BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

INDUSTRIAL UNITY: STRENGTH — OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FEDERATED LABOR PARTY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA — PUBLISHED IN INTERESTS OF ALL WORKERS — POLITICAL UNITY: VICTORY

SEVENTEENTH YEAR. No. 21 FOUR PAGES VANCOUVER, B. C., FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1925 5c A COPY

TRADES AND LABOR

Says City Hall Has Patronage System—Union Buttons For Workers.

EIGHT-HOUR LAW BROKEN

Metal Trades Becoming Organized—Tag Day Netted More Than $1300.

PRESIDENT R. H. NEELANDS presided over a good attendance of delegates at Tuesday night's meeting of the Trades and Labor council.

It was reported that men had been discharged by the city to make way for "friends of the aldermen." Also it was understool that a number of men were still being employed by the city in sewer construction work at $2 a day, the relief scale of wages. Delegates Neelands, Bengough and Scribbens will comprise a delegation to wait on the city alderman in regards to the matter.

A communication from the Asiatic Exclusion League asking support of the council was received, and the secretary instructed to reply.

The Electrical Worker's union suggested that a button of standard design be worn by all union laborers. This proposal was favored by delegates but will be referred to the locals for approval and will be again submitted at the next meeting.

Delegates from the baking trades reported that all of the larger bakeries in the city were observing the eight-hour law, but a number of the smaller shops were working men overtime. On Friday, according to the report submitted the men were forced to work sixteen hours. The average wage paid to these men was $20 per week.

Organizers of the bakery salesmen also stated that the smaller shops were not co-operating with the council in assisting the organization of bakery salesmen's union.

On motion a committee was appointed to meet the various employers, and the secretary will also write the minister of labor at Victoria asking if certain firms were legally exempt.

The aplication of the newly-formed Shingle-Weavers' union for membership in the coucil was granted.

The organization committee is proceeding with its work and the metal trades are becoming organized. Meeting are being held for the various branches of the trade on Monday, Tuesday and Friday in the Holden Building. Mr. R. C. McCutchan of Winnipeg, delegate from the International Union of Boilermakers, spoke briefly on the progress of his work in connection with the local branch.

The tag day committee reported that more than $1300 was raised by "taggers" for the suffering families of Nova Scotia miners. In order that the stricken families might receive all of the money the meeting voted to pay the expenses in connection with the day.

CO-OPERATION GAINING

Prairie Farmers Never So Keen To Take Hold of Their Own Affairs.

[From Western Producer]

Farmers on the prairies were never before quite so keen to take hold of their own affairs, themselves, and settle them in their own way as they are at the present moment. The opinion is gaining in strength every day that in co-operation, in banding together to do business in a body, will be found the key which will open the portals of an era that will place the agricultural industry on a basis which will give the average farmer on the average farm a reasonable chance of satisfactory returns from the farming business. That fact is worthy of a little consideration. The main object of pool selling is to secure good prices for the things that our farms produce. By that means will the ever-present spectre of want and penury which, even on the most optimistic estimate continually haunts a large number of our farm homes, be effectively put to rout. By that means will we build up conditions which will result in happy and contented hoes on the prairie and which will make agriculture an undertaking that, instead of repelling and driving younger generations to the cities, will attract them and afford them an equally remunerative and more pleasing life-work than the cities can offer. Meditate for a moment on these results and what they imply. It is not our contention that such a transformation can be wrought over-night. It cannot. But it can and will be done by the fullest development of co-operative marketing and by the other things the farmers will do when they fully learn the art of transacting all their own business themselves.

Four members of the Belgian Railwaymen's union, all of them men who were dismissed for taking part in the 1923 strike, were elected to Parliament in the recent elections in Belgium.

SELLING FARM PRODUCTS

Calls For Just As Serious Personal Attention As Cultivation of Farm.

[From Western Producer]

Co-operative marketing is the farmers' own business. Nobody else is ever going to do it for him. Indeed there are those who will take serious objection to his doing it for himself and will do their utmost to place obstacles in his way. We would urge every reader of these lines to take counsel with himself, or herself and learn the lesson once and for all that the selling of farm products calls for just as serious personal attention as the cultivation of the farm. For if the farmer does not take the selling of his product into his own hands the whole work and expense of his farming may easily be a sheer loss. Let every reader further remember that he cannot expect anybody but himself and his brother farmers to bother their heads about his marketing problems. Therefore if you are out to sell your products at a profit, get to work. When the more active farmers and the officers of your associations take steps to launch a pool don't adopt the viewpoint of the onlooker. These pools are being started so that you instead of getting nothing a day may get $5 a day for your work. It is your business in the most literal sense.

COMMON OBJECTIVE

Must Get Rid of Human Parasites to Improve Affairs in Canada.

MANY DO NOTHING USEFUL

"He That Would Not Work, Neither Shall He Eat"—What of "Deadheads"?

[By Socialist]

SURELY we socialists have a common objective which may be easily defined. We often differ as to the means to be used to attain our object, but we are in fair agreement as to the sort of society that we seek to bring about.

Our common objective, I take it, is to get rid of human parasites, to bring about a condition of affairs in Canada, where each boy or girl growing up in the country, or any immigrant entering it, will know that he or she will have to do some really useful work to pay for the goods and services that he or she is bound to consume.

All Consumers

There is not the least doubt that we are all consumers and deeply indebted from day to day to our fellow citizens; but a great many of us are doing nothing useful in return, even although we always pay hard cash for everything we buy.

We get the money we use in many ways. Some rob banks or "hold up" their fellow citizens, some take to bootlegging, some peddle real estate or drugs, some are financial magnates or magnets, whilst others shovel muck or hoe potatoes. However the money has been attained it at once becomes respectable, and, if there is only enough of it, it may even become capital and its owner a capitalist (something of the nature of a multiplying-onion I may explain to simple farmer folk).

This then is one of the ideas that we must proceed to get rid of, that having money is a title to a dinner. Your only real title to a dinner is that you have done something useful to earn it.

St. Paul understood the matter well and his very radical doctrine has not been improved upon by any modern socialist. "He that would not work neither shall he eat."

If the possession of money is no sure guide as to who is entitled to eat a meal, or sleep in a bed, or ride in a train, we must set to work to find out some better test.

The Only Test

The only possible test that we human beings can apply is the very simple and obvious one of keeping an account with each individual. The politicians are fond of assuring us just before election that they are business men and most anxious to conduct the affairs of the nation in a "businesslike manner". Let us bring them to the test and put it up to them by asking each one how he proposes to get rid of our deadheads.

This is the first and most important question; do not let it be sidetracked. It is practical politics. It must be placed before all other questions, even the great question of reorganizing the country is secondary to this, and not to attend to it first is like a farmer trying to grow cabbage in a field infested with cut worms and gophers.

We shall hear all sorts of plausible gentlemen before long anxious to give the farmers "cheap money," to cut down freight rates, to raise the tariff, or lower the tariff. Bring these highly gaseous balloons down to solid earth by insisting that they answer this fundamental question.

How do you intend to get rid of our "deadheads"?

ELECTRICAL POWER

Ontario's Electric Railway and Power Systems Amount to $242,000,000.

IN OPERATION 16 YEARS

Liabilities Not Increased in Same Proportion as Assets—Bills Reduced.

THE scale of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power commision's operations may be guaged to some extent from an outline of its financial position. Total investments in power undertakings and electric railways amount to $179,000,000, while investment in distributing systems and kindred assets amount to $63,000,000, making a grand total of $242,000,000. This, it should be stated, is the position at the end of sixteen years' operation. Year by year the general revenue has increased to a remarkable degree. Annual surpluses, after providing for all possible cost of operation, including an adequate depreciation charge, have increased until in 1923 the combined surpluses amounted to $1,094,000; an increase of more than 35 per cent. over the best previous year. The total plant value has increased from $10,000,000 in 1913 to $48,400,000 in 1923, and total assets from $12,000,000 to $63,000,000. Liabilities have not increased in the same proportion as assets during this period, the increase being from $10,500,000 to $39,000,000. This is accounted for by the fact that much of the cost of increasing plant value has been financed out of "surplus" or "reserve" accounts without increasing the liabilities of the various systems.

In 1923 the revenue collected from consumers exceeded the full cost of generating and transmitting power and providing for all operating expenese and fixed charges of municipal utility plants by $346,000. This amount was returned to the municipalities and applied in the reduction of their power bills for the year.

The satisfactory financial condition of the Commission's activities is also reflected by an automatic reduction in the debenture debt, due to the annual principal or sinking fund payments being provided out of revenue. Some 54 municipalities may be considered as being already out of debt, the total assets exceeding in value the total liabilities, including the debenture balance.

Real Thrill

"There's no thrill in an armament race." Rats. Observes the ecstatic faces of the contractors.—Vancouver Sun.

Tax on Cheques

The amount collected in the fiscal year last closed by the Canadian government under the tax requiring stamps to be affixed to cheques was $9,321,890.82.

Force is not argument. It only aggravates the situation.—Disraeli.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS expected that The Federationist will have an important announcement to make to its readers next week. It is an announcement, we feel sure, that will be of great importance to the Farmer-Labor movement throughout this province.

BIG MINING MERGER

Involving 4306 Acres Mineral Lands in Park City District, Utah.

COMPETITION FROWNED AT

Consolidation Undertaken to Insure More Economical Operation.

SALT LAKE CITY—One of the largest mergers in the history of western mining, involving 4306 acres of mineral lands, in the heart of the famous Park City district, the producer of over $225,000,000 in gold, silver and lead, is announced here.

Though we have always been taught during the years that have past that competition was the life of trade, it would now appear that even some of the most ardent advocates of this principle are seeing the error of their way. They believe in co-operation among themselves, but they do not believe that labor should co-operate.

The consolidation is undertaken to insure more economical operation, improved marketing facilities, eliminate some of the vexatious tax burdens and utilize favorable contracts held severally by the companies interested.

It is to be hoped that the idea will spread still further and that even labor will follow in their footsteps.

SLOGAN 'EAT MORE FRUIT'

Organized B. C. Fruit-Growers About to Inaugurate Sales Campaign.

The Canadian Council of Agriculture, in co-operation with organized fruit growers, is about to inaugurate a campaign throughout the dominion having for it slogan "eat more fruit."

The campaign will not be financed by subscriptions but the cost will largely be borne by the growers and the trade on the basis of a small fixed deduction per package of fruit handled. Wholesale dealers have also promised to assist the campaign by contributing on an equal basis.

HELPING CHILDREN

Miss Anna Strong Raises Considerable Money for Russian Children.

CONTRIBUTIONS OFFERED

Miss Ada Flomenbaum of Berkeley Leaves for Russia Next July.

THE many admirers of Anna Louise Strong, for her work among the Russian children, will be pleased to learn that she has raised about $3000 in cash and some $2000 in pledges for the John Reed children's colony and others like it in Russia. (All this in addition to her regular lecture fees. This latter enabled her to pay for her trip from Moscow and return, and thus enabled her to do her money-raising at her own expense.)

Besides this, she has had all kinds of contributions offered in service. These are exceedingly valuable, but a little money is needed to make them available. Ada Flomenbaum of Berkeley, who speaks Russian even better than English, a graduate pharmacist, thoroughly trained in all varieties of tailoring, cutting and sewing, is going over to Russia in July. She is paying her own way and is offering to work at the regular Russian wage of $15 per month. She has also studied playground work. Miss Strong is anxious to get something like $1000 for establishing playgrounds along the Volga. Mrs. Sutta of New York is giving a playground library. Several others have offered their services, and, if material can be made available for them to work with when they go, much good will be done. It is the raising of the necessary funds to enable the material to be provided that hampers progress in this connection.

Miss Strong is anxious to accomplish something really worth while for the Russian comrades. All who are willing to assist by contributing should send such contributions to Miss Strong's father, Dr. Sydney Strong, 508 Garfield street, Seattle, Wash.

Concert and Dance

A concert and dance will be held in the G. W. V. A. hall, Kingsway and Joyce road, on Friday evening, May 29th, in aid of the Nova Scotia miners relief fund. The committee in charge of same was formed at the instigation of the G. W. V. A. and the Collingwood branch of the Federated Labor Party. An invitation is extended to all friends and sympathizers in the cause.

British Coal

The average price of the British coal exported during 1924 was $4.65 per ton of 2,240 pounds, free on board.

Liberty, I am told is a divine thing. Liberty when it becomes the "liberty to die by starvation," is not so divine. —Carlyle.

PRINCIPLES OF POOLING

Fundamentals Upon Which Saskatchewan Grain Pools Are Being Organized.

Following are the fundamental principles upon which the Saskatchewan grain pools are being organized:

1. Organization by commodity.
2. Nobody but bona-fide growers as members.
3. One man, one vote. The Association is controlled by the directors who are elected and controlled by the delegates who are in turn controlled and elected by the individual members.
4. The system of election is more effective than the recall. Directors and delegates can only be elected for one year at a time. The recall is also provided for.
5. A legal binding contract effective, originally for five years.
6. Products are polled by type and grade. Each member gets the same price for the same kind and grade of grain.

B. C.'s Mite

The revenue contributed to the dominion government by the nine provinces for year ending March 31, 1925, amounted to $305,945,251.35, to which gigantic sum British Columbia contributed $23,308,440.42.

Cant is properly a double-distilled lie, the second power of a lie.—Carlyle.

OPIUM IN INDIA

This Debasing Traffic More or Less Forced Upon the Indian People.

AMERICAN DELEGATION

Defeated at Geneva by Obstinacy of British Officialdom in India.

SOME time ago the whole civilized world was more or less startled by the utterances of some of the representatives at Geneva, regarding the matter of opium in India. We were lead to believe that in India they used opium like we use tea and coffee here; that they, as a nation, were more or less opposed to any interference with the growing of opium there. Anyone who will take the trouble to read the references in the publication, entitled "Young India," edited by Mahatma Gandhi, will realise that a very annoying slur has been cast upon the good name of the Indian people.

The facts are these: The American government at Geneva proposed that the cultivation of opium be restricted to the medical requirements of mankind. The All-India National congress, the National Liberal federation, the National Christian council, the All-India Social conference, have all passed resolutions accepting the American proposals. Mr. Campbell rejects these with scorn at Geneva. Sir Basil Blackett openly flouts them in the assembly. The government of India insists on its own policy being carried through. All this is done flagrantly, shamelessly, in face of the Indian public opinion—just as in the certification of the salt tax and the refusal to reduce the military budget. In Assam, the legislative council passed a resolution for the restriction of opium, but the government put it to sent to prison by hundreds for attempting to carry out opium reforms, one side. Temperance reformers were Yet the government itself repeatedly declares, that it, and it, alone, represents the will of the people, and that Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore and other social leaders and workers do not count.

Time after time, since November 17, 1924, the American delegation has been defeated at Geneva by the obstinacy of British officialdom in India. Lord Robert Cecil has been won over to the official view, and refuses to listen to the voice of the Indian people. Doubtless, in the years that are to come, there will be recorded in history, a declaration regarding the part that the British government has played in connection with more or less forcing this debasing traffic upon the Indian people, much against their will. The lesson that was gained in China apparently is not enough. The capitalist interest must have their profits, no matter if human life and comfort and happiness must be sacrificed for them to gain their objective. There is nothing new about this indifference on their part, we can see it at home as well as abroad. The attitude towards the lives of the miners and their wives and children down in Cape Breton is on the same order.

All Being Consumed

I entirely agree that we are all consumers in this world, and in Canada we are not only consumers, but under the present policy of the government we are all being consumed.—Hon. Arthur Meighan.

Luck is ever waiting for something to turn up. Labor, with keen eyes and strong will, will turn up something. Luck relies on chance, Labor on character.—Cobden.

AGREEMENT SIGNED

By Representatives As Between English and Russian Trades Unions.

OPINION AGAINST SOVIETS

Passages in Manifesto Advertises Sad Condition of European Workers.

THE most important international news to labor is the signing of an agreement between the English and Russian trade unions. Opinion in England, as everywhere else, is still hostile to the Soviets mainly because it is hostile to a new idea, because it is ignorant of the Russian mentality, in fact. Once put people in direct touch with Russia and what Russia is doing, and, without expecting any outlandishness in the way of genuflections, you will get sympathy for the Russians and an understanding of the things which they are setting themselves to do.

Workers Agree

And now Russian working-class representatives have met our own trade union leaders across the table and arrived at a mutual basis of future international industrial action. Joint efforts, as provided in the procedure laid down by the two parties, are to beb made to induce the Second (Amsterdam) International to agree, in all good will, to a free, unconditional, and immediate conference with representatives of the Russian trade union movement. Not much, perhaps, but a beginning. The agreement manifesto contains some striking passages which help to advertise the sad condition of the European worker since the war. "Millions of men and women are unemployed. Wages, never sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living have been reduced by 20 per cent., 30 per cent., and in some cases, 40 per cent.

Bosses Repudiate War Promises

The standard of life in most European countries is now well below prewar level. . . The pledges of politicians and the promises of capitalists have been cynically repudiated. Already it would appear that a new war more terrible than any known hitherto, is being prepared. New weapons of destruction are being devised; the chemists and scientific thinkers of the world are devoting their skill to inventing further deviltries of war. And there is but one power that can save the world from tumbling to irreparable disaster—the power of the workers, internationally organized for peace and full economic security." Wise words. Words which, whether you like bolshevism or whether you don't, will be proved within the next fifty years.

Saskaktchewan General Elections

The provincial general elections of Saskatchewan will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd. Nominations will be made on Tuesday, May 26th.

ALBERTA GETS IN SHAPE

Farmer's Wheat Pool to Support Dairy, Poultry and Livestock Pools.

The Alberta Wheat Pool has promised its support, together with an offer of assistance of one of its officials, to the joint committee of the dairy, livestock and poultry pools of that province, according to a recent announcement.

The joint organization committee of the pools will ask for the support of the boards of trade and the various service clubs of the cities and towns, and the agricultural societies, in the drive to secure membership for the Alberta dairy, livestock and poultry pools. The prairie provinces evince keen interest in this new co-operative scheme.

Government Will Not Help Cape Breton Miners

Mr. J. S. Woodsworth: (Q) Mr. Speaker, in view of the reports that the situation in Cape Breton is becoming more acute, is it possible that the government will re-consider its position and interfere on behalf of the people there? Premier W. L. MacKenzie King: (A). . . The government's position remains just what it has been from the start.

Police May Unite

A Montreal news despatch states that Justice Coderre has set aside an order by the city chief executive disbanding the policemen's union. In declaring this order illegal, the court said that the dispute between the city and the police could have been settled by provincial law, made for this purpose. The dispute dates back to September, 1922, when municipal employees attempted to organize to improve conditions. They have been opposed by the common council and the city executive.

The remedy for the evils of liberty is more liberty.—MacCaulay.

Liberty before property; the man before the dollar.—Lincoln.

Workers! Support Your Own Press!

SO FREQUENTLY we hear workers complaining about the injustice of the "daily" or "capitalist" press, and about how unfair it is toward the cause of labor—and yet they continue to give their hard-earned money to perpetuate that institution.

YOUR OWN OPPRESSORS

The capitalist press today is thriving on the one and five-cent pieces of thoughtless—or ignorant—workers, while their own press has to struggle against long odds in its efforts to serve them. Why be your own oppressors? Why serve in the ranks of the enemy?

THE REMEDY IS SIMPLE

If you are desirous of improving your own condition, and that of your fellowmen, then support the press that is honestly endeavoring to fight your battle for you. That is the very least you can do for **your own cause.**

BE A "REAL" BOOSTER FOR LABOR

Show your own sincerity of purpose and willingness to serve by subscribing for The Federationist—**the workers' friend.** Pass your copy on to some fellow-worker after you have read it. **Urge him to subscribe.**

Help **The Federationist** in its fight for the emancipation of mankind.

The greater our circulation, the more effectual will our efforts be. **Apathy and indifference on the part of the workers is more to be feared than the antagonism of the forces of reaction.**

Be true to your cause! Help boost your own press.

B. C. FEDERATIONIST

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British Columbia Federationist

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FRIDAY.....May 22, 1925

AMAZING APATHY

IN another column we print a letter from our correspondent "A Retail Clerk" which we commend to our readers as emphatic of the remarkable want of movement and action among those most interested.

If the shop assistants wish to retain the comparative freedom and hours they have enjoyed for the last year or two, they must be prepared to make sacrifices, combine and move in their full strength. It is most evident that subtle but powerful movement is afoot to get more hours out of the shop workers and a very serious menace threatens that must be fought at once.

Another point must be remembered, the influx of this sort of labor into B. C. and Vancouver especially will be a strong weapon in the hands of the big employer to cut wages—not that they will bear much pruning—but, retail clerks, assistants, all such workers for goodness sake wake up, this lethargy and "letting George-do-it" process wil get you nowhere; you will find the bonds tightening round you quickly enough, then you will wonder why and grumble.

The movement is in your own hands, wake up and do things. Get in touch with you association and enrol at once and get busy!

STAY HOME!

AT A recent convocation in the East students were strongly urged to remain in Canada, rather than to go to some foreign country, to spend the rest of their lives. The wonderful opportunities awaiting them here was pointed out.

All this sounds wonderful. It appeals to the patriotic spirit, but it does not supply the necessities of life to anyone. Canadians, like all others, are anxious, yes eager, to remain in the land of their birth, and, no doubt, those who have migrated, would be happy to return again, when in return for their labor, they feel and know that a livelihood for themselves, and dependents, awaits them.

Starving at home is probably as disagreeable as starving in a foreign land. Certainly, however, it is worse than having to live, and acquire a few of the essentials in a foreign land.

Until Canada rids herself of her blood-sucking parasites, reduces her taxation, and regains for her people the natural resources that are being, and have been, stolen or squandered, and are now in the hands of speculators, the young people are going to be forced to go elsewhere to gain their livelihood. No amount of talk can stop them.

If you are really in sympathy with labor, be a booster. The Federationist is out to do its bit. Help it.

POLITICAL HEBETUDE

Workers Should Return More Members to the House of Commons.

NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION

Labor Party Ought To Be Busy Now Working to That End.

[Editorial Alberta Labor News]

A DETERMINED effort should be made by labor throughout Canada to elect additional representatives to Ottawa in the forthcoming federal election. Any person who has followed the proceedings of the present session of parliament must come to the conclusion that Messrs. Woodsworth and Irvine, who are labor's only official spokesmen in the house of commons, have done a work for labor, the value of which can hardly be estimated.

It will be many years before labor will be in a position to form a government in the Dominion of Canada. But it need not be so many years before the labor representatives at Ottawa have an oportunity to wield a tremendous influence in federal affairs. There is no reason in the world why there should not be twenty labor members in the next parliament. That is, there is no reason except the apathy and indifference of the workers themselves.

Any member of the labor movement who has the idea that representatives of the old parties can serve him as well as a labor representative, should familiarize himself with the proceeding at Ottawa. The number of members of the house who take an attitude in the debates and votes which would be agreeable to a labor man is small. Hardly any of the members of parliament elected as representatives of the old parties ever take up labor's battle in any particular. There is only one solution for that kind of a situation and that is that labor should have its own representatives. The labor party throughout Canada should be busy right now working to that end.

BOOK REVIEW

THE AMERICAN LABOR YEAR BOOK; Volume vi, 1925; 7x5 in.; 510 pp.; by Rand School of Social Science. Rand Book Store, 7 East Fifteenth street, New York City. Cloth, $3.

THIS work is an encyclopedia and compendium of the international union and labor political movement, containing chapters as follows: (1) Industrial and Social conditions, (2) Trade union organization, (3) Labor disputes, (4) Labor politics (5) Labor Legislation, (6) Court decisions affecting labor, (7) Civil Liberties, (8) Workers' education, (9) Labor banking, (10) Co-operation, (11) Public ownership, (12) International relations of labor, (13) Labor abroad, (14) Death roll of 1924, (15) Recent books and pamphlets on labor subjects, (16) International labor directory. It is the foremost reference book on the workers' movement of the world and is of great value to everyone interested in the welfare of the masses. For correctness and trustworthiness it is second to none in the treatment of facts and figures bearing on the labor question. Solon De Leon, director; Nathan Fine, associate.

QUESTION BOX

[Note—As many enquiries reach this office from time to time, the editor will reserve space to deal with such matters, under the above heading. Communications addressed to "Notes and Queries Editor" will be handled as quickly as space permits. —Ed.]

G. BENNETT: Thomas Grey's "Elegy" is too long for us to print in its entirety. Get a copy of "Grey and his Poetry," by W. H. Hudson, or you can see a copy in the public library; you will find a critical and very interesting analysis of the "Elegy" therein.

O. ANDERSON: We have referred to this subject frequently. The I. L. P., London, publish a remarkable pamphlet on the "Capitalist Press of Britain," detailing how the big papers are controlled by interests—in fact, the whole of the press of Britain is so controlled. It is much the same here and everywhere; the only remedy is for labor to make the sacrifice and get their own press, wherein the true story of happenings can be published.

J. WATSON: Read "News From Nowhere," by William Morris; "New Worlds for Old," by H. G. Wells. Reply to further queries later.

L. A., New Westminster: It is found in Edward Bellamy's "Equality" a remarkable work, although not so widely read as "Looking Backward."

REPLIES to "Disgrutled" and others next week.

Defined at Last

Jimmy is three years old and very fond of telling his dreams at the breakfast table. One morning his father thinking to apply an intelligence test, said:

"But Jimmy, I don't believe you know what a dream is."

Jimmy's answer came quick and sure:

"Yes, I do. It's moving pictures while you're asleep."—The Congregationalist.

ACROSS THE POND

The Truth About the Dole

Well does Mr. Churchill know—or if he does not, he is singularly ill-informed—that (1) Unemployment insurance, bulgarly known as the dole, is a right to which an unemployed man or woman is entitled by law; they have bought it, paid for it; and there ought to be no more stigma attaching to its receipt than there is to an endowment or sickness or compensation or death benefit payment from an insurance company. (2) When the term of unemployed benefit is expired and the unemployed man or woman has still failed to secure work, there is provided what is called uncovenated benefit.

But neither unemployment benefit nor the uncovenanted unemployed benefit are paid unless it is proven that the recipient is unable to procure work.

* * *

Who Won the War?

This is how the reparation policy of the Dawes report affects the British miners in markets which used to take British coal: "How very serious the position has become, particularly in South Wales, is contained in the announcement made by the Italian State Railways that their Cardiff office is to be closed forthwith. It is estimated that the closing of the Italian buying office will throw an additional 10,000 to 12,000 mine workers out of employment. Whereas at one time we exported 2,500,000 tons of coal a year to Italy, for more than 12 months we have not sent a single ton. It is only a month since the French State Railways closed their Cardiff coal buying office after 32 years."

German reparation coal is being sold in Belgium at ten francs less than the Belgium miners can produce it.

* * *

The Gold Standard

Says Professor J. M. Keynes in the Nation:

"Unless the situation is saved by a rise of prices elsewhere, the chancellor is committing us to a policy of forcing down money wages by perhaps two shillings in the pound sterling. I do not believe that this can be achieved without the gravest danger to industrial profits and industrial peace. I would much rather leave the gold value of our currency where it was some months ago than embark on a struggle with every trade union in the country to reduce money-wages. It seems to me wiser and simpler and saner to leave the currency to find its own level for some time longer than to force a situation where employers are faced with the alternative of closing down or of lowering wages, cost what the struggle may."

WANT MORE SOLDIERS

Paris Petit Journal Advocates Military Service for Both Sexes.

Discussing France's loss of population through the increase of deaths over births, the Petit Journal, in a recent editorial suggested that eventually the government would be forced to make girls be soldiers "to defend the country in case of invasion."

"Soldiers knapsacks are no heavier to carry than a market basket," says the article. "Men are becoming rarer in France, and we must organize battalions of amazons. Military service for both sexes is the sole remedy against depopulation."

French imperialism halts at nothing. Not even the famous bourgeois "sanctity of the woman" is safe from its rapacious hunger for profits.

WHERE?

[Written for The B. C. Federationist]

Whom shall we worship? Where, O where is he?
Thus asks the eager youth of modern India.
O call him with the call of heart, and he,
Who is with thee, will show himself to thee!
Shake off the river of ambitious thoughts—
Of greed, enjoyment, fame or power—and thou
Wilt know his seat is in the cave of heart.
In thee he lives, but thou hast not yet learnt
The lesson of forgetfulness. In thee
The Master's light doth shine, but thou
Remembered yet thyself. No space, no soul,
But his breath's there, as fragrance in the flower.

—J. C. Goho.

Be Noble and Honorable

If the state is governed by the principles of reason and justice, speak boldly and worthily, act nobly and honorably. If the state is not governed by justice and reason, still act nobly and honorably, but speak moderately and with precaution.—Confucius.

Unemployment Insurance

During the year 1924 the contributions to the British unemployment insurance fund comprised: State, £13,210,000; employers, £19,510,000; workers, £17,340,000.

Exodus of Carpenters

An exodus of carpenters leaving for the United States is reported from Sydney district of Nova Scotia, with resultant embarrassment to local construction work.

The Federationist is out to help the workers. There is no nobler work. Join us in the fight. Get your friends to subscribe.

OUT-OF-WORK PROBLEM

Agitation for Shorter Hours Education of Employers Rather Than Workers.

In all the years which have passed since the first establishent of the eight hours movement in New South Wales, the agitation for shorter hours has really been an education of the employers rather than of the workers.

Justice Higgins, in his favorable judgment on the 44-hour week, suggested this in these words: "So long as the employer has the sole right of dictating what is to be produced, what quantities, what is to be sold, and at what prices; so long as the employees feel that the more they produce the sooner comes unemployment; so long, in fact, as the unemployment problem remains unsolved, and the power of the employer on these matters remains so autocratic, so long will sound forecasts of output be impossible."

"Sound forecasts of output" are of as great importance, if not greater, to the employer as to the worker.—Melbourne Labor Call.

IS MISREPRESENTATION

London Despatch Forecasts Fresh Soviet Effort Against the British Empire.

[By John Pickenshovel

Recently a despatch from London appeared in the local press to the effect that a fresh soviet effort against the British empire is forecasted and that attempts may be made to create trouble in the dominions. It would be interesting for us to learn when did Premier MacKenzie King start to take orders from Mascow? We haven't heard of it or are we likely to. We have heard in a round about way, that he and his party are not enamoured with anything savoring of British imperialism, but they have not been accused as yet of receiving filthy bolshevik lucre. But maybe it is the Communists that are suspected of trying to destroy our empire. From what we are able to learn from the Communists we have met, they have as little love to bestow, or anw tears to shed for either London or Ottawa governments.

In the course of time, the far-flung British empire may fall as have all other empires. Events have been shaping themselves for quite a number of years, and, long before the soviet government was ever thought of, whereby the British empire would be modified, if not annihilated, by the development of economic and political independence among its integral parts. But why blame the soviet government for it?

It is perfectly nauseating, if it were not amusing to be reading such balderdash from day to day, and it would be interesting to learn whether they actually think the reading public of Vancouver are so devoid of reason as to actually believe such stuff.

Longshoremen's Agreement

The syndicate of longshoremen at Montreal and the steamship agencies have signed an agreement as to working hours and wages, affecting the 4000 dock workers, which is to be operative until the end of this year.

Farm Labor Needed

It is reported that farmers throughout the province of Ontario are calling for experienced help.

LETTERS TO THE FED.

[The opinions and ideas expressed by correspondents are not necessarily endorsed by The Federationist, and no responsibility for the views expressed is accepted by the management.]

Organize the Farmers

Editor of B. C. Federataionist: It was with a great deal of interest and satisfaction that I read Mr. Jack Loggie's article on the C.L.P. convention. I heartily agree with him that "the time is ripe for an advance which will put the political wing of the labor movement on a solid and permanent basis." This can only be done by organizing the farmers of British Columbia into a real farmers' party to work in conjunction with the B. C. Federated Labor Party. To accomplish this, you must start an honest-to-goodness campaign of education. You must organize any political party long enough before election day, if success is to be obtained at the polls. You can't sit around and expect to win at the polls with a brass band on election day. But you can win, provided you have a united party in fighting shape before polling day arrives. The other fellows have the daily papers supporting them the year round, and carrying on propaganda work most effectively, while the working class has only its weekly paper. Even it could be made a power for good, if it were big and broad enough for the work. But bear this fact in mind, you cannot make much headway in the labor movement without the assistance of a paper. Why not circulate The Federationist freely among the farmers, thereby enlisting their friendship and support? Don't forget that the Dominion elections are near at hand. Yours truly,

FISHERMAN.

New Westminster, B.C., May 21, 1925.

The British Budget and Income Tax

Editor B.C. Federationist: Residents in Canada deriving any income from Great Britain will be delighted at the new budget, as the income tax remissions are very real. Briefly they are as follows: "Reduction in the standard rates of tax from 4s. 6d., to 4s. in the £. Relief to 'earned' income increased from one-tenth to one-sixth. Treatment of all income of persons over 65 years of age as 'earned' where total income does not exceed £500. In the case of married persons this applies if either spouse is of the age stated."

The following instances will show the reductions more clearly. It is assumed in each case that a married couple without children is concerned:

Income	Last Year's Tax	This Year's Tax
£ 300...	£ 5 1 3	£ 2 10 0
400...	15 3 9	10 16 8
1,000...	126 11 3	99 3 4

Prima facie it would not appear that in the case of income "earned" in Canada the amount of repayment on the British "investment" income would be affected, but owing to peculiar nature of the rebates allowed, extra relief is in fact given to persons not resident in the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,

WILFRED T. FRY

13 Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, S. W. 1, May 9, 1925.

Retail Clerks and Late Closing

Editor B. C. Federationist: There is in existance an organization called The Retail Clerks association, whose object is to try and keep the store hours as they are at present, that is to keep the half- holiday and the 6 o'clock closing on Saturdays.

I wonder if the retail clerks realize that the half-holiday is menaced?

It is rumored that there is to be a bill introduced at the next session of the legislature to do away with the half-holiday. The thin edge of the wedge has already been inserted with regard to the early closing. Grocery stores can now remain open as long as they like, and we cannot tell how long before that will apply to all other stores. And yet the retail clerks on the whole are asleep, and cannot see that they are in danger of losing all that their fellow-workers, a few years ago, fought so long and hard to obtain.

A short while ago, the association held a mass meeting for the retail clerks. The Rev. Mr. Craig kindly gave his time to come and speak to and help the clerks, and how many gave up their time that evening to help or show their interest? About 40! Wake up, wake up, retail clerks. If you do not try and help yourselves now to hold what you have, you may find before long that it is too late. As was said at that meeting, it is of no use to lock the stable door after the horse has gone.

A RETAIL CLERK

Vancouver, B. C., May 21, 1925.

WAR MEANS DESTRUCTION

Geneva Conference Holds Poison Gas Not in Accord With Civilization.

[By J. L. M.]

At a recent conference held in Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations to deal with the international traffic in arms and munitions, the question of the use of poison gas was discussed. Its use is considered not to be in accordance with civilization. That is quite right. Warfare should be a "glorified" kind of proposition. It should be organized on a pink tea basis, so that no one would get hurt. But it so happens that wars are not so intended. The function of war is to destroy, and the victorious forces are those who do the most destroying. But apparently to the potentates, who occasionally meet at Geneva, it makes all the difference in the world how people get killed and wounded.

It is awful to get killed by poison gas, but the same delegates to the conference do not want the same limitations applied to such things as revolvers, warships, submarines and aeroplanes. There are reasons for that. There are U. S. A. warships anchored off the shores of Morocco at present for some reason or other. Maybe to enforce the "Monroe Doctrine," or some other form of "self determination". Then again revolvers may be bad things to use in war, though they often come in handy during strikes or unemployed riots. Aeroplanes are also considered necessary to break up unemployed riots. And furthermore, it is not long ago that one of the American periodicals published pictures of gas masks to be used by the police in that country when quqelling a mob.

From this it is apparent, that in the next war, the non-combatants may get the worst of it, and as in the last war, the makers of these instruments of destruction will get the best of it. That is assuming that before the next war is attempted, the people will wake up from the illusion as to the main purpose for which they are made.

Convey to other persons none of my words, except those ye know of a surety.—Mahomet.

I hate nothing except hatred.—Anatole France.

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Consumptive Cases

There were 79,388 cases of tuberculosis reported in England during 1923. This was an increase on the two preceding years. 18,158 patients are receiving residential institutional treatment.

Employees To Be Dismissed

A Berlin news cable says that as a measure of economy, the German railway administration announces 30,000 employees will soon be dismissed. The railways now employ 765,000 persons.

Oh! War, thou son of hell.—Shakespeare.

TEACHERS WANTED

TEACHERS wishing to be considered for appointment in the Vancouver Schools must have their applications filed with the undersigned not later than May 31st. Only applications received by June 30th will be considered in July, except those for certain special positions.

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Any district in British Columbia desiring information re securing speakers or the formation of local branches, kindly communicate with Provincial Secretary J. Lyle Telford, 524 Birks Bldg., Vancouver, B. C. Telephone Seymour 1382, or Bayview 5520.

BAKERY SALESMEN, LOCAL 371—Meets second Thursday every month in Holden Building. President, J. Brightwell; financial secretary, H. A. Bowron, 939—11th Avenue East.

CIVIC EMPLOYEES UNION—Meets first and third Fridays in each month, at 445 Richards Street. President, David Cuthill, 2852 Albert Street; secretary-treasurer, Geo. Harrison, 1182 Parker Street.

ENGINEERS — INTERNATIONAL UNION of Steam and Operating, Local 882—Meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m., Room 806 Holden Bldg. President, Charles Price; business agent and financial secretary, F. L. Hunt; recording secretary, J. T. Venn.

MUSICIANS' MUTUAL PROTECTIVE UNION, Local 145, A. F. of M.—Meets in Cotillion Hall, corner of Davie and Granville streets, second Sunday at 10 a.m. President, E. A. Jamieson, 991 Nelson Street; Secretary, J. W. Allen, 991 Nelson Street; Financial Secretary, W. E. Williams, 991 Nelson Street; Organizer, F. Fletcher, 991 Nelson Street.

THE VANCOUVER THEATRICAL FEDERATION—Meets at 991 Nelson Street, at 11 a.m. on the Tuesday preceding the 1st Sunday of the month. President, Harry Pearson, 991 Nelson Street; Secretary, E. A. Jamieson, 991 Nelson Street; Business Agent, F. Fletcher, 991 Nelson St.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, No. 226—President, R. P. Pettipiece; vice-president, C. F. Campbell; secretary-treasurer, R. H. Neelands, P. O. Box 66. Meets last Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. in Holden Building, 16 Hastings Street East.

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EAST INDIAN LIFE

Native Princes Rule As Despots Under British Protection in India.

POWERS OF FEUDATORIES

Without Schools or Hospitals—Population Veritable Mass of Illiterate Humanity.

[By an Indian.]

INDIA is divided into two distinct political parts. The one under the direct rule of Britain is known as British India, and the other ruled by native princes under British protection is called the Indian states. There are different standards of government for the two. The conditions obtaining in British India have, of late, been sufficiently laid bare to the view of the world outside, but the Indian states are still a mystery to it. The following account, which is typical, will afford a peep into the life under British protection in India:

Out of the seven hundred and odd Indian states, the most important group is governed by the Rajput race and is situated in Rajasthan, a name given to the provinces of Rajputans and Central India. Jaipur is one of these Rajput states, and is at present being governed by officers of the British government in the name of the minor prince. The system of administration is absolute monarchy carried on by hereditary rulers. There is no elected legislature or local bodies. A considerable portion of the state territories is held by feudatory chiefs, who pay annual tributes to Jaipur.

Act Like Medieval Autocrats

The powers of these feudatories are undefined and consequently unlimited and there are no salutary checks over them. The policy of the state is that of favoritism towards the aristocrats and of exploitation and criminal indifference towards the interests of the ordinary people. Every petty landholder regards himself with impunity the monarch of all he surveys, there being none to dispute his right to do wrong. They are not endowed with magisterial powers, but they exercise them to an extent and in a manner which may well be the envy of medieval autocrats.

The largest feudatory of the native state of Jaipur is Sikar. It has about 350 villages and five small towns under its jurisdiction. The population according to the last census is slightly below 200,000. The peasantry and labor form half the number. The soil is pure sand and yields only one harvest in the year. It fails more often than not and is seldom bountiful. The produce is dry corn and pulses. About half the produce is taken away by way of land revenue.

Beasts of Prey Enjoy Immunity

Around the capital town of Sikar there are reserved forests for hunting purposes for the chief. They abound in beasts of prey, which enjoy statutory immunity from shot by the peasant, but are free to work havoc with the fruits of his labor, i.e., the crops. The annual income of Sikar is, in Indian coin, about a million rupees (i.e. $325,000). Half of this amount represents the land revenue. The expenditure is only half the income and the lion's share of it is incurred for the maintenance of dignitaries. The savings are at the disposal of the chief, who is free to spend as much as he fancies on his personal tastes. During the last two years only the sum he has so squandered exceeds a year's income. He is illiterate and addicted to drink and expensive pleasure trips. Besides land tax, the chief levies taxes on each fireplace, each instrument of an artisan and uncultivated lands.

The poverty and ignorance of the people are appalling and epidemics levy horrible tolls. The sub-state of Sikar takes away half the produce from the agriculturist by land tax and extorts forced and unpaid labor for itself and its employees from the laboring classes, who are thus prevented from earning a full livelihood. Both these classes are consequently often on the verge of starvation.

No Schools Nor Hospitals

The chief maintains only one primary school and one small hospital at the capital town. He spends only $2500 on education and medicine. Not a single school or hospital is established by the chief in the hundreds of villages in his possession. The rural population is a veritable mass of illiterate humanity. There is no provision for sanitation, there being no municipality in the towns or the villages. They are stinking with the bad smell of dirt and refuse. The effects of epidemics in these circumstances are naturally devastating and people die in thousands for want of medical help and sanitary measures. There are no public roads excepti he few in the capital town which the chief has built for his own convenience.

Till last year Sikar used to sell its police and revenue by public auction to the highest bidder, who could make money out of crime and squeeze the peasant like anything. The sub-state had a queer way of turning thefts and robberies to good account by levying on all recoveries of stolen property a fourth part as its share. Now it allows its share to go to the offender who returns the property to the owner after retaining his wages. The police is saved the trouble of investigation and the offender all punishment. Justice is more a means of income than of punishment of crime, as sentences are more of fine than of imprisonment. Bribery and favoritism are also rampant.

Slavery Exists

The Englishman boasts of having driven away slavery for all time from his empire. But in the native states of India the evil does exist. He knows it, but only winks at it and throws the odium on the Indian prince, who is to all intents and purposes a mere tool in the Englishman's hands. Sikar also maintains a number of slaves. They are styled colas, barogas, etc. They are bartered as objects of dowry, and the chastity of their women-folk is ever at the mercy of aristocratic lust. They are allotted the hardest and the meanest tasks, but given the worst food and clothing. They can leave their masters only at the peril of persecution and prosecution. Infanticide or killing girl-babies is another evil that survives among the petty landholders of Sikar. The oppression and economic exploitation of the chief has so reduced them to penury that they cannot afford to defray the expenses of the marriages of their daughters, and hence they kill them in infancy. The recent imposition of a marriage levy on these landholders by the chief of Sikar must aggravate their economic distress and the consequent rise in infanticide.

In the Power of Official Tyrants

There is no liberty of speech, press or association in Sikar. The little that existed, not by right but by suffrance, has been wrested by the senior officer, who has recently been lent by the British government for a term of three years. The emoluments of this single officer exceed ten times the total expenditure of Sikar on public education and medicine! This official is a pet of the political department of the British government in India because he treats the officers of this department with sumptuous dinners and rich presents at the expense of Sikar. These officers in return support the senior officer's actions. He has, therefore, intrepidly proposed to increase the customs duties from two to thirty-two times the existing rates and has, contrary to the spirit of an agreement made last year, enhanced the land revenue by 25 per cent. The peasants expressed unwillingness or inability to pay at the enhanced rates. A number of these were arrested and subjected to barbarous physical tortures, such as burying their arms in the ground, committing to stocks and beating with shoes, etc. Those who escaped and proceeded to Jaipur to make representation to the superior authorities were victimized otherwise. They were deprived of their headmanship, their field produce was attached and their children arrested and women harassed.

Shameless Partiality

The superior authorities showed shameless partiality towards the senior officer of Sikar and turned a deaf ear to the peasant grievances. The Sikar official was emboldened all the more in his high-handedness. He arrested without warrant eighteen peasants for the only offense of assembling on the 4th March for the sake of proceeding to Jaipur a second time. On the 5th March he expelled as arbitrarily a public worker who was helping the peasants in getting redress. About the same time, this officer banned the entry into Sikar of a vernacular weekly that supported the peasant cause. No judicial proceedings were taken. The Jaipur authorities betrayed equal autocracy at his instance by deporting the editor of that paper from his home for all time without any trial. The peasants and laborers of Sikar have thus been deprived of not only all help from public journals and public bodies, but also of the only constitutional means at their disposal, namely, appeal to higher authorities. All this oppression and lawlessness is resorted to for preventing any organization from springing up among the toiling masses of Sikar.

These events are taking place under the eyes and with the connivance of British officials in India and have been published in the Indian papers. It is to be seen what action is taken by the labor members of the British parliament, who profess so much solicitude for the Indian masses.

Bad Language

It's a wonder money doesn't blush when made to talk the way it does by some people.—Des Moines Tribune.

"MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS"

A SUGGESTION TO TIRED FARMERS

THOSE individuals, or groups, wishing to get pamphlets which have just recently been printed are urged to send in their orders at once. There are only a limited number printed. They are the following:

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THE Hydro-Electric Power commission of Ontario is a public body which, as trustee for the province, controls all properties necessary for the generation and transmission of electricity. Electric energy is supplied in bulk, and at cost price to an ever increasing number of local authorities; 356 municipalities, townships and rural districts being supplied on this basis in 1923, according to the latest annual report of the commission. Municipalities enter by contract into a partnership for which the commission also acts as trustee. The commission links up these municipalities, adjudicating in the general interest between the various local requirements for power, and acting in an advisory capacity when called upon to do so. It also arranges for the purchase of existing privately-owned power stations and distributing systems, the construction and development of additional plant, assists municipal officials in making their financial arrangements, recommends all necessary power-suply rate adjustments and generally supervises local management when municipalities are too small to employ a competent manager. Laborities are equipped and maintained for research, and centralised testing and inspection of materials; the facilities and staff being further at the service of municipalities in connection with other technical problems coming within their scope.

The activities of the commission, using this term for the movement to include the partnership of municipalities, may be conveniently considered under two heads: (a) The generation and supply in bulk of energy to the various local authorities; (b) The distribution of this energy by local authorities to their consumers.

There are thirteen generating systems, many of which are already interlinked. As the name of the commission implies, most of the energy is obtained from water power. Of the total output for the year 1923, some 2,631,700,000 board of trade units were derived from 18 hydro-electric generating plants, 210,000,000 B. T. units were purchased from nine power companies, while only 708,000 B. T. units were generated by the commission's steam plants. The total length of transmission lines built up and acquired by the commission up to October, 1923, was approximately 4,000 miles.

The rate at which power is supplied to the various municipalities vary with the amount of power used and the distance from the source of supply. The entire capital cost of the various power developments and transmission systems is pro-rated annually to the connected municipalities according to the relative use made of lines and equipment.

Municipalities are not charged with expenses connected with equipment or plant from which they derive no benefit, or in which they are in no way interested. There is no burden on the taxpayers or non-users, and no avenue through which losses, should they occur, could be absorbed, except by a direct charge to the contracting municipalities for power supplied.

The sinking fund on debentures is treated as an operating expense, and therefore municipalities are not only paying interest on the investment but are also paying off the principal by means of a sinking fund. In addition they are providing for the perpetuity of the system through an adequate depreciation fund.

Average figures for the actual charges made to consumers are not available, but some indication may be obtained from the fact that in the case of 214 municipalities the price charged for domestic supply varies between a minimum of 1.3 cents. and a maximumu of 15 cents. The average charge made by these particular authorities works out at 4.8 cents. The wide variation in charges is largely due to the considerable distances over which, in many cases, power has to be transmitted.

Inequality and Injustice

What sort of society is this that has to the extent that ours has, inequality and injustice for its basis? Such a society is fit only to be kicked out through the windows—its banquet tables, its orgies, its debaucheries, its scoundrelisms, together with all those who are seated leaning on the backs of others, whom they keep down on all fours. The hell of the poor is the paradise the rich love to solace themselves in.—Victor Hugo.

Milkmen's Strike

Two thousand men employed as milk roundsmen in London, Eng., are on strike in an effort to enforce their demands for a $19.45 a week minimum wage, a six-day week, and fourteen days' holiday with pay. The men have asked the Executive of the Transport and General Workers' union, of which they are members, to give the strike official status.

Six 44 Hours for Civil Service

Hon. Mr. Stevens: (Q) Is it the intention of the government to introduce any legislation providing fixed labor laws for members of the Civil Service at 44 hours per week? Hon. Mr. Copp: (A) NO.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR

Tabloid Issued by United States Department of Labor, at Washington, D. C.

England

Housing Program.—The municipality of Coventry, which is an active manufacturing city of 128,000 inhabitants, about eighteen and one-half miles southeast of Birmingham, has decided upon a definite housing plan calling for the erecting of 1,694 houses, which will ease the present shortage. Assistance in the way of subsidies is expected from the National Government.

Germany

Employment Registrations.—According to figures published by the Government employment bureau, there is a slight but general decrease in the number of male and female applicants for placement and a corresponding increase in the number of positions available. The number of persons receiving unemployment doles is on the decline.

Factory Shut-downs.—The decrease in the number of shut-downs of factories in Saxony, which was appearent during the first part of March, 1925, as compared with February, continued during the second half of the month.

Japan

Emigration Association.—It is reported from Tokyo that an association has been founded in Japan with the object of encouraging the emigration of Japanese women to Brazil.

INTERROGATE BANKERS

As to Refusal of Money for Building Because of Mechanics' Wages.

The banking brethren of Washington, D.C., have become a bit nervous, says the Cleveland Citizen (labor). The Central Labor union sent special delivery letters to 47 bank presidents in the national capital reading in part as follows:

"Is your bank a party to any plan which has for its purpose the refusal to loan money for building enterprises based on the amount of wages paid to mechanics performing the labor on same? Failing to hear from you in the next few days will be cause for assuming that you acquise in this plan, and we will so list your institution."

This was a great shock to most of the bankers. "It's a very impertinent question," they chorused in the evening papers.

"Its none of the wage earners' business what we do with their money after they hand it over to us upon a promise to pay 3 per cent. interest," they echoed in the morning papers. The question arose when some of the building trade unions of Washington made a demand for wage improvements. Several of the contractors said they could not agree to this because the banks would withhold credit and refuse to advance the money necessary for pay rolls if they granted a wage increase to employees. The Machinist's Bank, which has been growing rapidly, entered a positive negative and it will grow still faster.

Help the press that's helping you. The daily, capitalist press is no friend of yours, comrade! Why help it?

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—Made from an extra heavy blue denim, cut extra roomy, with all seams reinforced, complete with safety rule and watch pockets. Sizes 32 to 44.
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—Made from an extra heavy white duck with double knees, all seams reinforced. Complete with all wanted pockets. Sizes 34 to 44. Price..... **$2.75**

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The most ignorant of men are the "practical" people.—Richard Jefferies.

Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime.—Aristole.

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Nanaimo and District

Wide interest is being manifested in the splendid Educational Articles now appearing as regular features in

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Official Organ of the
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JUST RECEIVED

THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH TRADE UNION DELEGATION TO RUSSIA—234 pages, with Maps and Illustrations. Price, $1.50 Post Free.

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63 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, B. C.

Farmer - Labor

The time has come when these two great groups must unite--- There must be a greater understanding of each others problems

BOTH GROUPS ARE BEING EXPLOITED. BOTH ARE BEING ROBBED OF THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR. BOTH ARE FEELING THE PINCH OF PRIVATION, SOME OF ACTUAL DESTITUTION. FOR EVERY EFFECT THERE IS A CAUSE. WE KNOW THE EFFECT; LET US SEEK THE CAUSE AND ERADICATE IT.

THERE never was a time in the history of the Dominion of Canada when the Farmers were finding it harder to bear up under their burdens than they are today. Why do such conditions exist? There is to be found in this Province of British Columbia soil that is unsurpassed for its productivity; a climate that is well adapted for the growing of an unlimited variety of farm products; the farmers themselves are a thrifty, industrious, hard-working group. As the result of all this, there are grown in this province fruit and vegetables and other farm products, world famed for their quality and appearance.

In spite of all this, such a state of affairs as is depicted in the following, taken from the Duncan report, published by the Department of Labor of the Dominion of Canada, exists.

TELLING EXCERPTS

Extract from a letter from A. C. Stephens at Vernon, who was collecting Summerland accounts:

"To W. E. Carruthers, Nash Supervisor, Calgary, Alta.:

"I sure stepped into a nest of hornets there, without knowing where I was going till I was up against them. The way feeling is running down there it is a wonder I got anything at all. Charlie Brosi was well spoken of, and the mutual organization generally, but it was largely a matter of a lot of them being right up against it, watching their families starving, and they just naturally turned 'red.' It is a bad time to ask a man for money or for a note."

Another extract: Mr. Snow, of Mutual Limited (Vancouver), writing to Carruthers, states as follows: "The writer is meeting the local growers daily, who are talking as though they were a bunch of starved Russian refugees."

Mr. Snow, to Mr. Carruthers, further quotes: "Do not think for a moment it gives the writer any pleasure to advance money to the growers. We would have been much better today if we did not have to worry about some of the advances we are continually being asked for. You ask if they are absolutely broke at Victoria. We do not see any difference between the Growers over there and those in any other place, only that they are just bent, not broke."

PLAYING ONE AGAINST THE OTHER

The people who have been living off the farmer and the industrial worker have been playing the one against the other. Long tirades have appeared in the public press for the consumption of the farmer, pointing out the short working hours and high wages which the city worker, it is claimed, through the medium of his various trade unions, has been able to command. This was the "red herring" that was drawn across the trail to divert the attention of the farmer from his real exploiters.

When, as is admitted by all, there is such a marked difference in price between that paid by the worker for the farmer's products, and that received by the farmer for those products, it is evident that the worker is little, if any, better off. It is obvious that a large amount of this "spread" is being absorbed along the way and in a manner that works equally to the disadvantage of both the worker and the farmer alike. Evidently the farmer is beginning to see this, as is shown by the following communication received by the Duncan Commission from a grower:

A RANCHER'S INVESTMENT

"* * * A rancher's investment brings him no interest, small or large, and his time is counted for nothing. Yet we go to Vancouver and elsewhere and see with our own eyes our fruit being sold at very high prices—yet we dare not spend a cent other than for dire necessities. * * * We must go on working or let our ranches die, or go elsewhere and earn money, as several are doing right here (I could give their names) to live and pay help to keep the trees alive."

CO-OPERATION

Another thing that the farmer is beginning to see is the benefits that accrue to him through co-operation. The following extract from the Duncan report: "The producers of British Columbia may be classified as organized and unorganized, and are known as co-operatives and independents. The co-operative associations, which represent an achievement in organization, have made possible what slight amelioration there has been in the condition of the growers. The independents are enabled in some cases to avoid certain of the overhead to which the co-operatives are subject, but, in so doing, they take the benefits created by their fellow-growers without contrributing to the cost; and, in many cases, by their unregulated marketing seriously disorganize the market for both parties. Like some fungus, they sap the strength of the tree which shelters them."

FARMER AND INDUSTRIAL WORKER

The problem that confronts alike the farmer and the industrial worker is how to free themselves from the control of the big financial interests that are today robbing them of the fruits of their labor, without rendering any necessary service to society. As the necessary factors in production, there are two parallel paths by which the farmer and the worker must proceed to become the masters of their own destiny. First, through co-operation in the production and distribution of the fruits of their labor. Second, by co-operating upon the political field, securing control of the various legislative bodies.

THE FIRST STEP

A Dominion election is a possibility during this year, and must come in 1926. As a first step, the farmers should organize on a political basis for the purposes of united action on their own behalf. It is a case of "their minding their own business." They have allowed the old-time politicians to run their affairs quite long enough and now they should take a hand in it themselves.

LABOR WILL CO-OPERATE

We are quite sure that labor will meet them more than half way. We would suggest that the matter of organization of the farmers be left in their own hands. They understand the conditions as they exist in their own localities and can the better organize to meet their particular needs. With a programme of co-operation they will, undoubtedly, find that labor will be more than ready and willing to co-operate with them.

WRITE THE B. C. FEDERATIONIST

THE B. C. FEDERATIONIST does not attempt to lay down a programme or platform for either the farmers or the industrial workers. Sufficient for us is it if they accept the principle of co-operation as opposed to individual action. The actual policy will be worked out as time goes on. However, we are anxious for a discussion on this matter by the farmers, and we would suggest that they write to THE B. C. FEDERATIONIST, giving us their various viewpoints and suggestions. It is by an interchanging of ideas that we hope to make any advancement along the lines of real progress.

ARTS AND LETTERS CLUB

Supports Recital of Francis Callaghan—Piano and Vocal Music.

THE Modern Arts and Letters club is to be congratulated because of its postponing the regular meeting of the club in order to support the recital of Francis Callaghan, Canadian poet. The recital was held at 337 Hastings street west. The programme of poetical readings was enhanced by pianoforte solos by Mrs. A. M. Winlow and the rendition of two delightful numbers by Miss Doris Davidson, contralto.

Francis Callaghan, aged 23, has published a little volume, "The Reed and the Cross," Ryerson Press Limited, which caused this comment by a prominent eastern critic: "The rare music of his lyrics and the genuinely Celtic skill of his cadenced lines, have been achieved with a minimum of self-consciousness. . . . Considering his age and opportunities, his present achievement calls for a stronger word than remarkable." In the reading of his own work Monday night, Mr. Callaghan, in spite of a certain nervousness which prevented the full expression of his feelings, gave his audience to know that they were listening to poetry rather than to verse of the ordinary sort. In his Greek affinities and sheer love of beauty, he reminded his audience of Rupert Brooke, whose boyish exuberance charmed and captivated all who met him. There was displayed a promise of some of the great qualities of song which marks the work of the major poets. In "Apollo Victus" and "Mary Magdalene," both dramatic poems, Francis Callaghan has caught the Neo-pagan spirit of the "western movement" in Canadian literature as well as the mystical note therein. He is not a drawing room poet nor a purveyor of newspaper or magazine verse a la mode. He has the true poetic fire of genius. We are proud to add his influence to the literary work centred in Vancouver and our western province.

Friends and members of the Modern Arts and Letters club will do well to watch for the announcement of the next regular meeting of the club, at the Women's building, Thurlow street, on the evening of May 29th. Contemporary French literature will be the subject under discussion.

Timely Topics

Taps Coal

IT is reported that coal has been tapped on the Pacific Great Eastern railway, and, they say, there is great jubilation in the P.G.E. circles. We cannot help but feel delighted that they have something to feel jubilant over. If the administration would make a real attempt to capitalize the natural heritage that belongs to it now—the scenic beauty—there would be greater reason to be jubilant than over the discovery of something of which there is no scarcity.

* * *

Going Like Hot Cakes

The lots on the University hill lands are selling most satisfactorily, it is reported. If they are really selling very satisfactorily, the government is to be congratulated. Government do so few things satisfactorily, as a rule, that this is a delightful change. We hope, however, that the money they receive from same will be disbursed with due consideration for the unfortunate taxpayer.

* * *

In a Bad Way

The coal trade in England is in a bad way. Only pride prevents the coal owners applying for the dole, and the middleman's stark eyes stare straight to the work house as the last hope. We can't blame them for being anxious to avoid such a fate. The workers know from experience that there is nothing alluring about the whole affair.

* * *

A Little Different

According to an American press message, Dean Inge, speaking at Baltimore, has been praising the Churchill budget, but denouncing "the British system of taxation which forces one-sixth of the population to pay a five-sixth's levy." That, he says, is confiscation. But the fact that 60 per cent. of the capital wealth of the country is in the hands of one per cent. of the population naturally evaded the observant eye of the fat men's dean.

* * *

The Usual Text

Winston Churchill's favorite scripture text: "To him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

Orpheum Has Comic Opera

The Brandon comic opera company opened the summer season of comic opera at the Orpheum on Monday night with the Bernard Shaw satirical comedy "The Chocolate Soldier". The enthusiastic reception greeted this excellent company by Vancouver's music lovers bespeaks a splendid season of light opera.

The offering next week is "The Bohemian Girl," starting Monday, May 25th, with regular matinees on Wednesday and Saturday and a special holiday matinee on Monday.

"The Bohemian Girl" is by Michael William Balfe, and is one of the most colorful and tuneful of all light operas. The music flows without ceasing. It gurgles and chortles. It sobs and sighs in the smoothest, simplest and easiest way. The libretto has all the necessities of opera, gypsies and stolen children, sad and noble noblemen and people like the gypsy queen, who for the sake of the finale, must be thwarted. The song hits are known to every family where good music is fostered and appreciated. Such gems as "I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls," "The Heart Bowed Down," "Then You'll Remember Me" and "The Fair Land of Poland' are ever new and ever beautiful.

Following "The Bohemian Girl" comes Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" and a new one each week through the summer. Brandon brothers are providing a wonderful treat for the theatregoers of Vancouver.

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Encouraging

Sign in a Chicago neighborhood restaurant: "Don't be afraid to ask for credit. Our refusal will be polite."—The Christian Register.

Peace is the happy natural state of man; war his corruption, his disgrace. —Thomson.

Manifesto and Platform

—OF THE—

Federated Labor Party of B.C.

THE FEDERATED LABOR PARTY is organized for the purpose of securing industrial legislation, and the collective ownership and democratic control of the means of wealth production.

Private ownership of the means of wealth production (lands, forests, mines, fisheries, mills and factories), is the basis of the present system of society. The ownership of these natural resources and the machinery of production is vested in a small minority of the people, who, because of this ownership, constitute the real rulers of the country—the ruling class.

This class ownership of the means of life, with the restrictions and appropriation of the fruits of labor necessarily following it, is the root cause of the present insecurity and privation suffered by the working class.

The large majority of the people—the working class—being property less, must obtain the necessities of life through the only channel open to them, i.e., by selling their labor power. The only condition upon which they can do so is that a profit must accrue to the owning class from the process. Profits for the few and not the needs of the many is the motive underlying production.

The farmer, despite the semblance of ownership which appears from the occupancy of the land and the machinery with which he works it, is in approximately the same position as the propertyless wage-worker. The wage-worker sells his labor power direct to the capitalist class for a price (wages), and that which he produces belongs to the party employing him or her. The farmer converts his labor power into other commodities, (wheat, oats, etc.), which he must dispose of in the open market, having little or no control over the disposal of his product. The result of his toil passes into the hands of the capitalist class in rent, interest and profit just as surely and completely as does the product of the labor of the wage-worker, which he (the wage-worker) leaves in the mill or factory when the whistle blows at the end of the day.

The production and distribution of the things essential to our needs has reached a stage of development in which it requires the active cooperation of practically all the productive forces in society; social production has superseded individual production. Our ultimate objective is, therefore, the collective ownership of things collectively produced and collectively used. The need and well-being of society must be the regulator of production.

The present ruling class maintains its ownership in the means of life and consequent exploitation of the workers through its control of the powers of the state. This present system of government is controlled by the same class which controls the industries and hence is used in their interests. Under these conditions the welfare of the masses is a subordinate consideration.

Realizing this, it logically follows that the working class can not improve their condition in any permanent way until they assume the powers and functions of the state. This can be accomplished in this country by taking advantage of our political privileges and electing working-class representatives to all legislative and administrative bodies. The working class itself must be its own emancipator.

Taking into consideration the international aspect of the development of capitalism and the interdependence of each country upon all other countries for even the partial functioning of the productive forces that obtain to-day, we realize the impossibility of the working class of any one country—even if the entire government was within its control—formulating and carrying out, unaided, a complete programme of socialisation. We therefore pledge our support and cooperation to all groups, of whatever nationality, having similar aims.

The Federated Labor Party will support all legislative measures having for their purpose the betterment of the condition of the working class, but we maintain, that so long as the workers are content to sell their life's energy in the market they must accept the conditions which the fluctuation of that market entails.

The present productive forces of society are quite sufficient to supply our every need and comfort; but the present system of production and appropriation denies to the great mass of the people the bare necessities of life. While the few revel in wealth and luxury, millions are done to death by slow starvation. Knowledge of the cause of this phenomenon is absolutely essential to intelligent action.

Class ownership of the means of production; class appropriation of the social product of labor, is the cause of this denial to the workers of an opportunity to participate in the fruits of their labor.

Collective ownership of the means of production; social appropriation of that which is socially produced, is the only means to end exploitation.

In the foregoing we have given an outline as brief and concise as possible of the basis of present-day society.

The Federated Labor party as a socialist party holds that the difficulties which the working class is laboring under can only be removed by a change in our economic system. For this reason we do not put forward any lengthy list of immediate aims.

By working class we mean all of the people who must labor by hand or by brain and have no other means of support.

The function of the party is to organize and educate the workers along political lines as the surest and safest way to get control of the powers of government. Once having secured that power it will be used to liberate where it is now used to oppress.

Changes come slowly as the people learn slowly and to try and force changes before the mass of the people are ready for them will ony defeat the end we have in view.

Before the workers can advance to power they must gain confidence in their own ability as organizers, legislators and administrators; and the best way to create that confidence is by contesting the election to every elective office.

On the platform, around the council table or in the legislature we shall put forward and work for the passing of such reforms as the workers think necessary for the strengthening of their position, but our ultimate goal is the socialist state.

Federated Labor Party of B.C.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I, the undersigned, endorse and subscribe to the furtherance of the declared objects of the Party and agree to be governed by the Constitution thereof.

Name .....

Address .....

Phone No. .....*Occupation*.....

Proposed by.....

Date .....