BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

INDUSTRIAL UNITY: STRENGTH — Official Organ Vancouver Trades and Labor Council (International) — POLITICAL UNITY: VICTORY

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TRADES COUNCIL HAS STORMY SESSION

Seating of Midgley to Be Referred to Local Unions

City Council's Limitations on Age of Employees Is Discussed

The Vancouver Trades and Labor Council has held, during the past few years, many stormy sessions, but the one held on Tuesday evening was the stormiest since the year 1919, when the split in the Labor movement was made by the formation of the O. B. U., and the aftermath of that secession movement was brought to the forefront when several letters from local unions protesting against the acceptance of V. R. Midgley, late secretary of the O. B. U., were read.

The organizations protesting were: Musicians, Machinists, 692; Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees, Barbers, Stage Employees and local 182 of the Machinists.

Want Midgley Expelled

The executive having had the protests referred to before them, decided that the matter of the seating of Midgley should be reconsidered, and made the recommendation to the council. This course started a fresh debate, which lasted the best part of two hours, some delegates taking the position that the delegate should be expelled, while others took the position that the council should be broad enough to accept any man no matter what his views were, providing that he was a member of an international union, and working for the betterment of the position of the working class.

Questions were asked as to the number of members the protesting organizations had, and how many affiliated members the council had, to which replies were given. The number of members of the protesting organizations being 1200, while the council has an affiliated membership of between 3000 and 4000.

Delegate Pettipiece moved that the recommendation to the council from the executive be tabled to the next meeting. In making his motion, he stated that he did not wish to be stampeded, and there was no particular hurry over the matter.

Delegate Herrett objected to the seating of Midgley, and stated that he had been instructed by his union, the barbers, to vote against him remaining as a delegate to the council

The motion to table was lost by a vote of 37 to 17.

Referendum Urged

The matter was then referred to the order of new business, and under that head, the debate was re-opened.

Delegate Flynn referred to section 16 of the Constitution, which provides for a referendum of the members, when 20 per cent. of the organizations represented call for a referendum on any decision of the council.

Delegate Pettipiece stated that he was in favor of the referendum, and that he would abide by the decision

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TOM MOORE GETS ONLY ONE WAGE

Replies to Demand for His Resignation from One of Two Positions

Ottawa.—Tom Moore, president of Trades and Labor congress, and also director Canadian National (government-owned) railways, will keep both positions, although he draws salary for one only.

Replying to trade union critics who had charged that he was drawing $5000 as labor head and $15,000 as rail director, he writes in part:

"This is the first intimation that I have had from any source that any salary was to be attached to the position of director of the C.N.R. On the contrary, before accepting the position I inquired from the Prime Minister the terms of the appointment, and it was only after he had definitely assured me that there would be no salary attached to the position that I accepted same.

"There is, however, to be some provision made to cover necessary expenses incurred in connection with the carrying on of the work as director of the C.N.R., and which I do not think the Halifax Trades and Labor council would expect me, personally, or the Trades and Labor congress to defray.

"As to the final decision that the executive of the Trades and Labor congress shall be written to demanding that I either resign as president of the congress or relinquish membership on the C.N.R. board, and the further statement that as the board membership was the more lucrative, 'Mr. Moore would hold on to that,' I wish to inform the delegates of your council that even if those statements were true my decision would be to retain the position as president of the congress, and thus continue my efforts to be of some service to the wage earners of Canada."

Patronize Federationist advertisers.

F.L.P. MEETING SUNDAY AT COLONIAL THEATRE

Mr. Garfield King and Dr. Robert Tel- Will Speak on Proportional Representation

On Sunday afternoon, at Colonial theatre, Mr. Garfield King and Dr. Robert Tel- will speak on proportional representation.

The platform will be open to opponents to this system of electing the representatives of the people on public or governing bodies.

The chair will be taken promptly at 3 p.m., and it is expected that some of those who have publicly expressed their opposition to proportional representation will accept the opportunity of voicing their opinions on this occasion.

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JOINT MEETING ON QUESTION OF MOMENT

Unemployed Conference and Trades Council Take Joint Action

Immediate Relief and Point Grey Job Were Also Discussed

On Thursday the 15th, a joint meeting between the Unemployed Conference committee and the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council was held in the Labor Temple. This was the first time that the bodies had met together, although the council has been represented on the conference committee for a considerable time by G. H. Hardy and J. Nixon.

In opening the meeting, W. H. Cottrell, who occupied the chair, outlined the reasons for calling the joint meeting, and asked if there were any delegates who had reports to make.

Tom Richardson reported that the executive of the student body of the U.B.C. had been interviewed, and that it was hoped that at a later date there would be a meeting with the whole of the students, when the Point Grey situation could be fully explaindd to them.

The chairman at this point outlined the need for joint action between the Trades and Labor Council and the unemployed bodies, and that while there was a need for the immediate relief of the unemployed, there was also need for the provision for the unemployed of the future.

Tom Richardson stressed the need for immediate relief for the destitute, and also for the necessity for the care of the unemployed which would be without work next winter, and stated that unemployment was a permanent condition and the result of capitalistic development. He also urged that a policy should be outlined by the organized workers.

After some little discussion, a motion was introduced calling for a mass meeting at which the needs of the unemployed coulud be voiced, the meeting to be held in the largest theatre which the committee could secure; this motion was carried.

The Point Grey site clearing job was then discussed, and the opinion expressed by many that it was a menace to the standard of living of the organized workers A motion to send two delegates to interview the Attorney-General at Victoria was then introduced and adopted, the two delegates chosen being Mrs. H. Thomas and A. S. Wells.

The question of the unemployed women was then introduced. In the discussion, it was pointed out that there were numbers of women who were unable to secure employment at any kind of work, and that while they were unorganized there was no possibility of relief.

Delegate Harris moved that the Trades and Labor Council be asked to bring the unemployed question up at the Trades Congress convention to be held in Vancouver in September. This motion was carried, after the mover had shown that the unemployment question was a national one.

Another resolution calling for the trade union rate of wages on relief work or full maintenance, based on the figures of the Dominion government as to the minimum allowance for families and individuals, was endorsed.

The unorganized condition of the unskilled workers was emphasized by several speakers, and it was decided to ask the Trades and Labor Council to form a Federal Labor union to take care of the workers who are not eligible for any of the existing unions.

The Point Grey U.B.C. site clearing job caused considerable and heated discussion. Several delegates desired to have this job placed on the unfair list, while the Trades Council delegates pointed out that unless the workers were organized and affiliated with the council, the placing of the job on the unfair list was the business of the men who were employed there. One delegate suggested that a referendum of the men employed on the job be taken, and it was finally decided to refer the matter to the mass meeting to be held at a later date.

The arrangements of the mass meeting were referred to the chairman and secretary, and two representatives to be appointed by the Trades and Labor Council.

Before the meeting was adjourned, it was decided that all delegates be requested to ask each local union to recommend that their unemployed members be requested to join the unemployed organizations in their respective districts.

WE AIN'T HERE, THIS TIME, LA FAYETTE

—Drawn by Ryan Walker for the New York Call

AMERICAN LABOR TO EXPRESS ITSELF

Referendum on Political Action to Be Taken By New Organization

Five Million Workers Will Have Say in Formation of New Party

New York—A referendum of 40,000 labor union locals, with an estimated membership of 5,000,000, is to be undertaken by the Trade Union Educational league on the proposal for political action by labor through a separate political party.

The referendum will provide the first "square-toed" opportunity to American labor to express itself on a labor party issue. It will go out in the form of a resolution offered by the Trade Union Educaional league.

This proposal is the second which the league has submitted to the membership of labor unions on a nationwidescale. The first, on amalgamation of trade unions into unions each embracing an entire industry, resulted in an expression of opinion in which a majority of those who responded went an record in favor of amalgamation. Eleven state federations of labor and many large central bodies declared themselves in approval of industrial unionism as proposed.

With respect to the forthcoming referendum on the subject of independent labor political action, William Z. Foster, secretary of the Trade Union Educational league, called attention to the fact that in European countries where labor is a powerful factor in politics and government, the,

(Continued on page 2)

EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE FORMED

Vancouver Now Has Branch of Trade Union Educational League

The Vancouver branch of the Trades Union Educational League, was organized at a meeting in the Labor Temple on Sunday, the 18th.

A general discussion of the objects of the League was held, in which it was pointed out that the intention was to amalgamate the different craft organizations into industrial unions, and at the same time discourage secession movements.

A discussion of ways and means of carrying on the work of the organization was next indulged in, and the Labor Herald received a considerable boost, and a number of subscriptions taken. The Amalgamation Advocate was also referred to and endorsed.

An organization committee was appointed, and instructed to report at the next meeting, which will be held on the first Sunday in March, the first Sunday of each month being selected as the regular meeting day, the meetings will be held at 2 p.m.

CUMBERLAND MINE WORKERS RETURN TO WORK

Orientals Still to Remain on Job to Keep Up the Output

Lack of Organization Prevents the Miners from Securing Changes

Helpless without an organization, after holding several meetings to discuss the situation following the disaster, the Cumberland miners returned to work on Monday at the Company's terms.

The terms laid down by the company following the death of thirty-three miners as a result of the explosion in No. 4 mine, are as follows: That Orientals will be used with white men in order to maintain the output, as there are not sufficient white miners to maintain the standard of production. That all advance work will be discontinued, and that a start will be made to take out pillars which in a few weeks will eliminate the long wall system, and that as soon as the pillars are ready, white men will be placed in them if there are sufficient men available.

Since the explosion, No. 5 mine, which has been closed down, has been opened, and will be worked until such time as a new seam is found and developed; the new seam when found to be developed will be worked by white labor; but if conditions will permit long wall work, that will be the system adopted, and if at all possible, machines used.

These terms are however, only verbal arrangements. The men have no hold on the company, and as one miner has stated to the Federationist, the miners are helpless without an organization. In the meantime, Sam Guthrie and R. H. Neelands, Labor members of the provincial house, are endeavoring to secure information as to the danger which the miners on the Island are facing, and with a view of having the conditions of teh mines investigated; but without organization, the miners can give but little assistance to the work being done by these representatives of the working class. The slogan for Vancouver Island should be: "Organize or be destroyed; resist or face death every day when in the mines." To remain unorganized is worse than senseless; it is imbecile.

Open Forum

"The High Cost of Bacteria" is the subject Prof. Sadler will take up at the Forum on Sunday, February 25th, at 3 p.m., at the Workers' Party Hall, 303½ Pender street west.

Junior Labor League Notes

The Junior Labor League will hold a dance on Saturday, the 24th, at Willow Hall, Seventeenth and Willow Street. Tickets 50c, can be procured at 148 Cordova Street West. All friends are invited and assured that they will have a good time.

Technical Aid Dance

The Society for Technical Aid for Soviet Russia will hold a hard-times dance at the Clinton Hall, corner of Clinton and Pender Streets, on Saturday, March 4. Good prizes are offered for costumes. Admission, ladies 25c, gents, 50c.

RUSSIAN REPUBLIC RETURNS TO NORMALCY

Tenth All-Russian Soviet Congress Approves of Measures

One Million Workers Now Employed Direct by the State

[By Anise]
(Federated Press Correspondent)

Moscow — The tenth All-Russian Congress of Soviets, meeting in the sixth year of the Russian republic, marks a return to normalcy. The congress is meeting only once a year now, instead of every few months. The political upheaval which made frequent meetings necessary no longer exists.

In the second place, the first act of the congress, on its opening evening, was to approve, cheerfully and unanimously, every act of the government during the past year. There was no row about it. Everyone agreed that great progress has been shown and then they got down to business. The onlookers who had come in expectation of some of the old revolutionary thrill went home at reasonable hours, declaring the sessions extremely dull.

The great auditorium of the Grand Opera of Moscow was set aside for the sessions. Mounted guards surrounded it. A year ago the streets of Moscow were dark, but now the front of the theatre flamed with red electric letters over the whiteness of the snowy square: Tenth Session of the All-Russian Soviets. On the other side of the square a changing sign in white letters

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UNEMPLOYED BUREAU OPENED

Coun. Hardy Secures Means of Having Unemployed Tabulated

On the motion of Councillor George H. Hardy, the South Vancouver Municipal Council, decided to open an unemployment bureau for one week. Whether this bureau will be continued or not will be decided at a later meeting of the council.

Councillor Hardy, in making his motion, suggested that while it was possible that the South Vancouver unemployed were being given a fair show on the Point Grey site, he was of the opinion that there were more unemployed in the municipality than was realized, and that the opening of a bureau and the registration of the unemployed would determine just how many were out of work. He also stated that he did not think the project would interfere or overlap the Provincial employment bureau's work. The motion was finally carried, and the bureau opened on Monday, and will remain open until Saturday evening.

N. Z. LABOR PARTY OPPOSES IMMIGRATION

See No Need for More People While There Are Unemployed

Wellington, New Zealand.—As in America, labor in New Zealand is opposing the immigration policy of the government, contending that until the unemployed workers are absorbed in productive employment and the housing shortage overcome, it is unfair to bring workers from overseas. There is a shortage of at least 10,000 houses in the country.

To deal with unemployment the New Zealand Labor party is demanding that the government introduce an unemployed workers bill, guaranteeing the right to work at standard rates of wages or adequate maintenance. A bill on the same lines as they recently made operative in Queensland, Australia, is urged.

DETECTIVE AGENCY'S HAND UNCOVERED IN RED SCARES

Defense Witness in Michigan Trials Exposes the Burns Outfit

Gives Inside Information of the Activities of Stool Pigeons

[By Carl Haessler]
(Federated Press Correspondent)

Chicago—The dark hand of the Burns detective agency in stirring up fake violence and bogus red scares became more evident according to the testimony under cross-examination by the Michigan prosecution of Albert Bailin, defence witnesses in deposition hearings for the 21 Labor men involved in the Michigan red raids of Aug. 21, 1922.

The hand took on flesh and body when Allen O. Meyers, New York manager of the Burns agency, suddenly appeared at the hearing to confront Bailin and denounce the renegade stool pigeon as a liar. The dramatic meeting was spoiled because Meyers had timed his appearance too soon. He is to testify later.

Meyers refused to be interviewed, saying he would give all his evidence on the witness stand under examination by Frank P. Walsh, defence counsel. Meyers seems to be a man of about 40, stylishly, even flashily dressed, and giving the impression of a hard-faced man of business combined with that of a sporting man. He is believed to know more about the Michigan red raid, which he engineered, than he will care to tell.

Meyers figured in Bailin's testimony again when the Burns agency especially at the time of Bailin's arrest in the fall of 1920 for sending a threatening letter through the mails, at the direction, Bailin said, of the Burns agency, with the object of getting the rich to contribute more money for the drive against "dangerous radicals."

Fifteen minutes after his arrest in New York, Bailin declared, Meyers was down to see him promising to take care of him. "Tell the truth," Meyers advised Bailin in a loud voice, but then whispered quietly so that no one else could hear, "Keep your mouth shut and deny everything." Meyers also gave him $5, Bailin testified. Efforts to get bail were declined by Bailin in spite of Meyers' alleged offer to fix it up direct with Attorney Gen. Palmer. Bail was reduced by the court and procured by Bailin's relatievs after Assistant United States District Attorney Matthews had told Judge Knox that the private detective agencies were interested in keeping the kettle boiling in the campaign against the reds.

In several clashes between Bailin and the Michigan cross examiners, Bailin emerged victorious on issues of fact. Meyers had evidently brought important documents including original reports by Bailin to Burns from the Burns' files for the use of the prosecution and Bailin cleverly used these to vindicate his memory against other documents produced against him.

In a statement to the press, Bailin declares that he worked for the department of justice while still an alien three years before he was naturalized in 1920. He denies that he was ever employed by any radical organization to spy on the detective agencies for which he worked. He further denies he ever gave out any information to radicals or others while he was employed by the Burns agency, the Thiel agency or by the government. He challenges Jake Spolansky, Chicago man of the department of justice, whom he accused of selling government reports to the Thiel agency, to a day in court. He admits that he mailed the threatening letters which led to his indictment, but states that he did so under orders from the Burns and Thiel agencies, his employers at the time, and for no other reason. The government asked for a continuance when the case was set for trial over two years ago and the matter has been allowed to sleep.

"Burns is too seriously implicated to allow the case to get into open court," Bailin declares.

Building Trades Committee to Meet

The Building Trades committee of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council will hold a meeting in room 305, Labor Temple, on Wednesday, the 28th, at 8 p.m. All members of this committee are urged to attend to discuss the local situation, and the possibilities of increasing the various rates of wages for building trades craftsmen.

COAL MINERS ARE STILL BEING PROSECUTED

Slow Grind Picking Jury in Herrin Trials Shows Poor Results

Interest Is Aroused in Local Political Circles and Participation

[By McAllister Coleman]
(Federated Press Correspondent)

Marion, Ill.—The slow grind of picking a jury to try union coal miners for their alleged participation in the Herrin rioting has begun all over again in the little brick courthouse here. One after another talismen are asked about their attitude towards organized labor and whether or not they have opinions as to the guilt or innocence of the six union miners on trial. And the first few days of the case brought out the fact that there are few in Williamson county who have not formed some sort of opinion in regard to the rights of a community to defend itself against the invasion of armed forces employed by privatet corporations to break unionsism.

Thirty talesmen were examined in the first three days of the second trial and none was found acceptable to both sides. Wiseacres are prophesying that it will be well into March before the jury that is to try Hugh Willis, Otis Clark, Bert Grace, Philip Fontenetta, Oscar Howard and James Brown is finally selected.

The trees that wave their branches before the high, dingy windows of the circuit court room were turning from green to gold when the first of the trials began and already there are hints of spring in the breezes that set the boughs scraping against the walls of the courthouse. The oldtimers are again tking up their posts on the sunny side of the square talking over the events that led to rioting last June and generally expressing their approval of the acquittal of the coal diggers in the first case.

In the meantime interest in local politics is reviving. Marion will elect a mayor and four commissioners this April and the Law Enforcement league of this town has been quietly at work interjecting a labor-capital issue into the contest. The union men at Marion have not been slow to recognize that a drive will be made against them by those business interests which refused to go on bail for the indicted miners and have all along exhibited a quiet hostility to union labor. The miners will have their own ticket in the field, headed by Henderson Clarity, and supported by all the organized laboring forces in Marion. Last fall's county elections, which were overwhelmingly carried by labor candidates, showed the workers in Marion how successful they could be if they dropped party lines and voted together. There is little doubt that they will succeed this spring. A. M. Thompson, former head of the Marion miners' local, is managing the campaign.

Hand your neighbor this copy of The Federationist, and then call around next day for a subscription.

GERMANY ON VERGE OF REVOLUTION

Two Groups Prepare for Eventualities As Result of Panic

[By Louis P. Lochner]
(European Director, The Federated Press)

Berlin.—What will happen to Germany?

There seems to be general agreement that things cannot go on as at present. From one day to another the mark drops a thousand or two thousand points. There is panic everywhere.

Two groups of Germans are preparing for a revolution. The one group is the secret monarchists organization to which belonged the inspirers of the murder of Rathenau. Big money is flowing to it by mysterious channels. Technically the secret organizations have been dissolved. But everybody knows that they exist and that they are anxiously awaiting "the day."

The success of the Fascisti in Italy has given new impetus to the reactionary movement but has threatened to raise Cain with the discipline of the leaders. The calm leaders sit on the lid and say their time will come after the workers have first risen and given an excuse to the "rights" to come in as saviorrs of the day.

The other group which is aiming at a revolution is the communist party and its following. That party, too, has hotheads who would like to strike at once, but their leaders counsel a waiting policy. "Let the conservatives start another Kapp-Putch," they say; "then we will put it down and this time not rest until we have established a workers' government."

The "rights" can afford to wait better than their adversaries. While they are in part recruited from former noble and official families which are now badly off, they somehow have means of scraping through.

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Unity of Labor: The Hope of the World

FRIDAY.....February 23, 1923

Immigration and Working Class Prosperity

NEWS which appears in the press affects different people in different ways. To those who can read, all the "news" is not just what it is made out to be, and when they read the columns of the daily papers, they not only read the lines, but read between them, and by so doing, endeavor to get at the real meaning of the news or propaganda of the master class.

* * *

Discerning readers on Wednesday were met by headlines in a local daily which, if printers ink had anything to do with it, spelt prosperity for the workers of this country. They announced that farm hands were coming to Canada by the thousands. Here is how the head to the article in question read:

To Vancouver and British Columbia generally the despatch printed below constitutes one of the most important items of news which has come over the wires in recent weeks. It indicates that production on the prairies is to be enormously stimulated by the introduction of man-power on a large scale. Prairie prosperity and prairie production mean increased business, industrial progress and prosperity for Vancouver.

* * *

The article then showed how that great benefactor of this country, the Canadian Pacific railroad, had decided to bring thousands of farm hands and domestic employees to this country, and that there are some four thousand farmers in Switzerland waiting to come to Canada, and in order to facilitate their entry into this country, the C.P.R. has appointed European representatives to take care of this end of the business.

* * *

The actions of corporations such as the Canadian Pacific railroad, are at all times worth investigation. In fact the transportation business depends on people moving form one place to another, and it can be safely said that this huge corporation is interested in the business-as-usual question, in fact is feeling the pinch of falling traffic in human freight, and consequently has to seek new avenues for revenue.

* * *

It would be in bad taste for us to suggest that a corporation which has worked its employees on short time for near to three years would wish to flood the labor market to a point much worse than it is at present. In fact we would hate to think that the C. P. R. did not have the interests of the country at heart, seeing that they own a share of it, and a large share at that. But we wonder what the farmers, who have been unable to sell their wheat which they grew last year, think of the new immigration plans? We also wonder what the unemployed, who last fall, turned their longing eyes to the prairie provinces in the hopes of securing a job so that they could get a grub-stake to last them through the winter, think of the influx of farm hands will mean to them, not only for next winter, but in the coming spring, when the prospects of a job at plowing or seeding has appeared as a luscious steak to a hungry man.

* * *

If people made jobs, then the British Isles, with its thickly-populated areas, would be the most prosperous part of the British Empire. But the facts prove that people do not provide work for themselves, but that a world market determines just how much wealth or the number of commoditiets which can be absorbed. But what is the use, either of wondering or thinking of the slaves' attitude to his master's schemes. We know that the workers seize on every straw in the vortex of the capitalistic system, imagining that a simple thing which their masters propose will aid them and free them from the curse of unemployment, but time and time again they have been shown, not by writing, but by actual experience, that master class tactics to operate their businesses at a greater profit, have never benefitted the workers, but we venture to say that the headlines and the article referred to has inspired hope of better days in the year just started on its way to greater misery for a class which falls for the piffle of the daily papers, and the propaganda of ruling class interests. In the meantime, when the "immigrants" who will be as foolish as the workers already in the country appear, the chances for jobs will get scarcer, and the wages lower, and the C. P. R. and other concerns prosper accordingly. Verily, the slave is a peculiar animal.

The Unskilled Worker and Organization

THE unskilled workers of Vancouver, that class of men who work at what is called common labor, are not organized. They either have not seen the necessity for organization, or they are apathetic to their interests. With a vigorous immigration policy, the employers of this country can secure unlimited supplies of unskilled labor. The employers well know this and they are preparing for a further onslaught on wages. But there is a method by which the machinations of the employers can be resisted, and that is by a united front on the part of the workers.

* * *

The worker who follows any particular occupation is more concerned in conserving his own craft or occupation interests than he is in the welfare of the other fellow, but there is one outstanding feature of the Labor movement, and that is, that the organized worker can always get the ear of the rest of the organized labor movement, providing he shouts hard enough, and for that reason alone, the unskilled worker should make an attempt to organize with those who follow the same kind of work

* * *

But while the organized craftsmen may not realize that it is their business to see that the unskilled worker is organized, it must be pointed out that there is so little betwen the skilled and the unskilled worker in these days of highly developed capitalism, that the divisions of the past in industry should be at least eliminated in the minds of those who imagine they are of different clay, for tomorrow they may, too, be on the line occupied by the common laborer, looking for a job. Machines have no consciences, and as they have displaced skilled workers in the past, they will continue to do so, and it is only in their own interests that we call on the organized workers to aid the unorganized in any and all callings to organize. A united front at this time is essential, and will be more necessary in the future, but today—here and now—the opportunity awaits the active spirits in the labor movement. "To the task, and organize," is a good slogan.

Island Miners and the Need for Organization

LAST week we called the attention of our readers to the necessity of a thorough investigation into the real cause of the Cumberland mine disaster. We also pointed out that the miners on Vancouver Island were not organized, but we have to date seen no great rush on the part of the miners themselves, or the organized workers, to see that the investigation is held, and the miners organized.

* * *

The reports as to the inquest on the victims of the mine disaster do not give any satisfaction to those who realize the danger in which miners have at all times to work. The whitewashing process seems to be going on apace, "there is no one to blame for the explosion"; but one question which we asked, and which has not yet been answered, is, "how did the gas get in the mine without the authorities knowing about it?" Not as to who was to blame, or what was the cause of the gas exploding. Until this question is answered and answered satisfactorily, the Federationist will continue to demand an explanation, and if the workers who are organized will take this question up, the powers that be will be compelled to either answer it, or prove to the workers that they do not value human lives, but regard property and profits as sacred.

* * *

Realizing the dangerous condition of the mines on Vancouver Island, and that more wage slaves will most likely be blown to atoms or suffocated by afterdamp, we consider that it is high time that the miners on Vancouver Island organized to protect themselves against, not only a lower standard of living, but extermination. The only organization which can aid them in this work is the International Mine Workers of America, and to this organization we make an appeal to start the ball rolling, fully realizing the blacklisting tactics of the tmployers since 1913; at the same time, there should not be any reason why Vancouver Island cannot be organized after the work accomplished in Western Virginia and other parts of the United States where the miners and their families were terrorized by the agents of the employing class, is considered. There is work to do; that work is the organizing of the miners on Vancouver Island. Those men organized, will not only be able to protect their interests, but they will be a great assistance to the labor movement of British Columbia and Canada.

Politicians and War

MR. LLOYD GEORGE, war-time premier of Great Britain, now a back bencher, has stated that politicians and not military men are to blame for war. Being a politician, the honorable gentleman should know; but it is quite evident to the student of human society as at present constituted, and the development of the various stages which humanity has gone through, that the politician and the military man, are neither responsible or creators of war. They are the puppets of circumstances, just as the workers who engage in the class war are the product of a civilization which is based on human slavery and class antagonisms.

* * *

Why do countries go to war? This is a question that must be answered before the responsibility can be placed. Of course, the politicians and the militarists all claim that any war that they are engaged in is for decency, or some other "great ideal," but wars of this age are but the outcome of economic conflicts between different groups of capitalists, and if there is another war, and the chances appear good for such an event, it will not be brought about by politicians or militarists as the first cause, but by the conflicting interests of economic groups who control not only the politicians, but the military forces which are but the means of support for those economic interests.

* * *

All institutions under capitalism are determined by the economic structure of society, and the psychological outlook of groups, are but the reflection of the struggle which is going on between the warring factions in the ranks of the capitalistic class, and the struggle which is taking place between capital and labor. But the war which will have to be fought—the class war—is the most important event of the workers. The fighting of the capitalistic groups for control of natural resources, should not concern the wage workers; but we find that the victims of ruling class butchery, take a certain pride in handing out death to the forces of the opposing groups, which are in all cases largely composed of the members of the working class, who reap the harvest of death and misery which the present system imposes on the very basis of capitalism, the slaves who produce all the wealth and the death-dealing instruments which destroy them.

* * *

The cause of war, either capitalistic or class, is the present system of society. The politicians are but the tools used by the real powers to carry out their dictates, while the militarists are merely the puppets who back up the political groups in their efforts to secure some material benefits for the group they represent ,and let it be noted, that force is the stand-by of the politicians, when they feel that by "diplomacy," they cannot secure their ends. But the class war is the only struggle which should be considered by the workers. That settled, there will be no more capitalistic war, but peace will reign and humanity freed from slavery and hunger. To the day.

Another anti-Oriental debate has been staged at Ottawa. But it might be pertinent to ask at this time, has the Canadian members of parliament ever considered the cutting out of Chinese and Japanese competition in the world market? The answer would be most interesting if they have.

OBEYS PARENTS AND IS JAILED

The Australian Defence Act Compels Youths to Join Army

[By W. Francis Ahern]
(Federated Press Correspondent)

Melbourne, Australia—Under the Australian Defence Act, all boys are compelled to undergo military training. No provision is made for objectors.

The treatment meted out to youths opposed to taking up arms is shown in the case of Clifford Mitchell of Melbourne. This case is only one of many.

In January, 1920, Mitchell refused to drill and was jailed for 14 days. His crime was that he obeyed his parents, who are conscientious objectors, and followers of the Methodist Church.

In February, 1922, he was again ordered to military camp and refused. The military police raided his parents' home several times trying to secure him by force. But they failed. In November, 1922, he was arrested at his work and jailed for 28 days. His parents were not informed of his arrest and did not find out that he had been jailed until several days later.

The Australian Labor Party is opposed to compulsory military training. The Labor Party also opposes trial by court martial where civil courts are available and stands for the abolition of the military oath, of distinction between commissioned and non-commissioned officers, of the military salute and other useless disciplines, and for prohibition of the use of soldiers in industrial disputes.

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.]

Unfair Music

Editor Federationist: Sir—In reference to an article published in the Federationist under date of Feb. 2, re unfair dances, signed by a gentleman calling himself "Scotty," I would like a little space to reply to same. He refers among other things to my "Scottish Social Dance" held in the O'Brien hall every Saturday evening. I would like to remind him of the fact that the Musicians' union, through Mr. Fletcher, the organizer, had approached me a short time previous to "Scotty's" letter and made an appointment to talk the matter over, which, in brief, has ended successfully, and my orchestra will be working under union rules very shortly. I may also state that this dance has been more of a social party than a transient dance previous to taking over O'Brien's hall recently, which fact has accounted for not joining the union before. Regarding "Scotty's" remarks about the music being "anything but good," he must evidently be jealous of the success of the dance, because, as everybody knows, the music is probably the principal drawing card of any dance, and it is hardly to be expected we would have a full house every Saturday evening if the music was not first-class, and, judging from the public patronage, as good as any in the city today. "Scotty" also mentions the fact that most of the musicians at these dances are employed at some other job in the daytime. I would just like to remind him, as apparently he does not know, that a large number, if not the majority, of union as well as non-union musicians playing at dances are engaged in some other work during the day. I therefore contend that the criticism given by "Scotty" is absolutely unfair, and not correct, and I think that before he writes any such letters he should be sure of his facts.

Thanking you for any valuable space you can afford in your paper,

Respectfully yours,
W. W. ROBERTSON.
4154 Fraser Avenue
Vancouver, B. C.

American Labor to Express Itself

(Continued from Page 1)

workers have organized and are strengthening and extending powerful workers' parties.

"In Germany," he said, "the various workers' parties control 42 per cent. of the members of the national legislative assembly. In Austria they control 38 per cent.; in Czechoslovakia, 36 per cent.; In Belgium, 75 per cent. ; in Denmark, 34 per cent.; in Italy and Bulgaria, 25 per cent.; in Norway, Holland and Switzerland, 22 per cent."

The movement for a separate labor party has been gaining force in all Labor organizations in the last year, Foster declared, and now is sweeping through many unioins which in the past were regarded as strongly opposed to any other political action than that involved in the "reward your friends defeat your enemies" appeal.

"The 16 railroad unions," he said, "are largely committed to the idea, as are the miners, the typographers, the clothing workers, innumerable city central bodies, state federations of labor, farmers' organizations and liberal groups all over the country. The movement found a timid expression in the conference for political action which met in Chicago early in 1922."

Russian Republic Returns to Normalcy

(Continued from page 1)

advertised the government's new internal loan.

It must not for a moment be imagined that the return to normalcy is a return to the common state of a capitalist country. On the surface, life goes on much as in other countries, except that the vast majority of industrial enterprises are in the hands of the state. One million workers are employed in state industries, whereas all the private industries taken together employ about 80,000 workers, and of these about half are in co-operative establishments or semi-State trusts.

In trade about 30 per cent. of the operations are private, 70 per cent. by State or co-operative organs. Foreign trade is completely in the hands of the State, as is banking. All the land is State property, but about 95 per cent. of it is at the disposal of the peasantry.

The Russian situation is essentially different from that in any other nation. The political power is firmly placed in the hands of the working class. There is no pretense that equality exists, either before the courts or in making contracts with the government or in paying house rents. A worker will pay one-tenth of the rent paid by a capitalist in the same house for the same kind of room; a worker will be let off in court for a misdemeanor, while a bourgeois (whose superior education should have taught him better) will be punished; a co-operative will get much better terms in the way of concessions than are granted to private individuals.

This is not democracy, and does not pretend to be. But this is the first time a society has begun its own destiny. This is the new thing in Russia; that is why this year, in spite of its surface capitalism, is more truly revolutionary than even the glowing moments of overturn and seizure of power.

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

BAKERY SALESMEN, LOCAL 371—Meets second Thursday every month, 319 Pender Street West. President, J. Brightwell; financial secretary, H. A. Bowron, 2849 Burns Street.

JOURNEYMEN BARBERS' INTERNATIONAL Union of America—Local 120, Vancouver, B. C., meets second and fourth Tuesdays in each month in Room 313—319 Pender Street West. President, C. E. Herrett, 1 Hastings Street East; secretary, A. R. Cani, 320 Cambie Street. Shop phone, Sey. 9702. Residence phone, Doug. 2171R.

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LUMBER WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION OF CANADA—An industrial union of all workers in logging and construction camps. Coast District and General Headquarters, 61 Cordova Street West, Vancouver, B. C. Phone Seymour 7856. J. M. Clarke, general secretary-treasurer; legal advisers, Messrs. Bird, Macdonald & Co., Vancouver, B. C.; auditors, Messrs. Buttar & Chiene, Vancouver, B. C.

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Startling Capitalistic Report as to Conditions in Coal Mines in Pennsylvania

[Ed. note.—For years the miners of the United States have fought against all the powers of the ruling class to secure some relief from the conditions under which they have been compelled to work. They have been abused and butchered by the hired thugs and gunmen of the companies they have worked for, but when the City of New York became affected by the strike, it was decided to investigate into the shortage, with the result that conditions were revealed which even made the supporters of the present system recoil in horror. The following is the report made by the committee appointed by Mayor Hylan, of New York City.]

(Continued from issue of Feb. 9)

Prior to the strike, the output from the Berwind-White mines per day was *about 350 railroad cars of 52 tons* capacity each, and the company made preparations to increase the output to 400 railroad cars per day. At present, only about 45 carloads of coal are being mined.

The committee was informed that the Berwind-White Coal Company had made many efforts to break the strike and for that purpose has brought strike-breakers to its coal mines and is paying them as high as $8 per day, no matter how much or how little coal they produce. It was stated that very few of these men are miners but were recruited from farms and from the ranks of those in the large cities who do not care to work and get their living as best they can.

Opposed to Labor Unions

It was testified before the committee that the strikers had been informed that, while the Berwind-White Company absolutely refuses to have anything to do with the former employees as union men, or allow them to have their own check weighman to supervise the weighing of the coal mined, or abolish the company store system, the company is willing to take back their former employees as individuals and pay them union wages.

Mr. Lockhart, secretary of the Somerset Coal Operators Association, dominated and controlled by the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company, in discussing the possibility of bringing about an understanding between non-union mine owners and their former employees, was quoted as stating that there was not "the least possibility on God's green earth" for any of the members of the Somerset Coal Operators' Association "to even consider recognizing the union."

Thus far the striking miners in *those regions still remain out and are* standing firm.

New York City Subways

The original subway from Van Cortland and Bronx Parks to Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, was built by the city with the city's money and leased to the Interborough Rapid Transit Co. for operation.

Under the dual subway contracts, entered into about ten years ago between the Public Service Commission first district, and the City of New York the costs for the various new subways and elevated railroad extensions were borne equally between the Interborough Rapid Transit Company and the City of New York. Under the terms of these contracts the city is not entitled to receive any income on its investment until the operating expenses of these lines and various other charges are first deducted.

Thus far, the city has about $300,000,000 invested under the dual subway contracts, and, instead of an income on its investment, is compelled to appropriate annually to build these subways. Therefore, the cost of coal and all items of expense in connection with the operation of the subways by the Interborough Rapid Transit Co. are vitally material to the city and its citizens.

Company Purchases Its Coal

In the course of a hearing held before the Transit Commission on Nov. 28, 1921, Mr. Frank Hedley, president and general manager of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, testified that the prices paid by his company for coal were on a sliding scale; that if the price of labor at the mines and the freight rates to New York went down, the Interborough got the benefit of the reduction in cost, but if it went up, the Interborough had to pay more.

In view of the fact that the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company is only producing 45 cars of coal per day and is paying unskilled strike-breakers $8 per day, besides maintaining numerous armed guards at the mines, it would seem that under the aforereferred to sliding scale contract, the Berwind-White Co. is passing on the cost of fighting its former employees to the Interborough Rapid Transit Co. and, through the operating costs of the subways, on to the city of New York.

Quantity of Coal Used

At this same hearing before the Transit Commission, Mr. Hedley also testified that the Interborough Rapid Transit Company in 1921 purchased from the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company, 770,000 tons of coal, at an average price of $7.35 per ton. The Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, during the same period, purchased, practically the same quantity of coal, partly from the Berwind-White Co. and partly from the Consolidated Coal Co., at $6.93 per ton, or 42 cents per ton less than the Interborough paid. That is that E. J. Berwind, chairman of the board of directors of the Interborough Rapid Transit Co., paid in 1921 to Mr. E. J. Berwind's Berwind-White Coal Mining Company, $323,400.00 more than did the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company pay that year for practically the same quantity and quality of coal.

Rapid Trans Co. Pays High Price

It might not be amiss to direct attention to the fact that, while during the year 1921, the Interborough Rapid Transit Company paid the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company an average price of $7.37 per ton for coal and the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company paid to the same Berwind-White Coal Mining Company and to the Consolidated Coal Company, $6.93 per ton, the Hudson-Manhattan Company was paying considerably less than both these companies for the same grade of coal.

Cost of Coal

Because of the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company's refusal to co-operate in the investigation your committee was unable to ascertain the exact cost of producing bituminous coal at the company's mines. According to testimony of those working in the coal fields and who should know, the cost of coal produced by union miners receiving union wages and working under union conditions is from $2 to $2.25 per ton. James Gibson, one of the leaders of the striking miners, testified that one of his acquaintances an independent coal operator with a *small overhead expense*, was delivering coal to the Lorain Steel Works, at Johnstown, Pa., for $2 per ton.

(To be concluded next week)

LUMBER WORKERS' NEWS AND VIEWS

Lumber Workers Have Big Fight Ahead

THE workers in the lumber industry are now alone in their present fight against the forces of *capitalism*, which is trying to destroy all semblance of organization in the lumber camps. By the forces of capitalistic we mean not only the open fight of the employers, but also the more subtle and more treacherous fight of those groups of workers who either consciously or unconsciously lend their aid to the master class while their real identity is hidden behind a smoke screen of revolutionary platitudes. We have several of these groups on this continent, and almost all of them have either large or small groups of supporters in Vancouver and on the Coast.

The following figures will serve to show the extent of the master class attack in their "open shop" drive in America, and the effects it has had upon the workers and their organizations. The metal trades membership has been reduced from 800,000 to 275,000, while their wages have been cut from 25 to 40 per cent., and the working day increased from eight to nine, and in some cases, to ten hours. The steel workers at the time of their last strike, had 350,000 members; today they are without a union of any kind, and their wages have been reduced from 22 to 40 per cent., and the working day is 12 hours, with a 24-hour day when changing shifts. In the meat packing industry, the number of organized workers has been reduced from 200,000 to 100,000, while wages have been reduced from 25 to 35 per cent., and the working day increased from eight to ten hours. In the needle trades, the number of organized workers decreased about 80,000, and wages were reduced from 15 to 25 per cent.

The above figures show one great outstanding fact which should be noted by all those who do not see the necessity of the workers being bound together in organizations for their protection, and that fact is that wherever the open shop drive has succeeded best in breaking up the unions or reducing the number of organized workers in that industry, the wage cuts have been greatest and the working day the longest.

These figures carry a message to all the workers in this country, and the contents of that message point to the dire necessity of the working class refusing to be stampeded, refusing to leave their unions, and become imbued with a determination that they will stick together in their organizations and carry on the fight against their oppressors.

The days are long past for dreaming about harmonious relations with the boss. The only time that we as workers will be able to work harmoniously with those who now hold us in subjection is when they put on overalls and get down to work along with us, and even then it will be well for us to keep an eye on them and *not trust them too far.* What we must do now is consciously prepare to fight for our mutual protection, prepare to fight against wage reductions and the increase of hours which will assuredly come as soon as the present big demand for lumber falls off. We do not need to try and fool ourselves into a state of deceptive happiness. We will yet have to fight for the retention of the eight-hour day and many other things which at present we think we have permanently secured. The time to prepare for war is during peace, and the time for the workers to prepare for the onslaught of capitalism is when they have a job. The organizations of the workers must be built up and strengthened, must be solidified, and more organic cohesion established, so that when the storm hits us as it surely will, we will be ready to withstand a fight, and will not only fight on the defensive but on the offensive. A virile fighting spirit must be infused in all our unions in order that we shall not bend when the attack comes. The more solidly organized we are, the more cohesion between the different parts of a union, the better will we be able to withstand this attack. It is for this reason that we must be as closely united as possible that we must avoid splits and that we must avoid two unions in the same industry. To divide and rule has long been the policy of the master class, and on this continent it has been a policy that has worked very efficiently.

All the troubles of the labor movement in this country can be traced to parts of the movement splitting off and setting up little unions of their own. This small split off section usually gets hold of a very large and high sounding name, but that is all they ever got. It is not names that we require, but real concrete organization, a welding together of the forces of labor in order that they may fight more effectively. Smoke screens of words, no matter how high sounding they may be, will avail us nothing; what is required is actual performance.

The organization which today, amid the disorder and chaos of a bankrupt capitalism, tries to split the workers by setting up new unions where unions already exist, are doing the work of the master class. Perhaps they may be doing it unconsciously, or some of them may be doing it unconsciously, but that does not alter the fact that they are assisting the offensive of the master class against the workers by trying to divide the workers into two warring factions. While we fight one another, the master carries off the bone.

Today there is great opportunity for all radicals to show that they can do more than talk. *There is work to* be done in the industrial arena. There is the organizations of the workers to be built up and strengthened, and there is the task of permeating the mass of the workers with revolutionary ideas and aspirations. This can only be done in an organized manner. When every one pulls his own way and propagates his own personal ideas, the result is nil. The task before us to build up a common outlook among the mass of the workers instil them with a fighting spirit, and carry on an incessant warfare against the master class.

STATE-OWNED MINE PAYING

Australian Venture Proves Success and Miners Get Better Conditions

[By W. Francis Ahern]
(Federated Press Correspondent)

Sydney, N.S.W.—The state coal mine, owned and controlled by the government of New South Wales, has reached a daily output of 900 tons. Three hundred and fifty men are employed, of which 100 are contract miners. The average output per man employed at the coal face is between 10 and 11 tons per shift.

The miners at the state-owned mine work under better conditions and receive more privileges than those enjoyed by miners employed by private coal operators. Coal from the state-owned mine is delivered at the pit mouth at $2.50 per ton as against the private coal operators' claim that coal cannot be raised from the mines at less than $3.75 per ton.

The coal from the state-owned mine is used by the government railroads, tramways, and municipal light departments. The mine is not yet fully developed.

Chicago—Heads of the sixteen standard railroad unions have been asked to state their position on amalgamation in a letter sent out by the Chicago committee of amalgamation in the Metal and Railroad Industries. W. J. Kerrin, 3515 Archer Avenue, is secretary of the committee.

VANCOUVER GETS ALBERTA'S SUPPORT

One of the developments of national significance which took place during the past year was the rapproachment between Alberta and British Columbia on the question of their joint interest in promoting wheat shipments via the Pacific seaboard. The two most westerly provinces are now a unit in backing the claims of Vancouver as the coming winter shipper of prairie-grown wheat. The two premiers went to Ottawa to press this claim on the government and to demand the erection of more grain elevators and other grain handling facilities and a lower freight rate from Alberta to the Pacific Ocean. This entente cordiale was a long time in coming, but in spite of rival interests appears to be here to stay. Behind it the chief argument is that Vancouver is an open port all the year round, and western wheat shipments will do away with the need of retaining Buffalo as one of the chief storage centres and shippers of western wheat. Moreover, Vancouver is much closer to all parts of Alberta than are the ports at the head of the Great Lakes, which also suffer the disability of being icebound throughout five months of the year. The opening of the Panama Canal and the development of an Oriental market for Canadian wheat are also important *factors in the development of western* wheat routes. The matter has passed the experimental stage. In 1921-22 over seven million bushels of prairie wheat were shipped out of Vancouver, and already this season the total shipments are in advance of ten million bushels. A grand total of at least fifteen million bushels is assured, and once sufficient elevators are erected, there is no reason why three times that amount each year should not be reached. When in Vancouver recently, Sir Henry Thornton, chairman of the Canadian National Railway system, expressed himself as certain of that city's future as one of the great ports on the continent, but in the matter of grain elevators, declared his *opinion that these should be established* by private capital. The construction of a double track railway across Vancouver harbor at its upper end, now a certainty, will provide a vast area of waterfrontage on the north shore admirably suited for the purpose.—Toronto Saturday Night. •••

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Studies in Social Evolution

THIS SUBJECT produced a lively discussion, showing that many workers are interested in religion, providing it is properly handled.

The speaker began by assuring his audience that as an ancient literature containing much sublime poetry, and philosophy, and because of its early associations with his life, he had for this book an affectionate respect; besides that, it is a work demonstrating far-reaching, intellectual and spiritual evolution, on the part of the Hebrew people, which is reflected in their tribal Diety; while the social passion evidenced by the great prophets, and the founder of the Christian Communism, is in itself an inspiration in these days of class struggles and social chaos.

"But," said the speaker, "we must remember that the Old Testament is a product of a barbaric age." It recognized many tribal gods. "Thou shalt not have no other gods before Me, for I am a jealous God," is the familiar command put into the mouth of Jehovah, by an ancient priesthood.

Whether the Bible is a curse, or a blessing, depends on how we use it. As the basis of Christian theology, it obliterated the light of Greek philosophy, and science, and brought on that despotism of priestcraft, lasting over 1000 years, known as the Dark Ages.

What other races except the cringing slaves of Bible worship would have tortured and burned a million witches, in a few generations, because Jehovah had said, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."

What heathen priesthood persecuted and destroyed hundreds of thousands of men, women and children for "heresy?" What pagan people waged an inquisitorial warfare against the revelations of science, as did the Christian Church?

Yet even today, while millions of the children of men are hungry and homeless, thousands of great buildings are monopolized for the glorification of these ancient traditions, and the worship of spirits, made in the image of barbarous chiefs.

But there is the "Age of Reason." Why are these things perpetuated? Partly from custom, from acquired momentum, but mainly because the ancient Medicine Man has handed down his profession to the modern priesthood; it is their means of life and economic interests are the determining factors in activities, and even in belief. Besides that, theology tends to switch popular attention from earthly to heavenly problems, and so is even yet of importance to the world's economic masters, so we have our State churches. The speaker showed from numerous authorities, that the Bible is a compilation of ancient writings, and traditions, the sources of which are only now becoming clear.

Doan's great work, "Bible Myths and Their Parallels in Other Religions," was quoted from. It was shown that there are two separate and largely antagonistic accounts of the Creation, in the 1st and 2nd chapters of Genesis. In the first account, "Elohem" (the Gods) made man, male and female as His crowning and final creation. In the second account the "Lord God" planted a garden, and made man before he made the trees, the fowls of the air or the beasts of the fields; and "these were brought to Adam to see what he would call them."

Then Eve was made from Adam's rib, and soon the serpent appeared, (the Devil was an afterthought) and in easy conversational manner excited the curiosity of the first woman, and induced her to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, "and so to be as gods."

Eve then gave an apple to Adam, and he became wise also. Then the Lord appeared, and cursed mankind with suffering and death.

Yet, where would Christianity have been without "the tempter?" It is, in fact, the foundation stone of organized religion, for Paul, a Roman citizen, was the real founder of modern Christianity, and he declared that "as in Adam all died, so through faith in Christ could all be made alive."

The speaker showed that the Bible account of creation was in opposition to the known principles of cosmic, and biological evolution, and that thousands of ideas expressed in these ancient writings are opposed to the established facts of astronomy, geology, biology, chemistry, physics and history; and it could not be otherwise, seeing that these ancient ideas were presented in a pre-scientific age, in the childhood of our race. It was shown that the Bible story of Creation was taken from the ancient writings of the Babylonians, that the story of the Deluge came from the same source. According to our Bible, and other Jewish records which do not agree, the Creation of the world took place between 4004 B. C., and 5872 B. C., and Adam, Noah and several other "holy patriarchs" lived to the ripe old age of between 800 and 1000 years; and yet the historians of Egypt and Babylonia, whose records have now been translated, and who lived centuries before the alleged Creation, and Deluge, never mention these remarkable incidents as happening at the time prescribed in our Bible.

The spectacular romances of Bible heroes, such as Jonah and Samson, were referred to. The fact that the adventures of these characters are frequently read and discussed from the pulpits and Sunday schools, and described as actual occurrences, instead of being on a par with the exploits of Jack the Giant Killer and Sinbad the Sailor, shows that superstition has destroyed all sense of humor, on the part of the clergy, and their followers. Naturally, after this subject, there were questions and discussion.

Next week the subject will be "The Economic Basis and Evolution of Bible Morals." The materialistic interpretation of history and religion will be dealt with, and some of the imperialistic exploits of the "Chosen People" described and illustrated.

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Moneys subscribed and paid for shares in the holding company shall be used for the purpose of the holding company, as above set forth; and moneys subscribed and paid for shares in the operating company shall be received by a trust company, and shall be held intact until a sum of at least one million dollars has been received. When that amount has been received by the trust company selected for the purpose, then the operating company shall become active and its permanent directors chosen, and its business be proceeded with.

In consideration of preliminary organization work and services to be rendered by the holding company for the operating company, and in further consideration of surrendering to the operating company all leases, options on waterfront sites, exemption from taxation, and other privileges already acquired, and hereafter to be acquired in this connection and for this purpose, the holding company will receive from the operating company a substantial bonus in common stock, and in this bonus all shareholders of the holding company shall participate.

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In the escape from the water torture cell, a huge cabinet with a glass side is filled with water. Houdini's feet are locked in stocks used as a lid and then he is lowered head first until completely submerged. Houdini offers $1000 to anyone proving it is possible for him to obtain air in his upside down position.

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Trades Council Has Stormy Session

(Continued from Page 1)

of the majority, and he moved that the matter be referred to a referndum vote of the affiliated organizations.

Delegate Herrett moved an amendment, that the credentials be rescinded, and that V. R. Midgley be no longer allowed to sit as a delegate to the council. Delegate Flynn took the position that no action should be taken pending a referendum vote.

Delegate Pettipiece stated that the members of the affiliated local unions should decide that the members of the affiliated local unions should decide what should be done.

Delegate Showler stated that he was instructed by his local to oppose the seating of Midgley.

Delegate Cory, in supporting the referendum, stated that Midgley should not be condemned for life, and his local was of the opinion, that perhaps the delegate had seen the error of his ways and the council could be broad enough to admit him as a delegate.

Delegate Midgley asked if any charges had been preferred against him, and also referred to the meeting which was held between the council representatives, and the representatives of unaffiliated bodies, when it was stated that the clause debarring certain people did not apply to any one in the city at that time, but to stool pigeons, and he asked the secretary if he had ever considered that he (Midgley) was a stool pigeon, to which the secretary replied "no." Continuing, the centre of the storm referred to his past, and stated that he had done much work in the Labor movement, and that at the present time he was attached to the organization which covered his trade.

Delegate Rankin took the position that Midgley had brains, and if he could help the Labor movement; and he had ideas which were for the upbuilding of that movement, then he was for it, and favored his being a delegate.

Delegate Hardy stated that he was in favor of the recommendation to reconsider, as he realized the antagonism and the psychology created by them in the movement, and that this psychology was against the best interests of the council, and he wanted the feelings of the delegates sounded to the depths, and that he favored the taking of the referendum, while personally he favored Midgley being seated at the previous meeting.

Denounces Secession

Secretary Bengough, referring to the opinion expressed from both sides that there would be withdrawals from the council if action was taken either one way or the other, opposed this attitude and stated that the organizations should not take such an attitude, and he also expressed the opinion that the protests made by the local unions were not organized, but came from the rank and file. The latter statement was made owing to it having been stated that the move to expel Midgley had been an organized move.

Delegate Ross, in opposing the expulsion of Midgley, stated that the organizations which had sent in the protests must think that the Labor movement stands still, while the tendencies are for amalgamation all over the American continent, and for the rebuilding of the Labor movement. He also took the position that the council could only move if prepared to broaden its platform.

Delegate Hutchinson, of the Musicians, stated that he had been instructed to vote against Midgley.

Delegate Flynn, voicing his objections to the removal of Midgley, took the position that the movement was tending to amalgamation, and that this move was not before time. Referring to the Labor movements of the different countries, he stated that the workers organized in Canada amounted to 6 per cent. of the workers, while in Great Britain the percentage was 70, and in Germany still higher. He also stated that he was opposed to an action of a worker being removed, when the movement was getting back to its former position.

Delegate Herrett at this point, referred to the property of the old trades council, which had not been returned since the O. B. U. council had died. This was taken by Midgley as a direct charge that he had diverted some of the property of the Labor movement from the proper owners, and he asked if the charges were made against him, and demanded that a committee be appointed to investigate them, but Delegate Herrett said that the charges were not personal ones, but general in reference to the founders of the O. B. U. in Vancouver.

Had Enough Warfare

Delegate Pettipiece said that he had had enough of warfare, and that internecine strife in the Labor movement never got it anywhere. He also stressed that point that no man who ever tried to do anything got by without making mistakes, and referring particularly to Midgley, he stated that he had said everything and made all the mistakes Midgley had made, and he supported the referendum of the membership, and would abide by the will of the majority. The amendment calling for the expulsion of Midgley was, however, carried by a vote of 27 to 25, and he along with his co-delegate, left the hall. The matter was not, however, finished; the delegates still taking sides and the supporters of the referendum again asking that the vote of the membership be taken, and finally the full number of organizations represented through their delegates asked for the referendum, and this mode of deciding the point was settled on.

City Council Age Limit

On questions being asked as to the decision of the city council to refuse to engage men after they were forty years of age, Delegate Pettipiece stated that there was much misunderstanding on this subject. He also stated that for a time efforts had been made to have the old-age pension system and group insurance schemes adopted, and by a close vote the council had approved of the proposals. The insurance company had, however, pointed out that there was a lot of dead wood which would increase the cost, so the council had decided to get rid of this impediment, and had made ararngements for a retiring allowance for these men, and in his opinion, it was good business. He also stated that through pull, men had been taken on the permanent staff, and that the insurance company had pointed out this fact, and that men were taken on who were already entitled to pensions, and unless the age restriction had been made, the scheme would not have worked. Taking the stand that old-age pensions and insurance schemes were good proposals under the present system, and that the men who were taken on the permanent staff while still under forty years of age, that they could work from 25 to 28 years, he the speaker considered that the proposals were good ones and worthy of support.

Bengough Opposes Limitation

Secretary Bengough stated he was opposed to the principle of age restrictions and medical examinations, and also stated that the railroad workers' organizations had fought them for years. It might be all right to adopt such restrictions to suit the insurance companies, but if they were good fr such companies, they might be good for the ordinary employers. He also stated that if the provincial and federal authorities adopted the same schemes, the workers would have reached a pretty pass in their endeavors to secure work.

Delegate Oliver quoted the unemployed relief figures for 1921 to show that more men over forty then under frty had applied for work in that year, an dtook the position that the percentage of members of the local unions over forty was high. No action was, however, taken, and the council expressed no definite opinion one way or the other.

Congress and War

A communication from the Trades Congress of Canada, in answer to a request for an anti-war policy, made some time ago, was received and the executive recommended that it be received and filed.

Delegate Pettipiece, referring to the stand taken by the executive of the Congress, pointed out that in 1916 the Congress had taken a stand on war, but that when war came in 1914, this policy had toppled over like a house of cards.

The appointment of Mrs. Winnifred Mahon, representative f the Garment Workers, as factory inspector, by the Provincial government, was announced by the secretary, when he had read a letter from the deputy minister of Labor, acknowledging the receipt of the council's endorsation of the appointee. The news was received with applause, and Mrs. Mahon thanked the council for the support she had received.

On the request of the A. F. of L., Delegates Bengough and Showler were recommended as voluntary organizers for that organization.

The Label League announced that the January dance had been a financial success, and that another dance would be held on March 16. This dance will be participated in by the Tailors, Garment Workers, Boot and Shoe Workers and the Barbers. A prize is offered for the holder of the winning ticket, the prize being a union made suit and both ladies and gents are eligible for this prize.

Delegate Midgley reported on the inquest of the victim of the Point Grey disaster. He stated that one of the most important points was that when blasting operations close to property were carried on, precautions were taken, but as there was no property in close proximity to the U. B. C. site, these were omitted. Referring to the men on the job who gave evidence, he complimented them on the high intelligence displayed, and that men of this type were employed on relief work. He also stated that the outstanding feature of the inquest and the disaster occurred after the inquiry was over, and that was the rushing into print of the superintendent of the employment bureaus, who had stated that no further investigation was necessary, yet it was evident that the large quantities of powder used did not guarantee the safety of the men employed.

Several detail matters were dealt with in the course of the evening, and the council adjourned just after 11:30 p.m. after a busy and exciting session, which did not accomplish as much as has some of the shorter and less spectacular meetings have achieved.

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