THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

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

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CRITICISM OF DAILY PRESS FROM THE WATERFRONT

Longshoremen Wonder How Reported Information Is Obtained

Life of Waterfront Worker Not All "Beer and Skittles"

[By R. C. Woodbury.]

IT IS VERY pathetic, withal, amusing to peruse the articles on waterfront happenings, which occasionally adorn the columns of the daily press. Although Vancouver is as well supplied with daily papers as Chinatown is with opium, there is but one of them which attempts to do justice to shipping, or whose news on the subject is reliable. In other instances shipping news is published casually or not at all, and very often the reporter, proofreader and editor alike are as uninformed on shipping as Moses was on the science of phylogeny.

Quite recently I read of the times when twenty ships arrived in a day—but errors of that sort are quite common. One of the most amusing which ever happened was an account published a year or two ago describing how diver so-and-so did smart work in recovering the 'hatch-combing,' which had fallen overboard from the "Monteagle." As it happened it was not the hatch-beam. It will be noticed that the spelling was also incorrect—coaming not combing—for hatch-coaming and beach-combing are as different as incompatibility of temper and artistic temperament.

Give Public Wrong Impression.

Another case in point was the recent S.O.S. calls for more men, about which it is a wonder that an extra was not forthcoming. One would have thought that the waterfront was as insatiable in its demands for men as the war front. Such misstatements create a wrong impression and ought to be corrected and contradicted for the shortage was more apparent than real and the situation was well handled by the I. L. A.

This appeal was the more pathetic because January and February were quiet months. On one occasion at least during these two months there was a line-up of 650 men (in snowdrifts) when 75 were required. The expressions on the faces of the majority, under such circumstances, would have furnished an interesting study to a psychologist. The foreman size up the crowd like prospective purchasers do a herd of cattle while the glances directed at them are as appealing as those of a child after it has made a set speech. Those who are chosen then look as pleased as a crook when the jury says "Not guilty," while the unchosen come away looking as disgusted as one who, in a restaurant, orders eggs and gets chickens.

Jobs on the waterfront are elusive at the best of times and even then the obtaining of a job—not securing a position—is as uncertain as the outcome of an election. When it is obtained it often resembles a sentence to hard labor, but, when working, the longshoreman can eat, and the price of pork chops increases with the increased demand. On the following day he may be idle and have to restrict himself to coffee and doughnuts. Few longshoremen can swim, but doughnuts have saved more of their lives than lifebelts.

Waterfront Work Is Spasmodic.

If a busy week, with its feverish activity, is experienced, the next is more than likely to bring the other extreme—enforced idleness, than which nothing is more irksome and since the supply of men in ninety-nine and a half cases out of a hundred, is in excess of the demand, some experience many idle days in the course of a year. Idleness affects most those who have the mouths several new ones, some of them of modfuture to feed, but all are subject to it and instead of rolling in wealth with a ten dollar bill in the pocket, seek where credit may be found. This applies to the great majority which each succeeding year finds itself in the words of Scrooge a year older, but not an hour richer.

If husky like Hercules, lean and hungry like Cassius, or fat like Falstaff, waterfront work is wearing. Backs become bent like the crane of a wrecking outfit; joints stiff like those of an old war-horse, and their owners are thrust aside like civilians before an invading army.

During the past six years vast changes and improvements have been made in wharfage facilities in this port. Every dock has been extended, while several new ones some of them of modern structure, have been built, but if this port is to be able to compete with others it requires—not a few more years of talk—but now and at once, a fire-boat for the protection of lives and property and a gigantic drydock. In addition it requires an inspector of gear and a system of municipal docks with modern cranes and cargo-handling facilities. It is more than a coincidence that the ports of St. John and Halifax, like Vancouver, have remained comparatively undeveloped, while Montreal has flourished. This is a fitting theme for some authority on the subject—like Mr. H. H. Stevens for instance—to take up.

Unions and Better Conditions.

In the good old days Vancouver was not so puritanical as Philadelphia and it was not necessary for a stranger to possess a knowledge of Chinese in order to find his way about the city. Then apples could be bought on Sunday and then as now it was quite proper to work a ship on the Sabbath day. But in those days when there was no I. L. A.; working conditions were worse than now—low wages, long hours to the point of exhaustion, incompetent men, lack of system and standing about in snow and rain, day and night, being the rule. Conditions are not yet ideal, but some improvement has been made and it is obvious that unionism has been the cause of that improvement. It is also evident that any form of organization is better than none and that collective bargaining has come to stay.

Working women and working men, including longshoremen, are respected and respectable to the extent they are organized; but when unorganized like protoplasm, they are naturally and genuinely despised and despicable.

LABOR'S POLITICAL SLOGAN IS "PULL TOGETHER AND WIN"

Vancouver Unionists Give Hearty Support to Movement Toward Political Power—Locals Are Already Sending in Names of Nominees—Method of Final Selection to Be Decided Upon By the Council

GREAT INTEREST is being taken by the trades unionists of Vancouver in the decision of the central Labor body to place candidates in the field at the coming provincial by-election. The subject has been discussed at the meetings of locals held this week, the circular letter of Secretary Midgley to the fifty and odd locals affiliated with the council having been sent out last Saturday.

A number of the locals have already voted on the subject and the names of their chosen nominees are now in the safe keeping of the secretary, awaiting declaration when the lists are closed on April 19, and the preliminary line-up of Labor's selection for the contest is announced.

It can be stated with assurance that the decision of organized Labor in Vancouver to enter the lists at the coming poll is being well received. Many who, during the initial stages of the discussion on the subject, were somewhat dubious on the project are now heartily supporting the plan and, on all sides, there appears to be a spirit of "Now we have decided to enter the race, let's all pull together and win."

The discussions at the meetings of the locals and the gossip about the Labor Temple naturally bring to the surface the mention of representatives of labor whose names are spoken of as possible nominees.

Prospective Nominees.

Among those whose names are prominently mentioned are Messrs. F. A. Hoover, E. T. Kingsley, J. H. McVety, V. B. Midgley, R. P. Pettipiece and W. R. Trotter. These names do not by any means cover, however, all the "favorite sons" of the locals whose names will probably be entered.

Provide for Two Candidates.

The discussion at the council meeting centred around the naming of a single candidate. As there is a possibility, however, of there being a poll for two seats in Vancouver, the call for nominations has covered this phase of the case by providing that each local shall submit the names of two candidates.

The action of the council in connection with the nominations merely put up to the locals the selection of nominees and made no mention as to the manner in which these would be dealt with after being received. With the number of unions to be heard from, it is certain that the list of suggested names will be somewhat numerous and it will be up to the council to determine the method whereby the choice shall be finally simmered down to two.

"Primary" Election Later.

It has been suggested that the council might take direct action on the matter by selecting from the names submitted the men who shall bear Labor's standard to the polls, thus enabling the declaration as to the candidate to be made quickly. Another suggestion, of a more democratic nature, is that the list of names presented shall again be referred to the locals for consideration and the securing of greater unanimity of action directly from the individual membership on a second round-up. This idea also carries with it the suggestion that, if the list be too long, the council should eliminate a number of the nominees whose showing on the first run did not indicate great strength. This question will, however, not be settled until the council meeting of April 19, when the reports from the locals are made known and the exact situation revealed.

The council's action did not make any stipulation as to the nominees presented by the locals formally consenting to run, if finally selected as candidates. It is probable that the council will take definite action on this point, however, before anything is done toward making the final selection from the list submitted.

OFFICIAL CALL FOR NAMING OF LABOR'S "FAVORITE SONS"

The circular letter of the Vancouver Trades and Labor council, requesting the affiliated locals to submit nominees for labor's candidate or candidates at the coming provincial by-election was sent out by Secretary Midgley last Saturday.

The call for the selection of nominees reads as follows:

"Dear Sir and Brother: At the last meeting of the Trades and Labor Council, it was decided to contest the coming by-election in the City of Vancouver.

"The candidates will be nominated and elected by the affiliated organizations, and as it is not known at this time whether one or two vacancies are to be filled, each union may send in two nominations.

"The attached form containing the nominations must be returned to the secretary of the council, not later than Thursday, April 19, and the council will then submit the nominations to the unions for them to vote upon, and select the candidates.

"Yours fraternally, Victor R. Midgley, secretary."

ADVANCED LEGISLATION URGED FOR PROVINCE

Dr. J. W. McIntosh, M. L. A., Deals with Education and "White Plague."

In a speech delivered on the floor of the provincial legislature, Dr. J. W. McIntosh, one of the members from Vancouver, outlined the need of legislative reforms of interest to workingmen. Speaking on the subject of public education, he said the methods followed in British Columbia demanded a complete revision, the need of more attention being given to vocational and technical training being very pronounced. He also touched upon the "white plague," suggesting that educational work and the location of dispensaries in the cities as well as special work by trained nurses should be undertaken to stamp out the progress of the disease.

ARE NORTHWEST FARMERS BLOATED CAPITALISTS?

Coast Labor Wants Its Share of Fancy Prices Demanded for 1917 Crop.

An appeal is now being made to labor on this coast to enrol for work on the prairies the campaign being partially based along the lines of patriotism, the idea being strongly emphasized that assistance rendered the northwest farmers in getting in their crops will do much to ensure the success of the Allies.

So far as is known, the northwest farmers are offering labor only the monthly wage of $40, the same rate as prevailed last year, despite the fact that on this harvest they received the highest price on record for their crop.

At the meeting of the Dominion Agricultural council in Regina last week, the farmers turned down as ridiculous a guarantee of $1.70 per bushel, and the suggestion of a minimom and maximum price of $1.50 and $1.90 for the 1917 crop.

In view of the fact that the farmers are holding out for fancy prices for a crop which is not yet in the ground, coast labor is wondering why some better offer than the usual $40 per month is not being made for the labor which the northwest farmers are now so anxious to obtain.

OPINION OF WORKERS OF TRAIL ON CONSCRIPTION

Action of Labor Congress Officials on Registration Is Condemned.

TRAIL, B. C., March 19.—(Special Correspondence to The Federationist)—The Trail Trades and Labor council has at several recent meetings discussed the important question of conscription. That the government authorities would try to institute this condition, all are willing to admit. The statements of R. B. Bennett and Premier Borden amplify the facts that, if needs be, conscription would have to be adopted.

The registration plan had the desired effect of pointing out what the government's intentions were. To think that the executive of the Trades and Labor congress should approve of the plan and even go so far as to advise the membership to fill in the cards (without taking them into consideration) shows that they were in perfect accord with the scheme, or that they wanted to place the labor movement at the disposal of the government to be used like automata.

The Trail council feels that this question is a serious one and that those who want to barter the lives of others, without giving the workers a say-so, are a positive detriment. It demands that any question savoring of conscription, either military or industrial, shall be decided by those that are effected by it.

The above sentiments express the unanimous opinion of the unions affiliated with the Trail Trades and Labor council.

WORKER'S WIDOW AND CHILDREN ARE SUFFERING

Delay in Settling Compensation Claim Causes a Hardship

Necessity of an Educational Campaign on This Legislation

A CASE HAS RECENTLY been called to the attention of The Federationist in which great hardship has been worked upon a Vancouver widow and her three children as the result of delay in the settlement of her claim for compensation under the new Compensation Act. While the policy of this publication has been to recognize the fact that the act was a new measure and that it might take some time for the Compensation board to get its machinery working smoothly the facts of this case are of such a nature as to make public attention advisable and immediate action by the proper authorities highly desirable.

The case is one in which, early in January, an unfortunate worker was killed while discharging his duties in a Vancouver industrial plant. It is especially pathetic inasmuch as he left a wife and two children and, on the day of his death, a third child was born. Under the Compensation act, the widow is entitled to a steady percentage payment of the wages her husband was earning. Her claim was promptly made and, so far as she has heard, all the necessary information given. Still, although it is now near the end of March, she has received no money from the Compensation board, nor is she advised as to when she may expect a payment. In the meantime, she and her family are compelled to be dependent on her aged father.

Campaign of Education Needed.

It would seem that in a case of this character the custom followed in Washington, where a representative of the Compensation board calls upon the claimants and explains conditions such as the unusual delay occurring in this case.

While making mention of the above special case it might also be noted that there are still many workers who are ignorant as to the manner in which compensation claims should be presented or their status in case of accident. Enquiries are being made almost daily at the Labor Temple as to the manner in which injured workers should proceed to secure compensation and the situation appears to be one which calls for more personal attention to claimants by representatives of the Compensation board, as well as a campaign of education which will acquaint the worker with the methods employed for the settlement of claims.

CIVIC EMPLOYEES WILL TAKE DETERMINED STAND

Mass Meeting to Discuss Strike Vote on Demand for $3 Per Day.

In view of the fact that the Civic Employees' union have as yet received no satisfaction from the Vancouver authorities on their request that $3 be the standard wage for ordinary city laborers, it has been decided to consider action which will bring the matter to a pointed issue.

A mass meeting of the employees will be held at the Labor Temple tonight, at which the question of taking a strike vote will be considered. Should this action be approved, an application will be made to the Dominion authorities for the appointment of a board of investigation, which will take evidence as to the claims of the men.

The employees consider that along general lines their demand is only just, as it is fully warranted by the increase in the cost of living. As far as the aldermen are concerned, they believe that when members of the city council can vote an increase of salaries to themselves they cannot well refuse the slight increase demanded by the civic laborers.

The mass meeting may also discuss the question of the promotion from their ranks. In the last 20 years, there has been but one case where a ward foreman has been chosen from the civic employees, the men who are necessarily acquainted fully with the demands on such work.

A Returned Soldier?

There was a timid knock at the door. "If you please, kind lady," the beggar said, "I've lost my right leg——" "Well, it ain't here," retorted the lady of the house, and slammed the door.

LABOR TEMPLE MEETINGS DURING THE COMING WEEK

SUNDAY, March 25—Typographical Union; Steam Engineers; Pile Drivers and Wooden Bridge Builders.

MONDAY, March 26—Electrical Workers; U. B. Carpenters, No. 617; Amal. Engineers; Patternmakers; Street Railwaymen's Executive; Press Feeders' Com.

TUESDAY, March 27—Barbers; Bro. Loco. Engineers.

WEDNESDAY, March 28—Street Railwaymen; Press Feeders' Com.

THURSDAY, March 29.—

FRIDAY, March 30—

SATURDAY, March 31—

OUTLINE OF CITY'S PLANS FOR LIGHT AND POWER SUPPLY

Alderman Gale Claims Greatly Reduced Rates Can Be Offered for Both Household and Industrial Use—Believes Labor Should Be Active in Supporting the Project—Why Labor Should Sanction It

"LABOR SHOULD be keenly interested in the effort the Vancouver authorities are making to secure powers which will enable it to sell electric current for light and power purposes within the city limits," said Ald Gale, who has taken a leading part in the movement to amend the city charter so as to attain this end, to The Federationist yesterday. "In the line of current for household use, the plans the city has in mind, all of which have been outlined on a very conservative basis, provide for a great reduction from the excessively high rate charged by the B. C. Electric of 11 cents gross, or 8.8 cents net per k.w. hour for current to the amount used by the ordinary householder. I notice in a recent number of the Canadian Electrical News, that in Toronto current provided the municipal plant from the Niagara Falls power house of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission, is sold for household purposes as low as 1 per cent. per k.w. hour. In Winnipeg, the rate to householders for ordinary lighting is 3 cents per k.w. hour, with a rate of 1 cent for domestic power purposes, such as the use of electric ranges, cooking appliances, etc. The workingman should realize that the saving on his monthly lighting bill would be well worth considering, and the low rate for which current for domestic power purposes could be supplied would enable the housewife to use electric appliances with resulting convenience, the employment of which is now prohibitive because of existing rates.

Equivalent to Lower Taxes.

"It may not be possible for the city to reduce its taxation for some years to come. But, if the city provides for a great reduction in the household charges for electric current from a municipal plant, this is equivalent, as far as the householder is concerned, to a reduction on taxation, and should be considered in that light.

"It is in the industrial field, however, that Labor should be most keenly interested in the municipal power plant project. While the field of household lighting means a direct saving of cents to the workingman, the industrial field opens up indirectly the possibility of dollars for his pockets. What labor needs in Vancouver is more industries. And industries are looking toward Vancouver as a location. But the principals always ask the question, 'What have you to offer us?' and right here is where our municipal plant would come in. We can't hold out land inducements to these men. There is a possibility, I believe, in the line of concessions on water, but this matter will still have to be threshed out. But, if we can offer them low rates for electric power, something in which all are interested, we will very quickly be able to get these men to get down to real business. And every industry we can get for Vancouver means so many more opportunities for employment, so much more population for the city, so much more trade for the city's merchants, etc. Yes, Labor should take a keen interest in the fight for the charter amendment which will give it the right ot sell electric power for industrial purposes.

City Must Fight for Privilege.

"I used the word 'fight' just now, and I used it advisedly," said Ald. Gale. "Opposition to securing the right for the city to sell current was made even in the city council by Ald. Kirk and, although the aldermen understand that the movement would be in the best interests of the city, and voted accordingly, I know that there will be a fight down at Victoria when the charter amendments are discussed.

"There is just one point on which an attempt was made to befog the issue by Ald. Kirk, on which a thorough understanding is advisable. That was when he said that the granting of such power would be a violation of the city's agreements with the B. C. Electric. The public should understand that the proposal covers the question of the provision of a light and power supply. On that point the B. C. Electric has no agreement with the city, but carries on its business under the authority of its provincial charter. The B. C. Electric agreement, of which we hear so much talk, merely covers the company's tramlines in the city, and gives us the right to purchase them in 1919. It does not touch in any way the question of competition in light and power supply.

"As The Federationist represents the street railwaymen, I would like to say through its columns that in the charter amendments now proposed, there is nothing in connection with the purchase of the tramlines. That subject is entirely aside from the project now contemplated. As far as other labor employed by the B. C. Electric is concerned, there need be no fear of men losing their jobs. The public of Vancouver must have electric current for light and power. That means the employment of so many men, whether the B. C. Electric or the city furnishes the supply. The odds, to my mind, would be in favor of the municipal plant, as the rates it would offer would be such as would greatly increase the business, and thus lead to the employment of more labor."

Outline of City's Plans.

Questioned as to the city's plans for securing a light and power supply, Ald. Gale stated that at present it held an option on a water power which competent engineers had reported would generate 400,000 horse-power. Such a development looked far into the future, and it was planned, as a start, to develop 60,000 horse-power on a 24-hour load.

The cost of constructing the power-house, etc., at the source of the water power, would be $2,400,000 or $40 per horse-power. To bring this power to Vancouver would entail the construction of transmission lines and equipment which would cost $2,850,000, or $43 per h. p. On a conservative estimate of 15 per cent. of the cost for operation, etc., it would be possible to lay down this power in Vancouver at $12.45 per h. p. as compared with $20 per h. p., the lowest rate the B. C. Electric is known to have quoted. "I presume," said Ald. Gale, "that this quotation was warranted, as a great factor in keeping down the cost of power is in the economical construction of the power plant, and it is a generally admitted fact that the B. C. Electric generating stations have been constructed at an outlay which is deemed excessive and prohibitive for the selling of power at low rates. This is shown by the fact that the B. C. Electric pays the Van-

(Continued on page 4)

GET ON THE BAND WAGON AND BOOST FOR LABOR'S PAPER

The Federationist would express its thanks to the many trades unionists, as the result of whose "boosting," the circulation of this publication is steadily moving forward. Let all unionists put a shoulder to the wheel and thus help to turn out an even better labor paper than is now the case.

Subscriptions mean circulation. Circulation means advertising support. Advertising support means the provision of the sinews of war, which will make it possible to turn out a larger and better paper.

Many unions are subscribing for The Federationist for a large part of their entire membership—a very wise move. Among recent subscriptions of this character are those of the Moving Picture Operators', Prince Rupert Fish Packers', Stationary Engineers', Tilesetters', Machinists' and a large additional list from the Longshoremen's Association.

Mr. A. S. Wells, secretary of the B. C. Federation of Labor, writes that the messages he is receiving from many locals indicates revived interest in the paper.

In order that the membership of locals may become acquainted with the merits of The Federationist, a reasonable number of sample copies will be sent upon request to any point where club or blanket membership subscriptions are being considered.

BOARD OF INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED

Claim of Wireless Operators for Increased Pay Will Be Considered.

The Department of Labor has authorized a board of investigation under the Lemieux Act to enquire into the claim of the wireless telegraph operators on the C. P. R. and Union Steamship Co.'s boats operating out of Vancouver for an increase of pay. The men have selected J. H. McVety as their representative on the board, and the company has selected Matt J. Barr to guard their interests. The men are now receiving $30 per month, and ask that this be increased to $50 per month.

LETTER CARRIERS HOLD SUCCESSFUL WHIST DRIVE

Patriotic Funds Will Benefit as Result of Social Committee's Work.

The most successful whist drive and dance held this season under the auspices of the Letter Carriers' association, took place in the Cotillion hall, during the closing days of last week. The prize winners were: Ladies—1st, Mrs. H. Liddle, 633 Fifty-second avenue east; 2nd, Mrs. C. Groves, 1133 Beach avenue. Gents—First, A. Hicks, 3875 Keefer street; 2nd, T. Reichenbach, 1375 Twelfth avenue east. The prizes were donated, thus reducing materially the expenses, and quite a respectable sum will be donated for patriotic purposes as soon as the accounts of the event are settled.

The social committee are arranging for another social evening about the middle of April, full details of which will be announced later.

FEMALE LAUNDRY WORKERS QUIT WORK

Understood That Plans for a 52-Hour Week Are Again Outlined.

Recently the female workers in the Cascade laundry were notified that a 48-hour week would be the rule for them at this plant, this rule taking the place of the 52-hour week previously prevailing, a violation of the provisions of the Factories' Act, of which the Trades and Labor council recently complained. Although the report of the factory inspector on the case appeared to defend the longer hours, the reduction ordered would indicate that the protest led to results.

On Wednesday, however, the girls learned that they were also to be paid on an hourly basis, which made their pay envelope even somewhat smaller than usual. The workers on the mangles promptly quit work and did not return until the superintendent had promised to take up their claim. It is understood that it is now planned to again impose upon the girls the 52-hour week previously prevailing.

ROUSING MEETING OF METAL TRADES WORKERS

The Men Are Organizing to Secure Their Just Rights

Draft Agreement on Wages and Conditions Was Discussed

ON TUESDAY EVENING a rousing open meeting of workers in all lines of the metal trades as well as the shipwrights employed in the local shipyards was held in the Labor Temple. The meeting was the second rally of these workers for the discussion of ways and means for obtaining their just rights in connection with the activity now existing in their trades in Vancouver and vicinity.

The reports made at the meeting were, in general, of a most hopeful character for the success of the workers' plans. It was stated that since the rally of last week organization work had been carried on with excellent results, the workers in some shops reporting that they had succeeded in securing a nearly 100 per cent. organization.

The chair was taken by Organizer Robison of the Carpenters, and among the international organizers who took part in the discussions were Mr. Kidd of the Blacksmiths', Mr. Burns of the Moulders', Mr. Carmichael of the Blacksmiths' and "Dunc" McCallum of the Machinists'.

A draft agreement covering standard wages and conditions for all the trades represented, similar to the agreements now prevailing in Victoria and Seattle was presented and discussed.

Standard Wages and Conditions.

The general contents of this agreement was as follows:

Hours—Eight hours shall constitute a day or night's work. For day work, hours to be worked between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., with one hour off for dinner between 12 noon and 1 p.m. for the first five days of the week, and from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays.

Overtime—All time worker over regular hours will be considered overtime and paid for at the rate of double [illegible] until workman is relieved. Bund[illegible] Dominion holidays including the [illegible]ing: New Year's day, Good Frid[illegible]toria day, Dominion day, Labo[illegible]y, Thanksgiving day and Christmas day will be paid for at the rate of double time. When men on day or night shifts are transferred from one shift to the other they shall be paid double time for the first shift. Men working regular night shifts shall be paid at the rate of time and one-quarter.

Grievances — All grievances which may arise in any shop shall be given consideration as follows: (1) All complaints and grievances to be adjusted by the foreman in charge if possible. (2) When such adjustment cannot be made between the foreman and the men directly interested, the matter will be taken up with the company, direct, by the business agent and the shop committee representing the craft having the grievance, and they shall endeavor to reach a mutual understanding. (3) In the event an understanding cannot be reached by the company and the representatives of the craft involved, a committee of representatives from all crafts will meet the company and try to bring about an adjustment of the grievance, and, in the meantime, there will be no lockout on the part of the company or strike on the part of the men.

Minimum Hourly Wages — Blacksmiths, 56 1-4c; blacksmiths' helpers, 40c; boilermakers, 56 1-4c; boilermakers' experienced helpers, 45c; boilermakers' general helpers, 40c; carpenters, 56 1-4c; electricians, 62 1-2c; electricians' helpers, 40c; machinists, 56 1-4c; machinists' helpers, 40c; molders, 56 1-4c; molders' helpers, 40c; shipwrights, joiners, boatbuilders and caulkers, 62 1-2c.

Employers Oppose Organization.

It was stated during the discussion that the employers are already recognizing the fact that the workers were organizing and had gone to a number of their employees privately, promising to give them the standard rate of wage and assuring them that they would be looked after as well as if their interests were protected by a union.

The question of the organization of a metal trades council was brought forward and, after some discussion, laid over for consideration at a meeting to be held tomorrow night, at which accredited representatives from each of the trades will take up the subject.

WILL LABOR RECEIVE ITS SHARE OF INCREASE?

Union Steamship Co. Advance Freight Rates—What About Wages?

The daily press states that last Monday the Union Steamship Co. announced an increase in freight rates between Vancouver and the points on the northern British Columbia coast covered by its service. As the company covers the numerous logging camps of the district, the addition of 10 per cent. to its freight tariff on business will net a tidy sum.

It will be interesting to note as to whether the Union Steamship company gives its employees, or the waterfront workers handling shipments at its wharves, all of whom are staggering under the burden of the higher cost of living, any share of its increased revenue. It should also be remembered that the wireless operators on the boats of this company are now being compelled to resort to arbitration proceedings to press a claim for an increase in their monthly wages of $30 per month, a rate of $1 per day for men who must be specially trained for a work which entails considerable responsibility.

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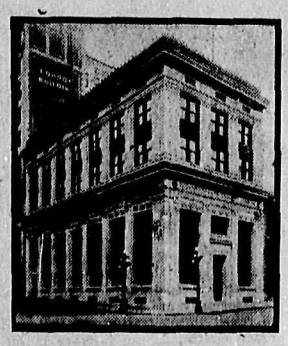

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"Unity of Labor: the Hope of the World"

FRIDAY.....March 23, 1917

NOW THAT Czarism has gone and the late emperor's successor decides to accept the office left vacant, only with the consent of the people of Russia, a slight glimmer of light appears to be reaching the brains of those doughty Socialists of Germany who so valiantly rallied to the support of the kaiser and his Junker government at the beginning of the war, and who have so loyally supported the Hohenzollern ambition down to the present time. At least it so seems from some of the utterances that have been falling from the lips of their leading spokesman, Philip Scheidemann, member of the Reichstag. In addressing that body the other day he is reported to have said, "it does not require many words to explain why almost the whole world is arrayed against us. The answer is given quickly. The whole world sees among our enemies more or less developed forms of democracy and in us sees only Prussians. We have always answered by referring to the absolutism of Russia, but now czarism has gone and the emperor's successor consents to accept the throne only if the representatives of the people agree. These representatives are to be elected on the basis of universal equal, direct and secret suffrage."

CHANGING THE ORDER OF THINGS

* * *

There is a confession contained in the words of Scheidemann, and that is that Germany and her allies alone remain outside the pale of modern civilization. They alone are still wedded to the brutal and autocratic savagery of the past. All the rest of the world has moved forward towards a more sane and decent civilization, while the Germanic tribes have clung to the political status and trappings of the middle ages and have so responded to its "kultur" as to throw the whole world into a veritable spasm of bloodletting in order to rid itself of this poisonous and debilitating legacy from the dark ages. While it may be that the German mind may in some cases be awakening to a realization of the real reason lying behind this world repudiation of medieval savagery, it seems doubtful if that awakening will be sufficiently pronounced among the Teutonic masses to prompt them to follow in the footsteps of the Russians and cut out the cancer of absolutism from their national life, before they have been actually bled white by those forces that make for human progress and a higher civilization. Of one thing we may be sure and that is that there can be no let up of the war until Berlin, that center of reaction and citadel of military brutality and tyranny, has been purged of its evil feudal traditions and the German people have themselves assumed the political garb and status of a civilized people. It is to be either that or extermination. Civilization can be satisfied with nothing else.

* * *

And while at least something is being done in Europe in the way of changing the old order, there is also a little doing in that line on this side of the water. Perhaps it may be known to many people that there is a country lying some distance south of us known as Mexico. The people of that country are supposed to be somewhat backward and are even at times accused of being more or less crude and rough in their way of doing things. It has been said that they are mostly criminals who make a living by stirring up trouble and hatching up revolutions. In fact they are quite frequently referred to by some of our esteemed Vancouver daily papers as bandits, and it is more than hinted that "Uncle Sam" has long been guilty of neglecting his manifest duty by not going down into that wicked land and walloping a modicum of decent behavior into the sinners who dwell therein. And just as we were about to second the motion that the Mexicans ought to well and speedily be walloped, a copy of the new constitution that has been adopted by the de facto government of Mexico, and which will be in effect May 1, 1917, fell into our hands. Many strange things that have been happening in that country were revealed to us by a perusal of that document. Many of its provisions make our boasted British liberties look like some of the funny pictures of the "movie" show. Most interesting of all are its provisions relating to "labor and social welfare."

* * *

Eight hours is the maximum limit of a day's work. Night work shall be but seven hours. Unhealthy and dangerous occupations are forbidden to all women and to children under sixteen years of age. Night work in factories is also forbidden to them. The maximum limit of a day's work for children over twelve and under sixteen is six hours. Every workman shall have at least one day's rest to every six days of work. The same compensation shall be paid for the same work regardless of sex or nationality. A Board is provided to determine the minimum wage, and that shall be based upon what is considered by the Board to be reasonably required to "satisfy the normal needs of the life of a workman, his his education and his lawful pleasures, considering him as the head of a family." Mr. Gompers will be delighted to know that "Workmen and employers shall have the right to unite for the defense of their respective interests, by forming syndicates, unions, etc. The law shall recognize the right of workmen and employers to strike and to suspend work." There are many more interesting provisions contained in this new Mexican constitution that may well be taken as pointers to guide the action of working people and friends of human progress generally, even in the most advanced countries of the earth. They will have to be left over for mention in future issues. There are many things occurring these days that go to show that the old order is undergoing some very significant changes. The dawn of a more decent civilization is evidently breaking.

TO THOSE who have anything like a clear understanding of the causes lying behind the present war, the recent upheaval in Russia comes as a herald that the dark night of medieval savagery in Europe is nearing its end, and the dawn of a new era is now breaking upon that unhappy and war-cursed land. The divine right of kingly rulers, that political concept of the feudal age, but which has been long since repudiated by all of the advanced nations of the earth, has now been thrown overboard by the Russian people, and the only European people still left as victims of that hoary absurdity appears to be the Germans. It is only by the repudiation of that political concept and moving forward to a recognition of the right of a people to govern themselves—that is to select their own governing authorities, and determine their own governmental policies—that any country or nation can properly lay claim to the status of an advanced and civilized state. That the Russian people have now repudiated autocratic rule and are determined to inaugurate constitutional government, resting upon the consent of an enfranchised citizenry, will bring that nation politically abreast of its Allies of western Europe, and must of necessity tend to greatly strengthen the Entente in its struggle against the autocratic Teuton savagery of mid-Europe, a medieval survival that must be broken if peace is to be made possible.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

* * *

True it is that the Russian revolution marks the downfall of autocracy, and the uprise of the bourgeoisie, the capitalist class, to power, and that the workers have been used to bring this about, but even so it is distinctly a working class victory in the sense that the triumph of the bourgeoisie over autocracy is but a prelude to the eventual triumph of the working class over its master and exploiter, the capitalist class. That which the Russians have just accomplished is what the French brought about by the French revolution. It is what the English accomplished through the persistent struggles from the days of Magna Charta down to the present. It is what the Germans failed to accomplish in 1848, and have never had the courage to attempt since. And just because these Germans, as it appears, do not possess the capability to effect their own liberation from the yoke of feudalism, twenty million men from those countries that do breed men, possessed of a longing for liberty and the courage to go out and take it against no matter what odds, are called upon to bleed and die in order that this mid-Europe feudal autocracy may be broken, the servile German people freed from its galling yoke, and the civilized world delivered from its baneful presence and its contaminating and corrupting influence.

* * *

All hail to the Russian people. They have indeed set the world an example in patriotism that may well be followed by the people of other lands who may be in any manner threatened by the forces of reaction and tyranny, those evil influences which never overlook an opportunity to express themselves and strengthen their clutch and stranglehold upon the people's liberties, no matter how loudly the dogs of war may be howling. It is in times of war that these sinister influences get in their deadly work. It is then that the common people are called upon in the name of patriotism to forego their privileges and surrender their liberties in order that the war may be successfully carried on. And a people that is so foolish as to listen to such sophistry and surrender its liberties, may rest assured it will never regain that which it has surrendered, without having to fight for it. When ruling classes want war, then is the time for those over whom their rule is exercised to demand and take, if possible, whatever extension of their liberties they may deem advisable. Either that or refuse to shed any blood. And we believe the latter alternative is, as a rule, the better course to pursue. In the interest of human advancement, and for the furtherance of liberty and democracy, let it be hoped that the forces of reaction in Russia will be unable to nullify the gains of the liberty-loving Russian people by means of any counter-revolution. While it is pleasing to note that the revolution was accomplished with very little shedding of blood, may all that has been gained be held, even though it necessitates the lopping off of the heads of all the bureaucrats and reactionaries in Russia. If the German people would but follow the lead of the Russians—but that is unthinkable—peace would return to Europe forthwith. But it cannot come until that centre of all reaction—Prussia—has been purged of its medieval peculiarities and Germany becomes a civilized state. All of which will come in due course.

DURING THESE days when a great deal of history is being written in Europe to the thunder of great guns and with much blood and slaughter, equally significant things are transpiring upon this side of the water, although in many instances with much less noise and bluster. At the late elections in North Dakota that state was swept by a new movement, made up of farmers and wage earners, termed the Non-Partisan league The league elected its candidate for governor by a vote of 87,000 out of a total of 107,000. It also elected nearly all of the remaining state officers. And right here it is necessary to take stock of what lies behind this movement, and why it has thus suddenly sprung into prominence, for let it be known that it had its inception in the work of one man, Mr. A. C. Townley, who started out some years ago on a house to house canvass of the state for the purpose of awakening the farmers and wage workers to a realization of just what was being done to them by the piracy of capital, and the way out of the woods.

A CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH IN THE MAKING

* * *

To put the matter in a nutshell the purpose of the league is to use all the power of the state to so organise and direct the industries thereof as to conserve to the producers all of the wealth they bring forth, instead of being compelled to turn it over to parasites and other useless persons as today. In other words the league is setting itself the task of creating a real co-operative commonwealth to take the place of the brutal and merciless capitalist skin game that now prevails. It proposes to put into effect practical measures for having the industries of universal need financed, operated and controlled by those who work them. Grain elevators, flour mills, stock yards, packing houses and other industries are to be taken in hand by the state for the common good of those who do the work incidental to their operation, and all profit takers and other bilks are to be cut out. The taxing power of the state is to be utilized for the purpose of converting all privileged and franchised public utilities and similar concerns from private or capitalist control to that of the public or co-operative control. While the league, in North Dakota, is principally composed of farmers owing to that being chiefly an agricultural state, it is rapidly spreading throughout all of the adjoining states and is attracting to its programme all classes of industrial workers. In North Dakota the league already owns and conducts the two largest newspapers in the state and the largest general printing plant in the Northwest. One hundred and fifty automobiles, owned by it, are ceaselessly carrying the representatives of the league to spread among all the homes of the farmers and other workers the programme of the league in the political and industrial re-making of the state.

* * *

A new constitution is to be drafted and put through empowering the state to carry out the provisions of the programme of the league. One of the most interesting provisions to be incorporated into the constitution is that no law enacted by popular vote can be invalidated by any court. As a member of the league has said: "The flexibility and complete democracy of the plan of the organization and of the programme of laws and of industry make this movement as perfectly adaptable to factory and shop workers as to country peoples." And as he further declares, "the usual sort of politicians try to keep the farmers and wage-workers apart. For no power can beat the wage-earners except the farmers. Together in their own organizations and unions they can beat all opposition to their economic and political power and to the control of their own lives and means of living." To which The Federationist cries, hear! hear!

Popular education the world over having made it impossible for the church to keep the people in submission to the powers that be a new religion termed Patriotism has been jigged up for the occasion.

Over 700 new names have been added to The Federationist's mailing list since the Revelstoke convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor. This is a fairly good record, but there is still room for another thousand during the coming month.

The least the railway brotherhoods can do in return for assistance given them by the American Federation of Labor in their long and succesful fight for an eight-hour day, is to affiliate with the Federation. They have been on the outside looking on about long enough.

We are pleased to note that the report that M. Protopopoff, minister of the interior under the government of the late czar, had been killed is not true. M. Protopopoff did not pop off. And we feel sure that M. Protopopoff does not intend to pop off.

The name of the alleged patriotic fund ought to be changed to indicate what it really is—a charity fund, collected by intimidation from employees of employers and corporations. In plain word the fund comes from the wages of workmen, not the profits of business men and corporations reaping a rich harvest out of the sorrows of the nation.

Until the government takes over the collections and administration of the patriotic fund and assesses capital as well as wage-earners, any wage-worker who can get away with it is justified in refusing to put up another nickel. The war widows should have their money as a right—not doled out as charity by a lot of nose-poking officials of both sexes.

It didn't take the Russian "revolutionaries" very long to become the "administration" — when they won. When rebels fail to win they are criminals, anarchists, disruptors of law and order and many other epithets too numerous to mention. But when these same elements win they are perfectly respectable law-abiding citizens. To be dead sure of being right one must see that his side wins.

Just to show how labor is benefitting because of the high wages that war conditions have forced upon the workers, we take pleasure in calling attention to prices of foodstuffs as they are reported to obtain in the city of Toronto. That which could be purchased in November, 1914, for $1.00 would have cost at the end of February last $1.75. No wonder that the laborer is getting fat and saucy.

Anxious reader wants to know the significance of this "efficiency" fad that is so much heard of these days. It merely means the art of squeezing the maximum amount of profit juice out of the meat and bones of a working man at the minimum cost in wages. It means much the same as taxation. We believe it was Necker who described taxation as "the art of picking the last pin feather from the goose without actually killing the bird." That is what "efficiency" is, only it is applied to working animals instead of fowl.

In 1908, when the miners of Alabama were engaged in a life and death struggle with the companies in order to maintain an organization for the purpose of standing off the aggressions of the employers, the merchants of the mining district lined up with the companies against the men. Now these same merchants are squealing like stuck pigs because the companies have taken their trade away from them by means of company stores. Of course, they are now appealing to the workers to aid them in a desperate attempt to save their own lives as merchants. All of which is rather amusing to say the least.

Whenever the bosses find a labor "leader" whose insufferable egotism makes it possible to win favor by flattery or office, they get as busy as cranberry merchants. The subtle influences at all times resorted to by cunning politicians other than mastery of jobs and the big daily press, make it difficult for the Labor movement to retain the services of men who have been educated and developed as its members and officials. Corporations have already picked off some of the brightest men in the Labor movement, at salaries which the latter refuse to pay. Principle has been dropped for principal. We're all so human.

According to daily press reports, a goodly number of the Japanese residents of British Columbia, many of them naturalized, want the franchise extended to include them. They claim that this right has been granted them in all the provinces of Canada, save this one. There can be no particular objection taken to this request by wage-earners. The latter can scarcely argue that the Japanese could or would make any worse use of their vote than they have themselves. But, in passing: Can the Japanese guarantee that the same right will be extended to Canadians who have become citizens of Japan?

In the face of possible war with Germany, and the threat that such a munition manufacturer's Elysium might be interfered with by a general strike of the railroad men, that august body known as the supreme court of the United States, discovered the Adamson eight-hour law for railway men to be absolutely constitutional. This might be construed as a "hunch" to the workers that the best time to press their demands upon the attention of their beneficent employers is when those employers earnestly desire to use them in some particularly patriotic and profitable service. As patriotism and profit are practically synonymous terms, however, it is scarcely necessary to state it in just that way. It is to be hoped that the workers will take the hunch and act accordingly.

The central labor body in Vancouver has decided to place a candidate, maybe two, in the field in the forthcoming bye-election. The affiliated unions are now making nominations, returnable April 19. These in turn will be tabulated and the "slate" then submitted to the membership for elimination of all the choices made save two. Such a procedure across the line would be called a primary election. It seems fair enough for the most democratic. Organized labor has a chance to win this time, and it is to be hoped that all hands will buckle in and work. As soon as the nominations are made, the next move will be to raise funds to conduct the election campaign. The little "sissies" who are always wanting to know where the funds are going to come from, will again have ample opportunity to find out, even without the necessity of becoming candidates—or later appearing on Liberal party platforms in support of old-party candidates.

An evening chat with a recently-returned soldier has convinced the writer that the patriotic grafters of the "business" world are in for a bad session or two when the soldiers return from Europe. These men have discovered a few things while in the old land that will be of much service to the organized labor movement before many moons. It's a cinch anyway, that the labor movement is not half as dead as some people would have us believe, even on the battlefields. After the boys finish up the job they have on hand now in France they have one or two other little things which they propose to turn to. "Woe to the statesman" who fails to sit up and take notice of the returned heroes of the working class. The boys are bringing back good tidings, even at this stage of the game. The Russian workmen are not the only ones who will insist upon the triumph of democracy. Perhaps, some profiteers of the present ruling class are laying the foundation for things they little dreamed of prior to the war. Whoever or whatever started the job now matters little. The international working class will ultimately finish it.

It now appears that the B. C. Sugar Refinery at the beginning of the war, could have sold its stock of sugar then on hand to Seattle buyers at a price that would have cleared up one and one-half million dollars' profit. The B. C. Consumers' Magazine states editorially that the reason "that profit was not made was that Mr. Rogers, with the keen business sense for which he is noted, took the firm stand that it was bad business for him to deplete his stock at such a critical moment, when none could foretell the course of events." Quite so, quite so. We do not for a moment doubt the virtue of "Mr. Rogers' keen business." Not for the infinitesimal fraction of a moment, even. By holding it he has no doubt been able to patriotically realize a still greater profit than the measly trifle of a million and a half dollars, with which the Seattle pirates tempted him. The chances are more than good that the people of this province have paid him ....at least double that amount of profit upon the self-same sugar. And even at that, we have not heard of his making any contribution to the patriotic fund anything like a million or a million and a half dollars in size. "Keen business sense?" Well, we should smile.

A Royal Commission is to be created for the purpose of making enquiry into the alleged election frauds enacted in Vancouver a year ago. The commission is also to be charged with an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the campaign and election of Ross at Fort George last fall. It may be remembered that Ross is one of the good old Conservative standbys and whose political hide has been twiced saved to his country's service in a most miraculous manner, once by fire and once by flood. All of which happened in the Fernie district and has been duly recorded in the interesting political history of this great province for the last decade. Whether miraculous chance will once more come to the salvation of this political juggler of narrow margins doubtfully obtained, remains to be seen. It will not be a matter worthy of surprise, however, should he once more make the grade, for it requires but an extremely thin coat of whitewash to transform the lowest and most unconscionable election juggler and crook into a respectable and much admired exponent of high-class political finese, in the atmosphere of British Columbia. The political morals of this province are undoubtedly beyond question, that is if the query is put in the right direction.

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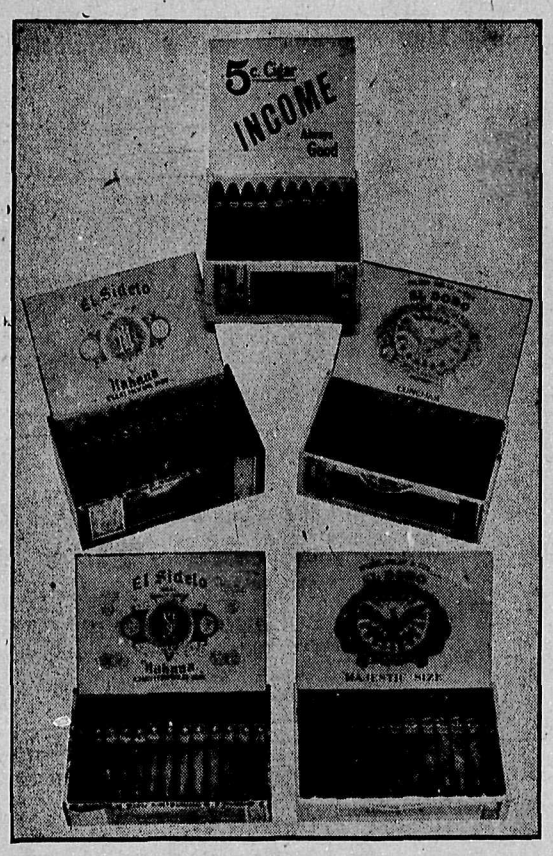

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TORONTO LABOR MEN ARE ENTERING POLITICS

Wage Workers Are Entering Heartily Into the Movement

Organization to Be Widened and Made Provincial in Scope

TORONTO, Ont., March 19.—The Greater Toronto Labor party is now a potent factor in the political game in this city, and is even now reaching out to take in the surrounding cities and towns. The new party means business. The membership fee is placed at $1, and the newly-enrolled members are asked to sever their affiliations with the old party organizations. While the new party is in the hands of unionists, all are welcome. A number of purely local organizations have asked that representatives appear before them and explain the aims and objects of the party.

Organization will be along ward or district lines, somewhat similar to the ward organizations of the old parties, and a systematic canvass made for recruits. At present there are about 1000 members, wards one and five leading. At the last meeting in the Labor Temple, there were present men identified with labor from outside points, and judging from the many inquiries reaching headquarters, the idea is taking firm hold on the workers in outside sections. At present there is, at every meeting of a Toronto labor organization, a delegation present from the new Labor party to explain its aims and objects.

A call has been issued for a convention of the new party to meet in the Labor Temple on Saturday, April 14. At this meeting, besides effecting permanent organization, a platform—which is now being whipped into shape—will be adopted. Public ownership of all lines of transuportation, and the development of the natural resources of the country will, no doubt, be strong planks in the party's platform.

Provincial Action Planned.

While the activities of the newly-created organization will be confined, for the present, to Greater Toronto, the foundations have been laid broad enough to take in the province, and to form a unit for Dominion-wide organization. One of the pleasing results of the formation of the new party is the number of men who have never been identified with labor before, who have come forward and taken out membership cards. It is quite likely that branches of the new party will, in the near future, be started in many outside cities and towns of the province.

It is expected that, at the next election, whether city, provincial or federal, the newly-formed Greater Greater Toronto Labor party will be a strong organization, able to put candidates into the field, support them in their canvass and elect them. The leaders are going about party organization in a thoroughly systematic manner. At the next election, they will know their own strength in every ward in the city, and will be able to at least approximate their opponent's strength. Labor, to accomplish anything in the political arena, must organize along political lines; and organization will carry with it a knowledge of its own strength and weakness. Its strength must be used for the common good; its weakness made strong to the same end.

Relations of Capital and Labor.

Labor, capital and natural resources are the foundations from which spring all human endeavor along economic lines. Labor and capital are mobile and interdependent. Natural resources must ever be untouched until labor, jointly with capital, puts forth its hand. Hitherto capital has treated its partner, labor, with arrogance and dictated terms and conditions repugnant to the institutions that should obtain among communities of free men. Happily there are signs of an awakening to a proper realization of their mutual duties and obligations in the dealings of both capital and labor with each other. This has reached its highest expression in the English-speaking world. The great international unions on this continent have consistently urged fair dealing with capital upon their members, until now labor, through its own efforts, has earned the tardy respect due to itself. And also, in fairness, it must be said that labor has had a friend at court, in many instances, in the strongholds of capital. Assuming such premises, it must naturally follow that labor (together with capital), must, of necessity, be accorded its just share in the government of the communities and the nations. Great Britain has recognized this, and representatives of labor have a voice in the great councils of the Empire. The old order of things among us is in the crucible, and from it will emerge a new democracy, under the crown, but faintly perceived at present by our thinkers. The evolution will be orderly but inexorable. There are shaping up many mighty problems to be solved in the future, and labor in this country must be prepared and willing to accept service and responsibility under the new condition.

Labor Has Able Men.

The Greater Toronto Labor party possesses, in its leaders and among its rank and file, qualifications that will enrich any legislative body to which any of its members may be elected. The new party is a force to be reckoned with, and will give a good account of itself at the next election. The march of democracy is ever onward; defeat does not depress, but stimulates it to renewed confidence in its principles and a faith that it will triumph in the end.

A number of important amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act have been introduced in the provincial parliament. The most important of these is that every workman entitled to damages under the act would recover from the accident fund a sum covering his medical, surgical, hospital and nursing expenses for a period of twenty days. The government will make a grant of $100,000 to cover increased charges. It is also proposed to double the allowance to children under 16 years, following the death of a widow of a deceased workman. This allowance will be $10. In case of an invalid child the time is also extended beyond 16 years, to the length of time that deceased parent would, in the opinion of the board, contribute to its support. The provision for children is also extended to include those in which the workman stood in the place of a parent. It is said the provisions for first aid was first brought to the government's attention by the carpenters' union.

Organization Work.

The organization committee of the District Labor council is busy forming new organizations and assisting those with weak membership to strengthen their positions. The textile workers are at present receiving their attention. Some 120 new members have been added to this union recently.

After being on strike eight weeks, 5000 garment workers of Montreal have returned to work, pending a hearing before a board of inquiry, whose decision will be final.

Walter Rollo, one of the prominent Labor men of Hamilton, has been appointed to the Soldiers' Relief Commission of Ontario. Mr. Rollo contested West Hamilton against the present conservative member at the last election, and was only defeated by about fifty votes.

The Toronto street railway employees' union will submit a new schedule of wages and hours to the company in May. It will help members who are compelled at present to keep "showing up" long hours in order to get in a day of nine hours.

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Trades and Labor Council.

March 25, 1892

Meeting held in union hall, Thompson-Ogle block. G. Bartley, president; F. P. Bishop, secretary.

John Rumble (stone cutters) seated as delegate, vice Pat Cody.

F. C. Cotton, M. P. P., wrote that the speaker of the legislature ruled out of order the petition against taxation of mortgages as containing an expression "unjust and oppressive," which was disrespectful to the house.

James C. Allen, secretary New Westminster Trades and Labor council, wrote in favor of the legislature passing a bill to incorporate the Short Line railway, and the Twin City railway. Too late for Vancouver to do anything.

Chain-gang committee reported and was discharged.

Resolved to celebrate Labor Day on August 13, 1892. Mayor Cope will declare a civic holiday.

STANDARD WAGE FOR MANY CITY EMPLOYERS

Resolution Establishing Policy Sent Up to City Council by Board of Works.

At the meeting of the civic board of works on Tuesday a resolution was sent up to the city council which declared that the city would recognize the union scale as the standard for the wages of the various trades in which the city employs men. The resolution was opposed by Ald. Kirk and Marshall, who insisted that the matter should be laid over until the general financial position of the city for the year had been outlined.

The subject came up on a report as to the wages paid the city's stationary engineers, in support of which Pres. J. H. McVety and Secretary Midgley of the Trades and Labor council were present. The report advised that the men's wages should be increased from 46 to 55 cents per hour, the latter being the standard wage which private firms stated they were recognizing.

GREAT VICTORY WON FOR THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Principle Now Governs Operation of the Railways in the United States.

The Railway Brotherhoods of the United States won a great victory during the week when, after a struggle which has extended over many years, they won for their members the establishment of an eight-hour day.

The victory was the more signal as it covered both the law and the facts of the case. The law was covered by the decision of the United States supreme court, which affirmed the validity of the eight-hour day for railwaymen as contained in legislation passed last year. The question of facts is covered by the statement of a commission, appointed to endeavor to avert a general strike for the eight-hour day principle, which was called for last Saturday. This statement was issued on the same day as the supreme court decision, and admitted the eight-hour principle entirely, aside from any action which might be taken by the court, whose decision was not known at that time.

SECOND MACHINISTS' LOCAL MAY BE ORGANIZED

Plans Will Be Discussed at a Mass Meeting on Sunday

New Local Would Cover the Field of Workers in Contract Shops

A MASS MEETING of all machinists of Vancouver has been called for next Sunday afternoon in the Labor Temple, at which plans will be discussed for increasing the strength of unionism in this craft, and the outlining of organization work along a new line of action, the indications being that the latter plan can be undertaken with good results. In view of the rousing rally of the workers in the metal trades on last Tuesday evening and the good reports as to the organization campaign now being carried on among the machinists, a large attendance and an interesting discussion is expected at the meeting.

One of the chief subjects of discussion will be the organization of a second Machinists' local in the city, a proposal which has been quietly talked of for some time, and in view of the increased activity now existing in the trade, is thought to be very desirable.

Cover Workers in Contract Shops.

The main strength of the present flourishing local of the machinists lies in the C. P. R. shops, whereas the new forms of activity now developing in the trade covers the case of workers in contract shops. Railway work among machinists is somewhat in a class by itself, and it is thought that the organization of a second local, covering the contract shop machinists in particular, would better meet the demands of the class, the work of the old local being continued among the workers in the railway shops.

A preliminary line-up of the possibilities has already been made with the result, which will be reported on Sunday afternoon, that sufficient men have already promised to join the new local to warrant the success of the movement.

"Dune" McCallum, organizer for the machinists, received a call to go to Victoria yesterday, but he will return in time to be present at Sunday's mass meeting.

VICTORIA BECOMING GOOD "UNION" CITY

New Local of Shipyard Helpers Instals Officers Tomorrow Night.

Victoria workers have added to the list of unionized trades in that city by the organization of a new local among the helpers in the shipyards. Preliminary meetings were held a few weeks ago, and when the application for the charter was forwarded, the local had a membership roll of about 60 men. Since that time organization work has been steadily carried on with good results.

The charter of the organization arrived on Wednesday, and the local will hold its first regular meeting and installation of officers tomorrow night.

RETURNED SOLDIERS WOULD BAR ORIENTALS

Question Will Be Taken Up at Conference with Dominion Authorities.

The provincial executive of the B. C. Returned Soldiers' association has taken a definite stand against Oriental immigration. The question was thoroughly discussed at a meeting at which delegates were appointed to attend a Dominion conference at Ottawa, where representations on matters affecting returned soldiers will be discussed with the Dominion authorities.

The British Columbia branch stated its belief that the question of Oriental immigration was vitally connected with their case, and instructed their delegates to see that the matter was fully covered at the Ottawa conference.

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Why do we know certain clouds mean rain? Because rain is the effect which always follows these phenomena.

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Every time you patronize the jitney or by your action prolong its unfair competition, you deprive yourself or your successors in the future of some element of the street car service.

The measure of street railway service will depend upon the entirety of your support.

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Special showing of Ladies' New Spring Suits, in brown, navy and black and white check. Regular $25.00. Special.....$18.95

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Ladies' suits, made by our own tailors, of extra fine quality wool serge; fit and wear guaranteed. Special $22.50

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Ladies' Tailored Dress Skirts, made of all-wool serge, in navy and black. Special at $4.95

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HOSIERY SPECIAL, 18c

Ladies' fine quality Black Cotton Hose. Regular 25c. Special..... 18c
65c Cashmere Hose for..... 49c
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$2.25 DOYLIE WAISTS, $1.35

Fine quality embroidered Doylie Waists. Special.....$1.35

FLANELLETTE SPECIAL—Extra fine quality English Flannelette, in plain white and stripes. Regular 20c. Special, yard..... 15c

25c CURTAIN SCRIMS, 15c YARD—1000 yards of curtain scrims, in plain colors and plain with fancy floral designs. Regular 20c and 25c. Special, per yard 15c

Big Shipment of Dress Goods Just Arrived—Special at 50c, 65c, 85c, $1.00 and $1.25.

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ENGLISH JERSEYS

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STREET RAILWAYMEN TAKE DECIDED STAND

No Man Should Be Forced to Sign for Less Than Nine Hours

Action of Midnight Mass Meeting Taken Up with Company

AT THE midnight mass meeting of the street railwaymen last Saturday, there was a thorough discussion of the question as to the men being either forced or allowed to sign up for short special runs, such as were included in the time sheet recently issued by the company, full particulars concerning which were given in last wek's issue of The Federationist. So keen was the discussion, and so closely was the question discussed from every angle, that it was nearly 4 a m. before the men were through talking, and the meeting adjourned.

The opinion of the meeting was strongly against the policy of men signing up for short special runs averaging about 5 hours, as was included in the running sheet posted some weeks ago, and to which the men entered a protest, with the result that it was withdrawn for revision.

The final action of the meeting was to request that the revised running sheet should provide for no runs of less than 7 hours, and that the number of these runs should not be more than 10 per cent. of the regular runs. The sentiment of the meeting was that even in the case of 7 hour runs, no man should be forced to sign up, although he might do so if he desired.

Men Must Make Living Wage.

The general policy that men should be compelled to sign up for runs of less than 9 hours was strongly endorsed, it being declared that with the cost of living at its present standard, it was impossible for a man to make a living wage otherwise.

The executive was instructed to take up the opinion of the meeting with the company officials, and this is now being done.

The street railwaymen's billiard team scored another success in the tournament of the Commercial Billiard league on Monday night, when it met the C. P. R. team. They won out on the first round by 200 points, and lost on the second round by 126 points, thus winning the round on the aggregate of 74 points. This makes the third win for the street car boys, whose batting average on the tournament stands 1.000.

Reports from St. Paul's hospital as to the condition of W. D. Munn yesterday afternoon, were that he is very low, and that slight hope can be held out for his recovery.

OUTLINE OF CITY'S PLANS FOR LIGHT AND POWER SUPPLY

(Continued from page 1)

couver Power Co. (which generates the power) one cent per k.w. hour but, when the same company buys current from the Western Canada Power Co., it pays only 3-10 of a cent for the same unit. Incidentally, it is enlightening to remember that the same current the B. C. Electric buys from the Western Canada Power Co. for 3-10 of a cent, it sells to Vancouver citizens for 11 cents gross, or 8.8 cents net."

Household Rate of 3 Cents.

Continuing his explanation of the city's power project, Ald. Gale said that with power brought to Vancouver at a cost of $12.45 per h. p., or 1-5 of a cent per k.w. hour, it should be possible to arrange for a distribution system which would provide for a cost at the distribution outlet of ½ cent per k.w hour.

Following the example of Winnipeg, and establishing a rate of 3 cents for household lighting, and 1 cent for domestic power, which would mean more than cutting the existing rates in half, a condition would exist whereby the city could offer power for industrial purposes at $12 per horse-power, and even lower as the business developed. "And wouldn't that attract industries," said Ald. Gale, as he quoted the figures from his note book.

Ald. Gale was questioned as to the reduction of power rates quoted by the B. C. Electric during the week.

"Well," he said, "that quotation, as well as the recent abolition of customers' deposits, is probably due to the manner in which the city's light and power project has been pressed during the last four weeks. The removal of the customers' deposit requirement is a real gain. The reduction on power rates I don't think amounts to much, as far as the average industry is concerned. A few may benefit by it, but the new rates are not of such a character as will lead to new industries coming here. You will see that they only cover cases where over 100 horse-power is used, and this condition leaves the great majority of users of power just where they were before. I don't consider that the concessions just made will tend to better the position of industrial plants.

"Just let the employers and workingmen get together, and 'boost' hard and strong for the right of the city to sell power, and give us the backing to win our fight at Victoria, and the city plant will be able to quote power rates which will make industry sit up and take notice."

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Flesh Colored Muslin Underwear

THE popularity of this Underwear permits of our presenting very extensive assortments in the various wanted garments. The display at this time is specially replete and interesting.

Flesh colored Nightgowns, made with square neck and with yoke and sleeves finished with beading and fine valenciennes lace. Price $2.00.

Flesh colored Drawers of mull with fitted top and with trimming of a double fold of fine net, open or closed, at $1.25.

Flesh colored Petticoat of cambric with double panel front, made very full with deep ruffle, finished with scallopped edge, $1.50.

Flesh colored Corset Covers of mull, made with small sleeve and with peplum, trimmed with edge of lace and finished with ribbon; $1.25 each.

Envelope Chemise of flesh colored mull, made with hemstitched strap over the shoulder, and with front smocked in dainty colors. Price $1.75.

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LOWER PHONE RENTALS IN CITY'S OUTSKIRTS

B. C. Telephone Co. Abolishes Mileage Charges in These Districts.

At the meeting of the civic industrial committee on Monday, Ald. Woodside reported that F. J. McGougan, of the B. C. Telephone Co. had written him advising that the company would hereafter eliminate the "mileage" charge previously levied upon patrons who were located over a certain distance from the central office. This charge fell upon persons in the outlying sections of wards six, seven and eight, and was somewhat of a hardship on residents in these districts, hence the company's decision to abolish the charge will be welcome news.

The aldermen in view of the public-spirited action, will adopt a rather unusual attitude in the relations of a city with public utility plants by sending a letter of thanks to Mr. McGougan.

ORGANIZE FEMALE WORKERS FOR BERRY PICKING

Consumers' League Plans to Head Off Employment of Orientals.

An effort is being made by the B. C. Consumers' league to organize a force of women workers to help in the picking of berries and other fruit during the coming season, thus heading off the proposal to use Oriental labor exclusively for this work. At a meeting last week, Messrs. Catherwood, Shook and Knight explained the position of the growers in the Hatzic and Mission districts, where 1500 workers would be demanded from June to August, the work being done on a piece work basis. During the present week plans for securing a force of female workers were discussed, and it was decided to hold a mass meeting next Tuesday evening to outline plans.

Forebodings of Conscription?

At the time of writing, conscription has not been officially mentioned in connection with the civil service or any other class of people, but if the Civilian is any judge of signs, there will be "something moving" in that direction ere long, and the civil service will not be the last class to be affected.—The Civilian.

Same Over Here.

The unrest amongst the workers of this city is crystallizing by the demands of more wages and forming of new unions. The high cost of living has risen to a point beyond that of "all the traffic will bear," with the natural result of organized effort to get at least that point met. Almost every wage-earner is casting about for means to protect himself and they realize that individually they are helpless but united they can accomplish something.—Winnipeg Voice.

"Jimmie" Haslett Heard From.

"Jimmie" Haslett, a Vancouver member of the Bricklayers' union, who enlisted for overseas service last summer, is now in France. Business Agent Dagnall had a letter from him this week under date of February 19. He and the rest of the Labor Temple bunch are all well, and sharing in the hope, at the time of writing, that the "big push" would soon begin, as they were al lanxious to get back to old B. C. "Jimmie" still takes a keen interest in all matters pertaining to the local labor world and wishes to be remembered to those who are holding the fort against the patriotic profiteers who are losing no opportunity to pilfer and plunder.

COST OF LIVING IS STILL MOVING UPWARDS

Advance of 41 Per Cent. Reported Since Beginning of War.

Both representatives of labor who are pressing demands for an increase of wages and the employers who are considering their demands, will do well to carefully consider the Dominion reports as to the great increase in the cost of living which now prevails.

The Ottawa statement on the subject shows that since the beginning of the war, the advance in the cost of living has been 41 per cent. In other words, the same household needs which could be bought for $7.52 in July, 1914, would now cost $10.46.

The cost of living is still steadily increasing, the standard for February being reported at 217, as compared with the January report of 208. The February report notes the highest figures ever known in the Dominion.

GALVESTON FIREMEN ASK FOR TWO-PLATOON SYSTEM

Men Organize Union in Affiliation with American Federation of Labor.

The city firemen of Galveston, Texas, have organized a union which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Capt. Ryan, president of the local, outlined the work planned by the organization as follows: "We are going to ask the people at the home rule election to be held in November to fix the city charter so that a double-platoon system will be provided for the fire department. We also expect to ask for a vacation of fifteen days annually. By being affiliated with organized labor we will have the support of various unions in our efforts to better our conditions and increase the efficiency of the fire department."

CONFERENCE AGREES ON PENALTY CLAUSES

Miners and Operators Solve Hard Problem at Calgary Conference.

Press despatches from Calgary state that the workers of District 18, and the mine operators, have come to an agreement as to the guarantees on either part for the observance of the terms of any agreement which may be reached. This question formed the rock upon which the conference split at its opening session, the operators refusing to proceed with the negotiations until the point had been satisfactorily settled. Following the settlement on this point, the conference proceeded to the discussion of the clauses covering wages and working conditions which shall be the basis of the new agreement.

LABOR'S TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CHIEF MACLENNAN

Sincere Regret at Untimely Death of a Highly Respected Official.

The Federationist notes with deep regret the unfortunate death of Chief of Police MacLennan, who was killed while engaged in the discharge of his duty, by a drug-crazed negro on Tuesday night. Very often Labor has hard things to say of police authorities, but in the case of the late Chief MacLellan, it could have no words of criticism owing to his just and fair attitude, his unvaried rule both as a member of the force and, later, when he assumed official position, toward all citizens, be they high or low, rich or poor.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS FOR MINERS OF TRAIL

Increase of Wages Given, But Curtailment of Work Predicted.

Reports from the upper country state that the Trail employees of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. have been notified of an advance of 25 cents per day from April 1. It is stated that this increase is given, outside of any wage contract, in view of the greatly increased cost of living. The company also stated that in view of the uncertainty as to the supply of coke, it may be necessary shortly to curtail operations where gold-copper ores are handled.

Open Forum Meeting.

Dr. T. P. Hall will speak on "Sex Education in the Public Schools," at the Open Forum, Sunday at 2.30, in O'Brien hall.

Winnipeg Firemen's Union.

The Winnipeg firemen met on Sunday last in shifts as they were relieved from duty to canvass the situation in view of the various attacks being made on their union. It is understood that a "stand pat" policy was decided upon and heartily endorsed at each meeting.—The Voice.

City Fireman Injured.

Mr. McLaughlin, a member of the Civic Firemen's union, and connected with No. 3 hall, yesterday morning met with an accident while engaged in practice. While carrying a dummy weighing 150 pounds up a ladder, he lost his balance, and fell to the ground. His wrist was broken, and he was taken to the hospital in an uncousccious condition. Upon examination there, it was thought that he is also suffering from a fracture of the skull.

" * * * If it were possible we would like to live in harmony with all creation, but some old dogs are so vicious that even after they have lost their teeth they still insist upon snapping and snarling at every passerby."—Alaska Labor News.

Ray's Market

Don't belong to the Meat Trust, independent of any company; eliminating all unnecessary expense, such as cashiers, delivery boys, delivery wagons, marble or glass counters, expensive managers, That's why Ray sells you the best meat for less money. You pay for meat only.

Pot Roast of beef, per lb..... 10c
Ribs, boiling, per lb 10c
Minced Meat, per lb..... 10c
Beef Drippings, per lb..... 10c
Shoulder Steak, per lb..... 10c
Liver and Hearts, per lb..... 10c
Legs of Mutton, per lb..... 24c
Loin of Mutton, per lb..... 22c
Shoulders of Mutton, per lb.. 20c

The above prices good only with this adv. so cut the adv. out and bring it along.

RAY'S—One door west of the Rex. Across from new Pantages.

RENNIE'S FARM GARDEN
PURE NEW SEEDS

Improved Breakfast Tomato (enormous size). Pkg. 10c, ½-oz., 35c, oz. 60c.
Copenhagen Market Cabbage (high class early). Pkg. 10c; ½-oz., 40c; oz. 75c.
Improved Breakfast Radish (crisp). Pkg. 5c; oz. 10c; 4 ozs. 30c.
Wardwell's Kidney Wax Beans (market sort). Four ozs. 15c; lb. 55c; 5 lbs. $2.40.
Best Snowball Cauliflower. Pkgs. 15c, 25c; ¼-oz. 85c; ½-oz. $1.50.
XXX Golden Self-blanching Celery. Pkg. 25c; ¼-oz. 75c; ½-oz. $1.40.
Ringleader Sweet Table Corn (ready in 60 days). Pkg. 10c; lb. 35c; 5 lbs. $1.50.
Cool and Crisp Cucumber (bears all season). Pkg. 5c; oz. 15c; 4 ozs. 40c.
New York Lettuce (immense solid heads). Pkg. 10c; oz. 25c; 4 ozs. 70c.
Market-maker Golden Globe Onion (big cropper). Pkg. 5c; oz. 25c; lb. $2.10.
Yellow Onion Sets (select Canadian). Per lb. 35c; 5 lbs. $1.70.
XXX Earliest Table Marrow Peas, 4 ozs. 15c; lb. 40c; 5 lbs. $1.90.
Improved Giant Sugar Beet (for stock feed). Four ozs. 15c; ½-lb. 25c; lb. 45c; 5 lbs. $2.20.
Perfection Mammoth Red Mangel (very large). Half-lb. 25c; lb. 45c; 5 lbs. $2.20.
Canadian Gem Swede Turnip (good keeper). Four ozs. 20c; ½-lb. 37c; lb. 70c; 5 lbs. $3.40.
Improved Greystone Turnip, 4 ozs. 15c; ½-lb. 27; lb. 50c.
Thousand-headed Kale (for green food). Four ozs. 25c; ½-lb. 35c; lb. 60c; 5 lbs. $2.10.

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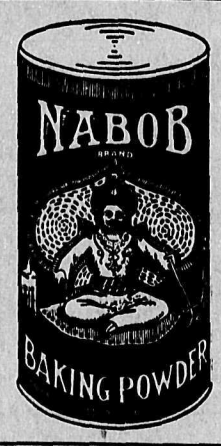

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