
As he leaves the house, bare-headed, and goes out to feed the stock,  
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.

The husky, rusty russet of the tassels of the corn,  
And the raspin' of the tangled leaves, as golden as the morn;  
The stubble in the furries—kindo' lone-some-like, but still  
A-preachin' sermons to us of the barns they grewed to fill;  
The strawstack in the meadow, and the reaper in the shed;  
The hoeses in they're stalls below—the clover overhead—  
O, it sets my hart a-cluckin' like the ticks of a clock,  
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.

### WE COME

Tremble before your chattels' lords of the scheme of things!  
Fighters of all earth's battles, ours is the might of kings!  
Guided by seers and sages, the world's heart-bent for a drum,  
Snapping the chains of ages, out of the night we come!  
We are the workers and makers! We are not longer dumb!  
Tremble, O Shirkers and Takers! Sweeping earth—we come!  
Ranked in the world-wide dawn, marching into the day!  
The night is gone, the sword is drawn, and the scabbard is thrown away!  
—John G. Neihardt.

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## LETTERS TO THE FED.

Editor Federationist: Re the letter which I sent to you, in reply to editorial in Federationist of Sept. 8th, and which you at first ignored, afterwards said it was not of sufficient public importance for insertion, and when requested by Trades and Labor Council for insertion, declared it to be libellous. A committee appointed by the Trades and Labor Council to investigate this matter, have agreed that my letter, although not libellous, contained a sentence or two that might be considered objectionable; also that the letter was too long for insertion in the Federationist, and has suggested that it be cut down one-half and re-submitted for publication. As I do not desire to cut the letter down to one-half, probably would destroy the import of the letter I believe the spirit of their suggestion will be met by a shorter letter, containing the essence of the former letter and without the sentences objected to. Believing this, I again write you upon this subject. My principal objection to the editorial in question at the assumption contained therein. You assume that I wrote the letter which your editorial deals with, because I was advised by Agents as before stated that the contents of the letter, were the results of the promptings of some one. Why should you make such assumptions? Is it creditable to you, as editor of the official organ of labor, or complimentary to the workers of Vancouver, that one of their number can't write a short letter to your paper, stating his editorial attitude, as being against the best interests of labor, without your jumping to such conclusions and making such unfair and baseless assumptions? I advise and promptly re-consider your imagination and if you can produce no evidence of some sort, that they are otherwise, it seems to me, that an apology on your part—not to me, but to other workers—may have come under suspicion, as being the prompters and advisers—would be becoming. Again, as before stated, that your editorial, sophistry and what I think are right and designated, hot-patch, of excuses, evasions and pretences, did not convince me and I venture the opinion that no evidence in great many of your readers, but that your editorial attitude toward labor candidates, was not in the best interests of labor. You did not give us one good and sufficient reason why you re-tagged them and I can only refer your readers again, to editorials previous to the elections, for confirmation of this assertion. The objectionable phrases in my previous letter, was just another way of saying what I believed then, what I believe now and what I continue to believe, and I have some evidence to the contrary, that is, that you, Mr. Editor, was very, very anxious that the Bowser government be returned to power. I believed that then, I believe it now. I could not read The Federationist without coming to that conclusion. If permitted, and given space in your paper, I can go over the back columns of The Federationist and weave a chain of evidence in support of this contention; evidence which I believe, would be acceptable to most of your readers. I have evidence already, that a great many of Vancouver workers believe as I do on this point, and why you should be anxious for the return of the Bowser government is what I and others would like to know. The one thing in my opinion which the workers were called upon to do—and which they did—was to defeat a government which had so shamelessly betrayed the trust which had been placed in it. The next thing, the workers should have done—and which they did not do, therefore, partly to the policy of The Federationist, their official mouthpiece—was to send as one good and sufficient reason why they should represent them. Political action on the part of the workers is necessary, yes, is the only way by which they will ever get the consideration which is their due, but your advocacy of political action and special articles appearing in The Federationist advocating political action, by me, in the light of your attitude during the recent elections, seems altogether farcical. Trusting that this letter will not be considered too lengthy nor too libellous for insertion in your paper.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE RULING CLASS

(Continued from Page 1.)

world the amount of plunder they have wrung from their slaves during the year. And they do it boastfully, and as though it was something to be proud of, instead of something that for safety's sake they had far better cover up. They evidently forget that the modern slave can read, and even think, though perhaps to a limited degree only. But therein lies the danger to the precious schemes of capitalist piracy. The slaves are realizing that it is from their toil and sweat that all of this profit comes, and they are developing a threatening attitude towards their masters and rulers. They are beginning to reach out after a greater share of the good things of life, and all of which they realize are brought forth solely as a result of their own labor. Some day they will take all and the poor old C. P. B., and all such piratical contraptions of a piratical age will pass on into the lumber room of history, with a lot of dead and damned junk that has gone before.

### Regrettable Indeed.

The heart of the daily press is greatly disturbed over the fact that if the C. P. B. men strike, many of them will lose their prospective pensions, under some previous scheme of that sort that the C. P. B. has beneficently devised. Says the News-Advertiser of the 24th:

"There are a number of conductors quite well advanced in years and service and who have near the time for receiving a pension. If they strike, their chance of obtaining a pension will be lost. To many this would be a serious blow, cutting off their future means of support." This is strictly in line with ruling class stupidity in general. If the wages of conductors are so small that after years of service for the C. P. B., they can have no means of support except that of a pension that is subject to the whim or caprice of the company, it would seem that it was high time they took measures to force an advance in wages. The News-Advertiser thus furnishes all of the argument that is necessary to justify the strike of the men if the company refuses to come through. To tell the truth, capitalist interests would be far safer if most of the press writers, a large percentage of the politicians, one-third of the preachers and

nearly all of the capitalists were not allowed to run at large without being muzzled. They do more to uncover the ought-to-be-hidden mysteries of their own dirty game, than all of the outspoken and bitter enemies of capitalism and human slavery can possibly do. But that certain ones among the men may lose some pensions that they have still to get, is regrettable indeed. But there is one solace that these losers may well take to heart and that is that this will not be their first losing to the C. P. B. Everything that concerns has, or ever had, these workers and their fellows have surrendered to that capitalist outfit of brigades without ever having gotten anything in return for it. They ought to be pretty well used to losing by this time, so much so, in fact, that it should not jar them to lose anything so infinitesimal as a C. P. B. pension, that only hangs by a thread, anyhow, a thread that is liable to break for any one of a multitude of reasons that may crop up before such pension is gained.

### A CAPITALIST VISION OF WHAT LABOR OUGHT TO DO

(Continued from page 1)

shop rules. Each side has found out now that the other is really quite reasonable if taken the right way, and there is every indication that an agreement will be reached when the time comes without much difficulty."

There is but one thing to be read into these words and that is that the ice is being thus broken for an absolute repudiation of any and all promises to the trade unions in regard to the restoration of regulations existing at the outbreak of the war, and which have been relinquished in order to expedite the output of munitions. By spreading the tale throughout the earth that the workers themselves do not wish to return to the pre-war conditions, the abrogation of all promises made by the capitalists in order to induce the workers to cancel temporarily certain of their privileges, may be carried through without arousing undue excitement and resentment upon the part of the workers elsewhere. Then by keeping up the lying, through "staff correspondents," the balance of the world may be largely kept in ignorance of just how scrupulously British capitalists observe their pledged word. The whole thing seems to be strictly in accord with the eminently safe policy of breaking the news gently to those who are about to be outraged. They will not howl so rancorously about it as would be the case if more roughly treated.

### The Truth About It.

According to the report made by James Simpson, fraternal delegate from Canada to the Birmingham Congress, the Congress did none of the foolish things attributed to it by the versatile "staff correspondent" mentioned. True it is that the workers of Great Britain have been in a measure carried off their feet by this war. But that is evidently no more true of them than the workers of any other of the countries engaged in the horrible business. All alike are the victims of the chicanery and rogery of their respective ruling classes. All alike have been led, through false patriotism and deliberate misrepresentation of the facts, to their own undoing and slaughter, and by the same token and by the same means, will they still undergo a long and even more bitter experience. They are in the clutches of forces beyond their control, forces that are directed with the most unscrupulous and callous disregard of everything that is uplifting and ennobling in this alleged Christian civilization. These forces it seems will never be overcome until they have spent themselves, burned themselves out, in the crucible of bloodlust and beastiality, the accused steppot of human slavery. When the vulgar and ruffianly ruling classes of the world has well-nigh exterminated itself in its own blood-debauch of frenzy, perchance the opportunity will come for the working class to take as its own, the earth and everything that is on top of it and underneath. But in the meantime the penny-lave prostitute of the public press (God save us) has his work cut out for him. And he is perfectly capable of doing it. No ruler can delude themselves with the notion that the British workers, or any others, have repudiated internationalism, or any other manifestation of a growing working class solidarity. It would be just as possible to repudiate the law of growth. The Labor movement will not, and cannot be "cribbed, cabined and confined" to any narrow nationalism. The human race itself cannot be thus confined and hamstrung. The small nation is already doomed, and the still larger one is to come, until nations are no more and MAN shall live.

### He Wants Conscription.

Editor B. C. Federationist: I am for conscription. The workers and their sons are already at the front. Only the "business" man and his college students remain. The bulk of the mental work of this province is being performed by Orientals, foreigners and "alien enemies." Conscription can now only affect those who sponge off Labor. And why shouldn't they have some share in the "glory" of dying for a country that has given them the luxury of living? I am for conscription. The "honorary" colonels, recruiting agents, etc., would make a good battalion for a start.

### TRADE UNIONIST.

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 23, 1916.

"Lend me a siver, old man; I'm clean broke."  
"Why don't you pawn that ring you are wearing?"  
"Couldn't do that; it's a souvenir of a deceased brother."  
"Well, my money is a souvenir of a deceased father."

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