The Labor Statesman

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Ward System Creates Pernicious Practices

Organizer McCutchan Says Vancouver Has Taken the Lead — Council Delegate Gets Exhibition Board to Use Vancouver Talent — Organization Work in Metal Trades.

ALDERMAN TRACY hit the nail on the head this week when he said that "the water department was rotten with favortism." With the probable exception of the aldermen representing the West End, the aldermen are alleged to be always endeavoring to find jobs for residents of their wards who might be of service during election campaigns. It is a well-known fact around the City Hall that notes have been sent down by aldermen to the superintendent requesting him to "put his man to work." When that order is acted upon it usually means that some other man—one who has probably been a faithful worker for the city for many years—is let out.

The waterworks department is one of the places where this abuse has taken place. The engineer may have to kinds of excuses for getting rid all the men, but he does admit that of them are interfering with the aldermen and firing of men. This rumhiring has been brought about because of the large number of workers of long service to the city who are being let out. These men are not old men, neither, and they can expend the same amount of energy as most other men who follow that line of work. Room must be made for the friends of the aldermen, however, hence the removal.

Has to Save the City $1,000 (?)

Of course, Engineer Brackenridge has promised that he would save the city the $1,000 a year increase in salary that he weedled out of the aldermen. He doesn't have to do that, but he does have to please the aldermen even though he has finally been forced to slap them.

Free Meals for Officials

For a considerable time now the men on the waterworks department have been used to further the ends of the aldermen. They are charged 40 cents a meal, but when the aldermen, the engineer and other officials visit these places, as they often do, they get free meals. In fact, they sometimes take their wives and families, and even friends, along and all of them eat at the expense of the workers. It it were not for this "free meal" stunt the men could eat for 35 cents or less a meal, but the added cost prevents this. Of course, when these "visitors" arrive they get the best of the food also.

The engineer talks about economy. Well, here is a place where he can start. Some of the useless aldermen's friends might also be let out. Nobody is more useless to the city than Frank Tremble, ex-alderman, who is alleged to have been ordered put on the city pay roll by Alderman Rogers.

Ward Politics

As a matter of fact, this rotten condition of affairs has been brought about by the ward system. When P. R. was in force no alderman had to rely upon a community clique to return him to office. Now, however, he has to cater to all the desires and whims of his constituents. He has to encourage and demand this pernicious favoritism. He may not like it, but it is part of the ward system of politics and will grow worse as time goes on. Chicago with it murders and crime is a glaring example of wardism. Let us wipe it out from this city.

If it is impossible to restrict child labor legally, the moral force of the entire capitalistic system should protect child life and child opportunity. But evidence seems to show that where profit is at stake, child life and opportunity are forgotten.—J. H. Peulicher, President American Bankers' Association.

Bakeries Are Working Sixteen Hour Shifts

At the regular meeting of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council held Tuesday evening, the secretary was instructed to write the Department of Labor to ask if any bakers in the city had been exempted for the eight-hour day. The council were informed that some of the bakers, among whom were the Mother's Bakery and Cowan's Bakery, were alleged to be working their men from 12 to 16 hours a day for $20 a week.

Another complaint brought up in the council was the empolyment of boys of school age by Hindus who were selling wood. The executive will take this matter up with the proper authorities.

International Organizer McCutchan of the Boilermakers Union addressed the meeting and congratulated the council on the success so far obtained in the campaign. He found that Vancouver was making greater strides than any other city in Canada and that it was again taking the lead. There were still a great many workers to organize, he said, and union men should keep in mind that these were a millstone around the neck of organized labor.

On the question of annexation, Del. Scribbins informed the council that the mayor was quite in favor of the tenants having a vote, but the council, without exception, opposed it. The committee will meet the council next Tuesday and will endeavor to put the aldermen on record

The Musicians' Union reported that the Soul Ticklers Orchestra had taken out union cards and had been taken off the unfair list.

Del. Page reported that the Carpenters had made their demand for a $7 wage stick and had initiated 45 new members.

Del. Smith reported that the Painters were making rapid strides and all men were working.

Del. Showler reported that a milk war was on. The dairies that had cut the price were also paying very low wages. He also reported that the Fraser Valley Ice Cream wagon drivers were the only ones organized.

The Shingle Weavers' Union local 17813 made application and was admitted to affiliation. Credentials were also received for delegates from the Bakers Union and Engineers local 882.

The secretary read an announcement of a nation-wide union label campaign which is to be launched by the A. F. of L. in September. The executive will organize a Union Label League to take care of the campaign.

The manufacturers of the King Suspenders were reported as still being on the unfair list.

The Oriental Exclusion Association asked the council to affiliate and

(Continued one Page 8)

Director Resigns from Children's Aid Society

Miasma Surrounding Children's Aid Society Compels E. C. Appleby, To Resign In Protest Against Busy-bodies and Moral Wrong to Worthy Employees.

RATHER THAN be a party to what he terms an injustice, and lend himself to something that may be legally right, but morally wrong, Mr. E. C. Appleby, respected business man, has resigned from the directorate of the Children's Aid Society. This action followed the exposure of questionable conditions in last week's issue of The Labor Statesman, wherein we pointed out that the matron, the secretary, and two nurses had been summarily discharged without logical cause, after their work had been commended by the Grand Jury, Dr. White, physician for the school board, and other officials.

Mr. Appleby's resolution is self-explanatory:

"Moved by E. C. Appleby, director, that we compensate the resigned employees for their board and lodging, said employees enforced resignation being accepted in a sense that was legally right and morally wrong. In the excitement and confusion, the employees signed the agreement accepting cash wages as settlement of all claims against the society, forgetting for the moment that food and lodging was part of their due wages."

He Indignantly Resigns

Mr. Appleby adds: "I placed my resignation in the hands of the board as a protest against the perpetuation of this injustice to the employees who worked hard for long hours at small pay, and I wish my position to be clear to the public. I consider the discharged employees have a grievance, and say, right here, that this condition, with the amazing manner in which these workers were "let out", again emphasizes the need of placing the Children's Aid Society under Government control, thereby ending the friction and dissentions with criticism and public displeasure. that have surrounded this Society After serving for for about two years I feel that I could not conscientiously remain in toleration of an injustice to these worthy workers."

Cliques and Busybodies

The Labor Statesman is in possession of proofs pointing to something radically wrong with the operation of this Society, which is supposed to be a public utility, and which is supported from public funds. The Board is composed of 36, evenly divided between 18 men and 18 women.

According to these statements, the board is split in petty cliques, dominated by busybodies and conducted with more discord than harmony.

Needs Official Control

At the annual meeting, the Rev. Mr. Sovereign praised the administration and the work of the secretary, matron and nurses who were later "let out". Yet he has taken a change of heart by siding in with the change of administration.

We will have something specific and startling to say on this subject next week, but in the meantime we again point out that the Children's Aid Society needs shaking up and weeding out. It should be placed under strict government control.

Meetings for Unorganized

MACHINISTS are being held in the Holden Building every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m.; for

BOILERMAKERS every Monday evening and for

BLACKSMITHS every Friday evening.

Purchasing Power To Keep Factories Busy

The Labor Bureau, Inc., an American organization composed of expert statisticians and economists, says:

Something more fundamental than an election will have to happen before we can keep the factories busy and reduce the still large volume of unemployment. We shall have to have a sufficient expansion of popular purchasing power to keep the plants busy. That means either a reduction in retail prices or a further increase in wages and farmers' earnings, or both.

The Labor Bureau, Inc., then quotes an authority who claims that at least 2,000,000 people are now unemployed in the United States.

Raise In Bread Prices Is Not Justified

Montreal.—The American bread trust, which has an authorized capitalization of $600,000,000, has acquired control of leading bakeries in Montreal and other Canadian cities. For all Canada the average wholesale price of breadstuffs in February were 106% more than the average for 1913. Bread, tobacco, and beverages are the only articles, in the group of commodities classified as "consumers goods" by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which show wholesale price advances of 100% or more above 1913 prices. For the whole group, comprising 98 commodities, the average increase over 1913 prices is 55%.

The reatively high price of bread in Canada is not justified by wheat prices. In February the average retail price of plain bread in sixty cities of Canada was exactly the same as in February, 1919. But while wheat prices in February, 1925, touched $2 a bushel and then swiftly dropped to $1.55, wheat prices in February, 1919, were $2.24½, the average price for 1919 being $2.21.

Matrimonial Agency Target of Complaints

A number of working folk, including girls employed in stores and factories, are complaining of the activities of a local matrimonial agency which, they claim, has been accepting money with the promise of "introductions" to eligible mates. One man — a widower — says: "Nobody cares to prosecute in a case like this, as it would make a fellow feel foolish in court, so it seldom happens that a charge is filed. But just the same I know of a place that should be closed by the police. They got some of my good money under misrepresentation. I now learn that they have taken money from young women without giving anything in return."

A middle-aged woman reluctantly admitted that she had also been "stung" by this concern, which operates by circulars and ads.

Seems about time for somebody to look into this place. Caution is usually necessary in instances like these.

Despite the bitter fight now being waged against the stamp tax, we are willing to meekly obey the law and stick on receipt tax stamps all day, if only our creditors would give us a chance.

"Benefit Fund" Grafter Defrauds Poor People

Here's a hint to the union man's good wife, if one Mr. Samuel Blake-Owen happens to call with a proposition. Just pour a kettle of hot water over him, if a policeman is not handy. By all accounts this Mr. Blake-Owen has been canvassing the east and south side, taking subscriptions for a "Working Men's Benefit Fund," which claims to pay endowment benefits each year. The dues are $5, but Mr. Blake-Owen has cheerfully accepted any old sum he could grab. Investigation proves that there is no such concern as the "Co-operative Working Men's Fund of The Empire," as it is not listed anywhere. Neither has any such concern got an office in the Rogers Bldg., where close enquiry was made by the Labor Statesman this week.

The scheme has the earmarks of being a miserable swindle perpetuated upon poor people.

U. B. OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, LOCAL 452

NOTICE

Owing to the next regular meeting of the Local falling on the holiday, May 25th, the meeting has been postponed to Wednesday, May 27th.

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Corporation of South Vancouver Centre Sprinkling Tax

Please take notice that discount on Water Sprinkling Tax is not allowed after June 30th.

Any person or persons found using water on lawns or gardens without first taking out Sprinkling Permit, or found sprinkling outside hours specified in permits, will be prosecuted.

Tenants are warned that sprinkling rate is not paid by owners, and that if they wish to use same they must secure permits.

Wm. T. Riley, Comptroller.

CORPORATION OF SOUTH VANCOUVER

Tax Notices Have Been Mailed for 1925

ANY PERSON not having received notice may get one on application to the Tax Collector, giving the full legal description of property.

The last day to avoid payment of the Ten Per Cent Penalty is June 30th, 1925.

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ASK any woman who has ever used an Electric vacuum cleaner whether she would go back to the old broom and dust pan.

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BUDGET DEBATE

By J. S. WOODSWORTH, Labor M.P.

Let me say this much in defence, if necessary, and explanation of the position taken by my colleague (Mr. Irvine). He had said that combines are the natural outcome of the processes which had been going on for the last century. He had been showing that we had long since passed beyond the stage of unrestricted free trade. He showed that in that sense combines really represented progress; that they were inevitable. He says further:

"I have been suggesting, not the breaking of a combine but the control of a definite monopoly in Canada."

And he went on further in another place:

"The control of a world combine is only possible by a world force."

All I should like to call attention to is that the words against which the criticism was levelled, if taken by themselves, might readily be regarded as making my colleague justify combines as they now exist, and might suggest that he would leave them alone with all their evils, whereas he was simply showing that we cannot do away with combines but that we should control them. That is altogether a different matter. I wanted to make it clear to the House that this is what my colleague and I stand for.

Immigrants Not Taken Care Of

The Minister of Labor also took issue with the member for East Calgary regarding a particular case of an immigrant who came to this country and who was out of work. A letter was read in the House from the immigrant. The Minister of Labor (Mr. Murdock) took the trouble to make an investigation and read a somewhat lengthy statement according to which this immigrant was a very unworthy character. I may say that the statements made in the memorandum submitted by the Minister of Labor have been definitely denied by the man in question but I have no way of determining whose statement is correct, that of the Minister of Labor or that of the immigrant. But it does not in the slightest degree matter, for the purposes of the argument which my colleague was making, which was simply this, that the government had evidently brought out people who were not satisfactorily located on the land. That was the argument, and this particular case was merely incidental. I call attention to the matter in passing.

Free Trade and Protection

Now a few remarks with regard to the question of free trade and protection. I think the hon. member for West York was quite correct when he pointed out that there no longer existed in this country the conditions which would seem to afford ground for the belief that free trade as such would offer a solution to our modern problems. The conditions have absolutely changed since the old days when there was unrestricted free trade between individuals. We are living today in the age of trusts and combines of various kinds and as a matter of fact we have no longer the kind of free trade that existed in the days when this fiscal doctrine became popular through the Manchester school of economics. In Great Britain protection was the policy of the land owners who wished to keep out agricultural products and other raw materials which were produced in England. This became the political gospel of the Conservative Party, Free trade, on the other hand, was the political gospel of the trading and manufacturing classes of Great Britain and became the recognized policy of the traders and manufacturers. We are often accused these days of advocating something new in suggesting group representation in parliament. The two old historical parties originally represented distinct groups in England, one the group of landed proprietors and the other the group of traders and manufacturers. In Canada the situation has been quite different; protection in Canada has been the policy of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and of whatever party happens to be in power, while free trade has been to a considerable extent the policy of the agriculturists. Today there is really no such thing as individual competition. We may still have the competition of rival groups, those groups are sometimes located in a single country, sometimes in different countries, in which case the rivalry tends to become an international dispute. We see on all sides the emergence of these huge trusts, and this development entirely alters the situation and should alter our attitude towards the whole problem. I remember a very interesting treatment of the question of the tariff from the standpoint of the restriction of production. I read a paragraph from a little pamphlet "On the Nature and Uses of Sabotage," by Professor Thorstein Veblen:

Governmental Sabotage

"The great standing illustration of sabotage administered by the government is the protective tariff, of course. It protects certain special interests by obstructing competition from beyond the frontier. This is the main use of a national boundary. The effect of the tariff is to keep the supply of goods down and thereby keep the price up, and so to bring reasonably satisfactory dividends to those special interests which deal in the protected articles of trade, at the cost of the underlying community. A protective tariff is a typical conspiracy in restraint of trade. It brings a relatively small, though absolutely large, run of free income to the special interests which benefit by it, at a relatively, and absolutely, large cost to the underlying community, and so it gives rise to a body of vested rights and intangible assets belonging to these special interests."

A New Kind of Protection

I suggest that the economic developments of recent years are rendering the older political divisions obsolete. These great industrial, commercial and financial concerns reach across our international boundaries and we can no longer carry on the affairs of any one country as if we were or could be self-contained in our business activities. Let me put it this way: Capital is international; why, therefore, should we attempt to make industry and commerce national? I should like to have that question answered by some hon. gentleman. Let me emphasize it. Capital itself has become international, and capital is recognized as the great driving force, superior to either the commercial power or the industrial power of today. Capital is international; why should we attempt to make industry or commerce national? To do so is to attempt the impossible. The labor solution lies neither in the direction of free trade, which under present conditions is not possible, nor in the direction of protection, which so far has meant the protection of industry and not the protection of the worker. I can conceive of there being developed an altogether new kind of protection, a protection not of industries but of standards of living. That would place the matter on a different basis. In our labor unions we frequently make use of the union label which placed on goods guarantees that they have been produced under fair and reasonable conditions with regard to hours, working conditions and wages. I would suggest that we might apply that principle in the larger field and insist that all goods should be produced under standards of living that measure up to a certain level. For that reason we in the labor movement are interested in the maintenance of the standards in Europe. We are interested in raising the standards in the Orient. If we are to have goods imported from Germany or other parts of Europe where their standards have been forced down since the war we will inevitably have our standards here forced down, and in some way we should be protected from goods of that character. If we are to have huge quantities of goods shipped in from the Orient where their standards have never been as high as our standards, we will meet with difficulties; we will be ousted in this country. It is no solution simply to say, "exclude the Orientals;" we need to go further and see that the standards in the Orient are raised. The British Labor Party has been dealing with this matter in recent weeks.

(To be continued)

Rapid Increase In Mexican Trade Unions

Washington.—Trade union membership throughout Mexico has jumped from 500,000 to about 1,500,000 since the election of Gen. Calles to the presidency of the republic, according to officials of the Mexican embassy in Washington. So great is the rush to join the movement that the trade union officials are beginning to scrutinize with care the names and affiliations of applicants, in order to make sure that the bona fide movement shall not be overdiluted by seekers for political favor

Only a very slight percentage of this 1,500,000 trade unionists hav begun to pay dues to their organiz tions. Their economic gains fr the movement have thus far b comparatively small, in most c industries. But they have con upon themselves a fundament —the sense of personal respon for keeping alive the ideals and pro gram of the revolution in which the have fought for years past. They on strike en masse, and there ar strike breakers. Their influence in the Mexican federal and state governments is steadily growing, in spite of their lack of trained spokesmen who can fill technical positions.

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Trades Union Directory

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council—President, R. H. Neelands, M.L.A.; general secretary, Percy R. Bengough. Office, 803 Holden Bldg., 16 Hastings East. Phone Sey. 7495. Meets in Labor Hall at 8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays in month.

Building Trades Council, Vancouver—Meets second and fourth Tuesday in Holden Building. President, J. Flynn. Secretary-treasurer. W. Watt.

Bakers' Local 468, Journeymen, of America—Meets first and third Saturdays at 7 p.m. President, J Mirtle, 2740 Pr. Edward St.; sec., T. Rigby, 37 Broadway West, Phone Fair. 5883R.

Bakery Salesmen, Local 371 — Meets second Thursday every month. Holden Bldg., 16 Hastings E. President, A. Wylie, 4336 Elgin Street; financial secretary. H. A. Bowron, 761, 13th Ave. E., Phone Fair. 107X.

Barbers', Journeyman International Union of America—Local 120, Vancouver, B. C., meets second and fourth Tuesdays in each month in Room 310 Labor Hall, 16 Hastings East. President, Fred Dawe; fin. secretary, A. R. Jenni, 728 Hastings Street West; rec. sec., Bert Deprey.

Bookbinders Local No. 105, Int. Brotherhood—Meets second Tuesday in month 804 Holden Bldg. President, F. Milne, 536 Drake St.; secretary, A. H. Hostins, 115 52nd Ave. W.

Boot and Shoe Workers Union, No. 506—Meets in the Holden Building on the first Wednesday of each month. President, J. Turner, 1910 54th Ave. E.; fin-sec., J. Griffiths, 3622 McGill St.

Bricklayers', Masons' and Tile Setters' Int. Union No. 1—Meets second and fourth Wednesday in the Holden Bldg. President, G. E. Halliday; Secretary, W. S. Dagnall, 1244 20th Ave. E. Phone Fair. 845 R.

Carpenters and Joiners, Amalgamated Society of,—Vancouver 1st Branch meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. President, W. Taylor; Sec. F. Prosser; business agent, J. McKinley. Headquarters, room 35, 163 Hastings St. W.

Carpenters and Joiners, United Brotherhood of, Local 452—President, J. C. Thom; recording secretary, W. Page; business agent, Wm. Dunn. Office, Room 808 Labor Hall, 16 Hastings East. Meets second and fourth Mondays, 8 p.m.

City Hall Employees' Association meets first Wednesday of each month at 445 Richards St. at 8 p. m. President, W. H. Lewthwaite,; Business agent, and treasurer, W. J. Scribbins, 3208 Pender St., E.; Secretary, H. A. Black, 2870 Yale St.

Civic Employees' Union, Local 28 — Meets first and third Fridays in the month at 445 Richards St., at 8 p.m. President, R. K. Brown, 2527 Charles St.; secretary-treasurer, George Harrison, 1182 Parker St.

Dominion Express Employees, Local No. 15, Brotherhood of—Meets first Friday and first Tuesday alternating each month in Room 810 Holden Building. President, G. M. Payton, 4136 Sophia St.; Sec.-Treas. H. C. Haines, 1919 Kingsway.

Electrical Workers, Local 213, International Brotherhood—Meets every Monday at 8 p.m. in Room No. 5, 319 Pender Street West. President, D. W. McDougal, 910 Hastings Street East; business agent, E. H. Morrison. Office, 319 Pender Street West.

Engineers—International Union Steam and Operating Local 844—Meets every Thursday at 8 p.m., Room 806 Holden Bldg. President, R. Finley; business agent and financial secretary, F. S. Hunt; recording secretary, Herbert McSavaney.

Engineers, Steam and Operating, Int. Local 882—Meets first and third Wednesday at 8 p.m. in room 806 Holden Bldg. President, Charles Price; rec. secretary, J. T. Venn; financial secretary, Frank L. Hunt. Office, 806 Holden Bldg.

Fire Fighters, No. 18, International Association of—Meets every month at call of president. President, Neil Macdonald, No. 3 Fire Hall; financial secretary, C. A. Watson, No. 3 Fire Hall.

Floorlayers' Union, No. 1875, U.B. of C. & J. of A., meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays in 310 Holden Bldg., at 8 p.m. President, John Soderman; Fin. Sec. A. Reid; Rec. Sec. W. Johnston, 1666 16th Ave. W.

Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 28—441 Seymour Street. Meets first and third Wednesday at 3 p.m. Second and fourth Wednesdays at 9 p.m. President, G. Coleman; business agent, A. Graham. Phone Seymour 1881.

Iron Workers, Local 97, Int. Assn. of Bridge & Structural — Meets every Monday, Room 804 Holden Bldg., at 8 p.m. President, W. Finlay, 1655 22nd Ave. E.; Secretary, James Dunn, Box 1196 City; Phone High. 4334L.

Lathers, Wood, Wire and Metal, International Union, Local 207 — Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays in month, at room 299 Holden Bldg. President, V. R. Midgeley, 3751 Keefer St. E.; secretary, J. G. Finlayson, 2635 12th Ave. W., Phone Bay. 4942R.

Machinist Local 182—President, E. B. McLean, 453 6th Ave. W. Secretary, S. A. Boardman, 2388 Parker St. Meets second and fourth Friday at 8 p.m. in Room 313 Labor Hall, 16 Hastings East.

Machinist Local 692—President, Thos. Sills, 1352 Burrard St. Secretary, P. R. Bengough. Office, 807 Labor Hall, 16 Hastings East. Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays in month.

Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, Amalgamated—Meets first and third Tuesday in Holden Bldg. President, W. R. Walter, 762 Hamilton St.; Sec., W. L. McGregor, 1751 38th Ave., E.

Mental Hospital Attendants' Federal Union No. 35—Meets at Essondale 1st and third Thursdays in month. President, J. A. Gibson, 312 4th St., New Westminster; rec. sec., Will Mackie, Provincial Mental Hospital, Essondale.

Mill and Factory Workers' Union, Local No. 1599 — Affiliated with United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners. Meets first and third Thursdays in Room 313 Holden Bldg. President, Allan Graham; Fin. Sec., H. Brewer; Rec. Sec., B. Holden, 1710 5th Ave. W., Vancouver, Phone Bay. 3123-R.

Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees, Local 464—Meets second and fourth Friday in Labor Hall, 16 Hastings St. E. Business agent, Birt Showler, 1115 Robson St.

Molders Union Local 281—International of North America—meets first and third Fridays in month in room 313 Holden Bldg., at 8 p.m. President, Sam Wilson, 1728 Yew St. Corresponding representative, J. Pinkerton, 2159 Victoria Drive.

Motion Pictures Projectionist's Union, Local 348 of I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.—Meets at 991 Nelson St on first Sunday in each month at 7:30 p.m. President, J. R. Foster, 1161 Granville St.; Secretary, Geo. Gerrard, Box 345. Business Phone: Sey. 3923.

Musicians Mutual Protective Union Local 145, A. F. of M.—Meets at the G. W. V. A. Auditorium, second Sunday at 10 a.m. President, Ernest C Miller, 991 Nelson Street; secretary, Edward Jamieson, 991 Nelson Street; financial secretary, W. E. Williams, 991 Nelson Street; organizer, F. Fletcher, 991 Nelson Street.

Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers Local 138—Meets second and fourth Thursdays at 319 Pender St. W. Business agent, Robt. S. Stevenson. Office, room 204 319 Pender St., W. Phone Sey. 3609.

Pile Drivers, Bridge, Wharf and Dock Builders Local No. 2404—Meets every Friday night at 8 p.m. in 112 Hastings St. W. James Thomson, secretary, P. O. Box 320.

Plasterers, Local 89—International Association of Operative, meets first Wednesday in month at Holden Bldg. President, W. Strickland, 289--46th Ave. E. Secretary, M. Galway, 1151-59th Ave. E. Phone Fras. 504-R2.

Plasterer's Laborers' No. 602 International. Meets third Friday in month at Holden Building. President, F. Phillips, 1574, 2nd Ave. W.; Rec. Sec., H. J. Oliver, 163, 23rd Ave. E.

Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 170, International Asso. of—Meets every 2nd and 4th Friday in the Holden Bldg. President, Bert Stinchcombe, 1899 Ogden Ave.; secretary and business agent, W. Watt, 805 Holden Bldg.

Printing Pressmen and Assistants, Local No. 69—Meets every second Tuesday in the month at 8 p.m. in Room 213 Labor Hall, 16 Hastings St. E. President, Harry F. Longley, 449, 8th St., North Van.; secretary, Frank H. Humphrey, P. O. Box 894, 4038 Victoria Dr.

Railway Carmen of America, Lodge No. 58—Meets first and third Friday in month at Cotillon Hall, Granville and Davie Streets. President, A. S. Ross, 5873 Pr. Edward St.; secretary, J. D. Vuliamy, 2215 15th Ave. W.

Street and Electric Railway Employees, Pioneer Division No. 101—Meets K. P. Hall, Eighth and Kingsway, 1st and 3rd Mondays at 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. President, F. A. Hoover, 2409 Clarke Drive; rec. secretary, F. E. Griffin, 447 6th Ave. East; treasurer, H. W. Speed; financial secretary and business agent, Angus MacInnes, 3544 Pr. Edward St. Office: corner Prior and Main streets. Phone Fairmont 2150L.

Sheet Metal Workers, Amalgamated, Local Union No. 280—Meets second and fourth Thursday in month in Holden Bldg., 16 Hastings St. E. President, N. C. Smith, 4425 Inman Ave.; fin. sec., E. J. Wardrop, 425 15th Ave. E.; cor. sec., A. P. Ashton, 4503 Spruce Street, Burnaby.

Tailors', Journeymen Union of America, Local No. 178—Meetings held first Thursday in each month, 8 p.m. Executive meets third Thursday of every month in Labor Hall. President, A. R. Gatenby; secretary, C. McDonald, P.O. Box 503. Executive meets third Thursday of every month.

Typographical Union, No. 226—President, R. P. Pettipiece; vice president, C. S. 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 St. E.

The Vancouver Theatrical Federation—Meets at 991 Nelson Street, at 11 a.m. on the Tuesday preceding the first Sunday of the month. President, Harry Pearson; secretary, Edward A. Jamieson; business agent, Fred Fletcher, 991 Nelson St.

"Did you see what Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard (one of the least fire-eating of service men that I have ever come across) said the other day at Cambridge?: 'In one day more tons of bombs could be dropped on this country than were dropped on it in the four years the great war lasted.'

"That's where we are drifting."

—Ramsay McDonald

C. N. R. Head Addressing Trust Company Officers, Stresses Need of Public Confidence and Labor Loyalty.

Pointed and pertinent remarks concerning frank acknowledgment of some of the merits of trades unionism were made by Sir Henry Thornton before the recent Trust Companies' banquet in New York, in the course of an address on the administration of a railway and the duty of the administrators to the owners, the employees and the public generally. Sir Henry had unusually wide experience with trades unions before he came to Canada. He wears the gold badge of membership in the British National Union of Railwaymen. It was presented to him at a banquet attended by five hundred delegates who wanted to record their appreciation of his fairness and farsightedness in dealing with organized labor.

THE duty which those responsible for the administration of a railway owe to the owners of the property, to those in its employ and to the public which it serves was enunciated by Sir Henry Thornton in a recent address before the annual Trust Companies' banquet in the Hotel Commodore, New York.

The gathering was a most important one. There were present about one thousand executives and officers of all the important trust companies in the United States, and representatives of many millions of dollars and an influence that is practically world wide. Sir Henry was the principal speaker, and that part of his address which dealt with the stewardship of the railway officer was as follows:

"We are all trustees and there is no greater trustee than he who happens to be put in a position of responsibility and authority in any great institution. Railway executives are the trustees of three things, the welfare of the communities they serve, the security of those who have invested their savings in the enterprise and they are also the trustees of the officers and men who are in their employ.

To Live in Prosperity

"A railway company or any great institution which serves the public must maintain three things: First, solvency; second, an adequate service to the public; and thirdly, it must pay such wages to officers and men, under such working conditions, as will enable them to live in prosperity and peace, and bring up their children as self-respecting members of society.

"In other words, railway executives have come to be, in a very large sense, trustees—trustees for the public, trustees for those who have invested in the enterprise and trustees for the officers and men who serve the company.

Two Great Assets

"There are two great assets to which every railway company should aspire, and no price is too great to pay for them. The first is the confidence and the good-will of the public, and the second is the loyal support of both officers and men. If these two things are achieved, the rest is relatively unimportant. After all, these are the days in which our workmen combine, and I think rightly so, for the maintenance of their rights. We are prone to regard at times the trade union as the enemy of capital. Trade unions are here; they cannot be got rid of, and it is very much better to work with them than to fight with them. I have had a considerable experience with laboring men on both sides of the Atlantic, perhaps more especially in England, and I have never yet had a trade union leader play another way than is fair. We have lately in England had a Labor Government. That Labor Government gave to England, from an administrative point of view, the best government which the British Emprie has had within recent years. That may seem to you an extraordinary statement, but it is the opinion of many individuals in England who, by environment and training, might be expected to hold a contrary opinion.

The Responsibility of Trustees

"After all, you may say, 'I am not my brother's keeper,' Well, we all are our brothers' keepers, and those of us who happen by good fortune to have had an education, to have responsibility, to have authority, in just that same degree our responsibility is increased, and I see no reason why there should be constantly recurring contentions between capital and labor. I believe that labor properly handled will invariably respond.

"Mr. President and gentlemen, you who are here this evening are the trustees of large interests. You represent the holdings of many of the people who have confided their savings to your hands. We are all trustees—we are all trustees of something. The individual who lives in a small village, in a circumscribed horizon, is a trustee. He is the trustee of the welfare of those who live about him, in that sense it is his bounden duty to be a good citizen, to maintain order, to obey the law, and to contribute so much as he can within his horizon to the welfare of those that are about him. And then, to go a little further, there is the profession, the group of men who are engaged in some enterprise, and, in a somewhat larger sense, they, too, are trustees. They are trustees of that which is confided to them, and we go a little further and we find that nations are trustees just as much as individuals. They are trustees for the welfare of all those who may happen to reside in that particular nation or that particular community. And, I think I may say without fear of contradiction, that the nation of which you are citizens, is, with those nations which form the British Empire, the trustee of the future peace of the world. We speak the same language and we are guided by the same ideals.

Responsibility in This Era

"Civilization today is the sum of the knowledge of the ages. The progress of civilization depends upon that contribution which each successive generation may make, and it is our responsibility in this era and this generation to contribute our share towards the advancement of civilization. The best which I could extend to all who are gathered here in your respective influence, in your respective responsibilities, is that you should so live your lives, should so adjust your relations with your fellow men, should so conduct your affairs, that when the time comes for you to depart from this world, you may with confidence repeat the fine words which were uttered by St. Paul when death was nigh, 'I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.'"

—Canadian Congress Journal.

Mr. Churchills' sympathy with the poor was eloquent, his sympathy with the rich was practical.—Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., in the "New Leader."

The principal employees of the International Railways Company of Central America have petitioned the Company for an increase of 33 per cent in pay, an eight-hour day, a six-day week, participation in the profits, better living quarters, and numerous other concessions of a minor nature.

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Phone Seymour 1989.

Vancouver, B.C., May 22nd, 1925

HI-JACKING THE FARMER

From the time that representative government was established in Canada the principle has been accepted that the number of electors per parliamentary member should be much less in the scattered rural districts than in the close built-up city districts. The principle worked quite satisfactorily for the long years that the country districts allowed the regular party machine to "pack" their conventions, and nominate the well trained political trotters that the city organizations always have, looking for an opening. With the opening of the Ford car age, a decided change took place in the temper of the country dweller. The distance to town became immensely shortened. Rural mail delivery brought him in reach of the daily papers, an increasing number of his children reached the secondary schools. With the better acquaintance that was now possible the farmer discovered that the smooth-tongued, well-groomed city man was at bottom neither wiser nor better than himself, in fact that the only advantage the city man had was that he was usually more unscrupulous; so the farmer trimmed his whiskers, washed the hayseeds out of his hair, and squared his shoulders, as well as his load of years and labor would permit, and decided to respect himself.

One of the first results of the new outlook was a refusal to submit to the dictates of the city political machine; while for a time they still accepted the party tag they nominated and elected men who refused the blind obedience to the party caucus that is required of a "good party man." And this was soon followed by deserting the old parties and the formation of rural parties, such as the Farmer Party in Ontario, the Farmer or Progressive Party in the three Prairie Provinces, and in our own Province the "United Farmers," which was hi-jacked by McRae and his gang, at the Vernon Convention.

The moment the farmer refused to be "good Indian and stay on the Reservation" the capitalist press of the Dominion, representing the two old parties, set itself to destroy the new movement. Thousands of tons of paper has been used in the effort to prove that while the best interests of everybody will be served by maintaining two political parties, sometimes engaged in a sham fight; and sometimes in a real fight; and at all times mutually contradicting each other, our whole scheme of government must unquestionably break down if a third party is permitted to exist. Provoking as it may seem the only fellow who refused to be influenced by all this argument was the farmer, it was intended to influence; and now that the lafter has indicated a willingness to have our whole scheme of government break down, if it is so adjusted that it will hold just exactly two parties and not three, other arrangements are being planned, but we notice that they are not the type of arrangement that we would expect if our scheme of government was believed to be in danger.

The principle that allowed the rural districts a Parliamentary representative for a smaller unit of population than the urban districts is now found to be all wrong, and Parliamentary representation in proportion to population is being argued from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Applied to our own Province the effecet of this would be that one half of the members of the British Columbia Parliament, and one half our Federal members, would represent the population resident within a radius fifteen miles of the Vancouver Post Office. It is true that men and women, not scenery, timber limits or fish canneries, should be represented in Parliament, but the individual's influence in Parliamentary matters should be relative to the influence that Parliament exerts in and over his life and affairs. A very considerable portion of the law-regulated activity of the citizen of Vancouver, his highways, his educational matters, as well as the protection of his person and property, is all had through the city government, and which he alone controls. The whole law-regulated activity, police protection and all else resulting from his living in organized society, in the case of the resident of the electoral districts of Atlin, McKenzie and the Islands, is provided either by the Provincial or the Federal Government. The rural dweller, therefore, has all the city dwellers interest in Parliament, and in addition to this he has an exclusive interest of his own that the city resident does not have, that is equal in amount to the latter's interest in his city government. Having, as this unavoidably shows, a larger interest in Parliamentary matters, the conclusion is equaly unavoidable that the rural resident should have a correspondingly greater influence in the election of Parliamentary representatives. Up to the present time this situation has been recognized and provided for by means of the smaller number of electors per member in the rural districts.

Having failed to lead the farmer by the nose any longer, and failed to move him by the assurance that the existence of a third party would cause our scheme of government to crumble and fade away, it is now calmly proposed to cripple him by reducing his Parliamentary representation to the level of the city dweller who controls and uses other machinery to handle roughly one half of his Parliamentary affairs. Regardless of from what angle we examine them, old party morals consistently maintain their inferior quailty.

—M.

FOOLING WITH THE FRASER

The annual overflowing of the Fraser River and the destructive flooding of the poor, hard working farmer's land, has taken place, promptly on schedule this year, and the Government remains as apathetic as ever. While hundreds of thousands of the taxpayer's money is being frittered away by the Government on all sorts of damphool things, and while our federal and provincial solons are fooling away the people's time on political internecine squabbles, there isn't one of them willing or helpfully active enough to turn a hide or hair toward helping the farmers in getting permanent protection against the dyking trouble.

"Honest" John Oliver is supposed to be a farmer himself, when he isn't knee-deep in politics or weeping over beer by the glass. But he does not appear to be worrying himself a whit about his fellow sons of the soil, or helping out the flood menace.

The farmers have not been having any too easy a time lately. Taxes are high. Few of them own their own farms. Bank loans have been tight. Crops have been elusive. The pickings have been slim. And now, to put the finishing touch to their woes, they are up against their annual flooding and dyke breakage.

If the provincial and federal legislators are really sincere in their wish to help, and if all their pre-campaign pledges and promises amount to anything beyond mere political wind, it is time for them to do something about this matter, without any further fooling about it.

The annual flooding of the Fraser is getting upon the people's nerves, and the farmers are entitled to some consideration.

—W.

REAL PUBLIC ECONOMY

The bankers and business men who preach economy should define what they mean. The difference between good business and bad means a variation of 10 to 15 per cent in the volume of trade either side of what is called normal.

The well-to-do may make considerable variations in their expenditures from year to year. They may buy automobiles and other luxuries on a large scale one year; and the next invest largely in government bonds, insurance or other securities, which does not necessarly mean that their money has gone to increase production or expand trade.

But the amount which the well-to-do spend on staple products, the main stay of business, does not vary much year to year—except there be an unusual migration to Europe or to Florida. An unusual distribution of dividends will affect the trade in staple commodities very little, except in so far as it stimulates the luxury trades and enables them to employ more workers and pay more wages.

An unusual distribution of wages among the industrial workers or affects the staple commodities market to a much greater degree.

Real public economy should have for its object the increase in opportunities of employment and higher wages—an improvement in the standard of living among the masses, rather than the over-flowing opulence of the rich. But that is hardly what the Canadian prophets of economy have in mind; they rather want to enlarge the prosperity of the prosperous by enforcing lower wages and new economies upon the workers.

—W.

CALLOUS TO CONDITIONS

Capitalism develops more forms of hysteria in the course of a business cycle than the Labor movement has done in a century. It is continually running amuck among its own most cherished illusions.

Capitalism stands for unrestricted private enterprise and competition—when it is on parade, with its brightest banner unfurled. But capitalist parenthetically demands the protection of numerous forms of paternalism for themselves—from high custom tariffs to low railways freight tariffs.

The latest capitalistic clamor about cutting out competitive railway services may have some justification. But it is mainly inspired by the desire to preserve low freight rates—a laudable desire no doubt, from the business point of view. But it may be doubted that the economies which will be affected will materially improve the financial position of the railways, whose chief difficulty lies in the fact that they have not been able to obtain increases in rates commensurate with the advance in the prices of the cost of living generally. Some locomotives and passenger cars may be placed on the idle list, where they will deteriorate as rapidly, if not more rapidly, than they would in service. Some hundreds of thousands of workers may be thrown out of employment and incidentally help to throw more grocers and small merchants into difficulties or bankruptcy. The railway situation in Canada is more tragic from the point of the workers than from the financial point of view. In October, 1924, the railways employed 25,000 fewer persons than in October, 1923. These railways require an army corps of unemployed upon which they may draw at need. They could not function properly if they did not have a small army of men more or less trained to the railway service whom they can hire at will—a host of men and their families living precariously, hanging on the ragged edge of existence.

Capitalism is callous towards this condition of so many workers. As Lord Milner has pointed out, the gravest indictment of capitalism is precisely its indifference to the fact that it cares nothing about the fate of multitudes it needs one month or one year; and throws out of work the next month or the next year.

But while capitalism endures the interests of money and property will over-ride the interests of mere men. The predominance of money or property is essential. If capitalism surrendered that principle it would surrender its very soul, its whole reason for being.—W.

FOR CHEAP, GOOD WINE

Ten cents a glass is too much for beer. Over in Ontario they are selling the fluid for a nickel a glass, and that's plenty. Of course, nobody is compelled to drink beer, but as this is a popular beverage of the working man, he deserves value for his money. A dime per glass means the consumer is paying twice its value. It isn't the brewers' fault. But it is due to the high rate of rake-off enacted by the paternal government.

What is needed is wine, made in B.C., and sold at a fair price—five cents and no more. Wine from the rich, ripe berries of the valley farmers serves a double purpose. It helps the farmers and it gives the consumer a chance to get a cheap wholesome drink when a change is desired from beer. Wine can be vinted and sold at a nickel a glass, and still leave a fair profit for the growers, with an ample profit for John Oliver's government and the people in Ottawa. Wine is wholesome for the home, for the table, and for the aged and ailing. And it will probably find an eventual place in the "refreshment parlors."

"The trouble with the working man is, he is too 'Red,'" says visiting capitalist. That's the way capital likes to look at it. They would prefer organized labor to look "blue" instead.

"Sleeping sickness spreads," says Vancouver daily's headline. We have noticed this ourselves with the sad cases witnessed in Victoria and Ottawa.

To read the results of the recent tennis tournament, when all those Vancouver ladies are reported as "beating" other ladies, one's first impression is that they may have been visiting the beer parlors.

NICE LITTLE TRIP, ANYWAY!

Premier Oliver returns with the cheerful announcement that all's well and something may happen—next year. This does not look like good value for the people's money that paid for his nice little trip to Ottawa.

SUCCOR AND SUCKER

As more than half of the "Help Wanted" ads require "investments," the colmun might better be called "Succor Wanted," even if it sounds like "Sucker."

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TRYING TO PLEASE?

Some people are never satisfied. A few days ago an east side wobbly gent was pinched for using blasphemous language on the streets. A couple of days later he was found on his knees praying on Water St., and the police pinched him again.

HERE'S RARE CHANCE TO GET FURNISHED 7-RM. HOME CHEAP

If you're looking for a chance to get a fine big 7-roomed house, fully furnished, at about one fifth its original cost, and acquire some property that is rapidly increasing in value, you'd better read the following which was sent in by an esteemed reader of The Labor Statesman:

"I am one of two brothers. Our mother died lately and our home is broken up. I am going away. We have a lovely home in West Vancouver. It is rapidly increasing in value. Ferry fare 7-cents commutation. The house is 7-roomed and fully furnished, with a nice lot with rich soil. The house is five years old. The furniture is excellent. The location is near schools and stores. We want $1,100 cash or $1,300 terms. Do you want it?" Write or phone Labor Statesman.

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WATCH FOR OUR NEXT SATURDAY SPECIAL

WALL STREET SEES A STRANGE LIGHT

Wall Street is a dark, narrow canyon. The darkness is, of course, caused by the towering skyscrapers which border the street. The narrowness is probably due to Dutch thrift—the patroons of New Amsterdam having, perhaps, a frugal aversion to squandering the arable land of their holdings in laying out highways. At any rate, light seldom penetrates into the sombre chasm of Wall Street, which doubtless accounts for the fact that the denizens of the street are possessed of a narrow outlook and a sinful predilection for dark and sinister deeds. Recently, however, a ray of strange light has reached this stygian gloom.

Henry Ford Upsets Wall Street

Do you remember the blessed day some years back when Henry Ford announced that he would establish a minimum daily wage of six dollars for eight hours' work? And do you remember what a howl went up from the House of Have-and-Hold when Henry's edict went forth, and how the brethren in Wall Street, where Mammon reigns and Morgan is his high priest, rent their garments, sprinkled ashes on their bald spots and smote the air with lamentation, crying in anguished chorus, "Lo! the heavens are falling: the end of things is nigh and perdition is our doom?" Also, do you demember the roar that issued from the other lords of industry in Henry's own bailiwick, and how they chided that pseudo philanthropist for backsliding and scabbing on his own fraternity? If so, you will doubtless recall their sorrowing protest. "Henry," they said, "you've spilled the beans for all of us. You have lavished this unseemly prosperity on your own serfs and have thereby put bad ideas in the heads of ours. If we refuse to meet your ante, we'll be facing a stampede; and if we do, we might just as well pull in the sign and put up the shutters. Curses and execrations on your stupidity!"

But events that have transpired since then have shown that the pessimism of Henry's neighbors was without foundation. Detroit still continued to adorn the map, and instead of shriveling up like a green oasis in the path of a simoon, she seemed to burgeon and bloom more luxurianty than ever under the new dispensation. This is corroborated by the followeing utterance of the Wall Street Journal, court herald of the nation's financial dynasty:

Six Dollar Wage Booms Business

"Detroit has the highest per-capita income, and the highest per-capita prosperity value, of any city in the world. The cornerstone of Detroit's prosperity is the six-dollar minimum wage established by Henry Ford. At first, the other Detroit manufacturers were very bitter against Ford. He compelled them to almost double their payrolls. They were in something of a panic. They thought they were facing ruin. But in a few years the concomitants of high wages made themselves evident on all sides. The laborer became an automobile owner. In many instances he was able to buy a home. Real estate boomed. Savings bank deposits increased. Business in all lines improved. High wages banished the tenement, or, more properly, prevented the building of tenements, or even the formation of anything which might be termed a working man's residence section. It had become evident to motor executive, director and stockholder that the payroll was furnishing a growing part of the market for every institution's product."

Payroll, Father of Prosperity

What on earth possessed the Wall Street Journal to proclaim the revolutionary doctrine that the payroll is the father of prosperity? Could there be anything more destructive to the tenets or big business than the admission that high wages to labor mean a good market for capital? Remember that this is the same Wall Street Journal, the same monitor of big business that proclaimed for these many years the strange doctrine that the best way to feed prosperity is by starving those who provide the nutriment. That was the idea which the Wall Street Journal counseled for years; and animated by this strange delusion, the Wall Street Journal and big business in general fought the labor unions and every organization, person or persons who proceeded on the contrary idea: that the best method of creating prosperity is by creating market for goods, and that the only possible way by which markets can be created is by putting money in the pockets of the people who buy goods.

To Bankrupt Laboring Masses

But Wall Street couldn't see it that way. Instead of creating good markets by paying good wages, it moved heaven and hades to bankrupt its best customers, the laboring masses. It got behind every movement which promised a reduction in payrolls. It fathered the open-shop drive. It used its pulpit, press, rostrum and politicians in the unholy cause of starving its customers wherever and whenever it had a chance. It employed its government, from dog-catcher to supreme court judge, to reduce the purchasing power of the working class—the bulk of the population, and, therefore, the bulk of its customers.

Wall Street's Foolish Acts

Wall Streets formula was this: Pay ten dollars to labor for its product; sell the product for twenty dollars and pocket the difference. And because the goods produced by their low-paid slaves couldn't be bought by those slaves—for the simple reason that ten dollars in pay is too short to cover twenty dollars worth of goods—the industrial barons sent out their drummers to drum up trade, and wasted millions in advertising to sell to people who had nothing to buy with. On top of that, they wasted other millions in maintaining diplomats, consular agents, ambassadors, warships and armies to affect the sale of their goods to foreigners and heathens by the cave-man methods of violence. They slammed a protective tariff on the country to keep foreign goods out, and then, because they still had more goods on hand than we could afford to buy, they tried to sell them to us through strong-arm and high-powered sales campaigns. Every show window, bill board, fence, theatre programme and newspaper carried their wheedling plea to buy. As cash customers were lacking, they inaugurater the installment plan—baited with such beguiling assurances as "We trust you," "Your credit is good," "Easy payments" and "Drive while you pay"—to unload their goods on people who could not afford them. Bless their fool hearts! those muddle-headed captains of industry did not seem to realize that the impulse to acquire good things requires no other urge than the desire itself. Every man of us would own a castle on the Hudson, with steam yacht moored in the shadow of the towers, if we could only afford it, for there is no limit to the desires of human beings but their ability to satisfy them, which, in modern life, means their purchasing power.

An Example for Vancouver

But these conditions will prevail no more. Wall Street has seen a new light. It has learned that, starting with Henry Ford's minimum wage of six dollars per day, Detroit has become the richest city in the world. With such an example before it, Wall Street is bound to become the foremost champion of high wages. What has been done for Detroit can be done for every town and city in the land. Soon we shall see the environs of our packing house districts blooming like rose gardens; the company shacks in the West Virginia mining camps will be transformed into bungalows filled with the refinements of culture; the slums of our cities will vanish like snow in the springtime; crime, poverty, prostitution, child labor and unemployment will be no more; everyone will buy all he can; industries will produce all they can. The more we earn, the more we spend. The more we spend, the more we earn. Demand creates supply. Supply creates purchasing power. We consume all we make and make all we consume. And when the day arrives when we shall produce more than we can consume, and the earth is teeming with a superabundance of creature comforts—why, of course, that will probably mean that the millennium we have heard spoken of has come to visit us.

Danger of Backsliding

But let us not grow too enthusiastic over the conversion of Wall St. Ethical ideas are slow in penetrating the adamantine shell surrounding the moral concepts of the ruling class. There is also danger of backsliding. The glimmer observed in Wall Street may be only the phosphorence of a lightning bug instead of the breaking of a new day. Anyway, let us spurn all thought of abandoning our unions on the strength of this prospect of a change of heart in Wall Street. Our unions have carried us thus far on the road to our rightful place in the scheme of things, and it is more than likely they will have to carry us the rest of the way, notwithstanding the benevolent overtures thrown out by the Wall Street Journal.—International Steam Engineer.

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.10	Lemon Soap, 5 for	.25
.30	Waterglass	.16
.50	Pepsodent	.45
1.50	Kennedy's Stomach Bitters	.98
$0.50	Reid's Pyorrhea Mouth Wash	$0.25
.25	Tincture of Iodine, 2 oz.	.16
1.00	Theatrical Cold Cream, 1 lb. tin	.63
.75	Liquid Petrolatum, 16 oz.	.38
.35	Sulphur and Molasses	.21
.75	Absorbent Cotton, 1 lb. Rolls	.47
.25	Reid's Corn Remover	.15
.75	Hair Fix	.39
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Esperanza Co. Issues Straight Facts About New Fertilizer Plant

Management Points Out that No Fantastic Claims are Made, But Gives Proofs for Investors to Investigate

At a cost of something like $75,000, and incidentally employing union labor throughout, an important industrial enterprise is being added to this province with the establishment of the Esperanza Fisheries, Limited, in their new fertilizer project that is receiving much support. The plant is located north-west of Victoria, at Esperanza, where a big plant will transform limitless shoals of pilchards into fertilizing material and oils. The undertaking has been launched after careful investigation and backing by expert fertilizer men, who aver the enterprise is bound to prove a permanent success.

Has Been Investigated

The entire problems of supply, markets, costs and other details have been probed exhaustively, before the intial steps were taken toward organizing the company and starting the work. Construction operations are now in progress. Completion will follow this summer, in a couple of months, when the plant will be in full working force, prepared to fill all calls.

Is Not Risky Enterprise

The management points out that, unlike the average enterprise, the Esperanza Fisheries project is practically without the element of risk for its stock-holders. It has a vast and lasting supply of pilchards available. The market is tremendous. The supplies will reach cities and rural parts. The demands will be immense from scores of sources.

The fertilizer may be placed on the market for about $50 a ton and this will leave a wide margin of profit.

Straightforward Facts Given

A strong directorate is behind this company. One outstanding feature is the absence of all misleading claims as seen in the words of Mr. A. H. Carter, general manager, whose offices are at 1001 Standard Bank Building. He says:

Makes No Spurious Claims

"We want to make it plain that this company is making no claims of preposterous profits or a fortune for its investors. We are not pretending that a few hundred dollars invested with the Esperanza Company is going to bring returns of thousands, nor is this to be classed with the Premier Mine or other fortune-making enterprises. But we are emphatic in saying that here is a thoroughly sound, substantial and permanent investment that is certain to bring high dividends in steady returns. It is something that is safe and conservative—something that should appeal alike to the small investor and the rich. We offer the most incisive investigation. We challenge scrutiny and we offer the closest and most searching proofs of the truth of every claim made by this company."

Gives Out Only Facts

The overhead expense, he states, is kept down to a minimum. There are only small commissions allowed its salesmen, and they receive strict instructions to stick to the bare facts without putting frills on their statements.

The Board of Trade and other bodies have co-operated with the directors and the B. C. Products Bureau has made an investigation of the facts.

A good sized pay roll will be diffused with the operation of this plant. Fair wages will be paid and good working conditions will govern the work in an effort to maintain uniform labor harmony and contentment. (Advt.)

Paint Plan for City Looks Good

The associated paint firms of Vancouver have started upon a campaign by which convenient terms may be applied to the painting and decorating of homes and other buildings. This is intended to speed up work, and enable jobs, that otherwise would be delayed, to go ahead. The paint firms call themselves a "Club," but it is really a union of their own. Just as journeymen painters and decorators have their own union for protective interests, the firms with paint to sell are now unionized for their own interests.

Unionism is aways good. It serves a purpose of unity and cohesion. These paint firms find business quiet, so they are apparently going the right way about it to boost business and help trade along. The aims of the present campaign should serve to diffuse money among painters and decorators, and provide a lot of work during the fair weather season. Many a man wishful to paint his home is unable to do it upon the cash basis, and here is where the Paint Club plans to act.

Just like buying a Victrola on "time," a man may now paint his home on easy terms, by the simple expedient of signing a note for as much down as he can spare, with the balance to suit his finances.

One thing that has been overlooked by the Paint Club is the fact that about one-third of the members of organized labor are themselves potential patrons of the project. It is estimated that about 30 per cent of our union men either own their own homes outright, or else are acquiring ownership on the time-payment system. The working man takes a great pride in his home. He works in his spare time fixing up the garden and making the home nest as pretty as possible. The plan of the paint men will now help in getting the home painted and otherwise slicked up—on convenient terms.

Whichever way one looks at it, this idea of the Paint Club looks good. It certainly means work for our union painters, that they might otherwise not get—which is important. It also means that people can fix up their homes by the easy system of payment. The paint men have their chance to sell more paint. So, you see, it works out well in every way.

By all means, Mr. Paint Men, go ahead and finish what you are now starting.

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A number of sportsmen were relating their most thrilling experiences.

"I've just returned from hunting in the Rockies," said one. "One day I struck the trail of a bear and I followed it for hours before giving it up."

"What made you quit?" said one of his audience, "after putting in all that amount of work?"

"Well, to be quite frank," said the sportsman, "it appeared to me that the trail was getting altogether too fresh."

It is far more dangerous to be a Prime Minister in 1925 than it was in 1885. The Victorian era when the Press followed the politician has given place to our own enlightened age in which the politician is the follower of the newspaper proprietor. —Leonard Woolf, in the "Nation."

QUOTED FROM HANSARD

The Net Consolidated debt of Canada on March 31st, 1925, was $2,431,487,113.

This is an increase of $9,351,312 from 1922.

It is also an increase of $966,955,081 from March 31, 1919.

This is the kind of business administration we are getting from Liberal and Conservative governments.

Revelations of Legal Expenditures Under the British North America Act, While Miners Starve Because of its Cast-Iron Fabric.

Number 57, page 2801 and on—Mr. Harry Leader (Portage la Prairie): ".....I have some figures here extracted from the Auditor General's report of 1923 and 1924. I wish to place these on Hansard for their educational effect, because I do not believe people know money is being spent in this manner..... In the Paris agency we have a man by the name of Philippe Roy. He receives a salary of $14,000 a year, and in addition to that a bonus of $500. As far as I can go back in the Public Accounts, I find he has an allowance of $3,000 for the maintenance of an automobile. It seems to me that $3,000 would purchase a brand new automobile every year. and I think economy should be exercised there. In 1923 I see he had a travelling account of $1,582. I have on previous occasions placed the fact before this House that we have spent considerable amounts of public money in entertainments, public dinners and so on. I do not intend to go into that at length tonight, but I have selected four items which I intend to give to the House. These are not all by any means, because in going through the Auditor General's report and the Public Accounts we will find dozens of public entertainments and dinners. Sometimes we find items of $50 and $75 for cigars and cigarettes. I do not wish to be partial or to make any charges against the present government that cannot be made against all previous governments, and therefore I have selected two dinners from the Auditor General's report of 1921, first a dinner to the Imperial Press Conference in Ottawa which cost the sum of $1,335.56, and also a dinner to the French Mission at the Country Club which cost $1,257.67. That was the previous government. In 1923—and now it is the present government—we find an entertainment at the experimental farm, Ottawa, $1,115. Then there is a grant to the entertainment of the A.V.M.A., $1.000.

An hon. member: "What is that?"

Mr. Leader: "I cannot tell you. It is all very well, Mr. Speaker, to say 'Hurrah, boys!' when you are spending other people's money.

"I want to read to the House tonight some of the hotel bills we have paid for distinguished visitors coming to Canada. The figures I am quoting are from the Auditor General's report of 1921. These expenses were incurred by the previous government. The expenses are as follows: French mission, hotel expenses, Chateau Fontenac Hotel, $680. Windsor Hotel, Montreal, $872. Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, $755. King Edward Hotel, Toronto, $339. Royal Connaught Hotel, Hamilton, $458. Clifton Hotel, Niagara Falls, $757. Of course they had to see the falls. Then the previous government also entertained a lady—a distinguished lady no doubt—by the name of Miss Cartier. One of her expense bills in connection with the Ritz Carlton Hotel was $1,218. . . . I have some figures here in regard to trips taken by members of the government and cabinet ministers attending conferences in Europe. I am also going to give figures of expenses incurred by the previous government and the expenses incurred by the present government. In 1921 we start off with the ex-Prime Minister (Mr. Meighen) travelling expenses $7,293, and Hon. Dr. Tolmie, $6,831. Then we have expenses of delegates to the League of Nations at Geneva: Hon. C. J. Dohetry, Sir George Foster, Hon. N. W. Rowell, $14,645. At the Genoa conference we have travelling expenses as follows: Sir Charles Gordon, $8,000. Edouard Mont Petit, $8,000. Then these distinguished gentlemen I have last mentioned have had the sum of $1,131 for hospitality fund entertainment. I do not know what that would mean, unless it would mean that they took $1,131 and said, 'Hurrah, boys! have this on me tonight.'. . . I think too much public money is being paid to ablebodied men in pensions. Last year I think I brought before the House the fact that we have 38 judges drawing pensions, many of whom are still ablebodied and quite capable of work. Some of them are living in a foreign country and the taxpayers have to go down in their pockets and pay pensions to these retired judges. I think the annual payroll to these retired judges is in the neighborhood of $200,000. I have before me a newspaper clipping which expresses certain views in regard to the matter in better language and more concisely than I perhaps could, and I intend to take the liberty of reading it to the House. This was clipped from a paper printed in Toronto called the Orange Sentinel some time last fall. The item I am going to quote is entitled: 'A Scandalous Abuse.' It reads: 'When a man can retire from the public service with a superannuation allowance of six or seven thousand dollars a year, and then engage in other activities that bring him anywhere from four to ten thousand dollars a year additional, it must be admitted there is something wrong with the act. The principle underlying superannuation must surely be to provide for old servants of the country when they become unable to carry on their work. To shield an old public servant from poverty in his last years is a duty the state owes him. He, on the other hand, owes a duty to the state to perform his official duties as long as he can do so efficiently. It should not be possible for a man like General Fiset to retire from the service at fifty years of age with a pension of $6,000 a year. He is physically fit to continue as Deputy Minister of Defence for ten, or perhaps twenty years yet. But he becomes a six-thousand-dollar-a-year burden on the country, and then takes a place in the House of Commons, from which he will draw four thousand dollars a year more. If he is vigorous enough to run for parliament, and to bear the strain of five months' session, he is strong enough to retain his place as deputy minister. It is nothing short of an outrage that he should be permitted to draw a double income from the taxpayers.' . . I was going on to quote the following: 'General Fiset is not the first pensioner to double his income in that way. Hon. Charles Doherty, who was Minister of Justice in the cabinet of Sir Robert Borden, drew a judge's pension of $7,000 a year besides a cabinet minister's salary of $10,000, and sessional indemnity of $4,000. He was supposed to be the fountain head of justice but anybody who can see the elements of justice in that must have second sight. As a mater of fact, the Hon. Mr. Doherty's pension was $6,666.66. Now I have given figures to show our extravagances in public expenditures and I intend to offer some suggestion looking to economy, I think that we might abolish the office of Lieutenant Governor in each province of the Dominion. We have nine Lieutenant Governors, and in two of the provinces they are receiving salaries of $10,000 per annum, while in six other provinces the salary is $9,000, and in Prince Edward Island $7,000. This makes a total of $81,000 a year which we are paying out in saaries to Lieutenant Governors. I do not know what their expenses amount to, but I think they are paid by the provinces. The province of Alberta this year abolished Government House, and to show how this action was regarded by the Lieutenant Governor himself, I may say that he confessed that he was glad of it inasmuch as it would save him $20,000 a year in expenses for entertainments. I think we might very well abolish the office of Lieutenant Governor, or at any rate provide by legislation that the salaries of these offices be paid by the provinces; that would bring about the same end. . . It has been declared by eminent writers, both men and women who are supposed to know what they are talking about, that Rideau Hall has cost the people of Canada some $5,000,000. . . . In 1924 I find that the following were some of the expenses in connection with the residence of the Governor General, Rideau Hall, and grounds: Governor General's office, $149,271; alterations, $13,248; improvements, $60,000; fuel and light, $19,000; telephone service, $1,825; water, $2,792; Governor General's cars, $42,659. A total of $288,795: with interest on Rideau Hall at 5 per cent, $250,000, a total of $538,795. I think the time has come when serious attention should be given to a reduction in the expenses in connection with that institution."

All kinds of political organizations held meetings in Berlin on May Day. Sometimes these battles of words ended in fisticuffs, without, however, broadening out into serious clashes. Acting, no doubt, under strict orders from Berlin's new police president, the Social-Democrat and former metal-worker, Grysinski, the police were notably retiring, though there were exceptions to prove the rule.

To start as a joiner and end as a famous physician is heralded as a great achievement. But take the case of the common soldier who enlists for the glory of the Empire—he starts in a Corps and ends as a corpse.—Glasgow "Forward".

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"There are still nearly six million men under arms in the world to-day; and the five great Allied Powers spent over £366 millions on on armaments last year—more than before the great war, despite the comparative powerlessness of Germany and Austria.—Ramsay McDonald.

A Cold - Hearted Government

By J. ROBERTS.

I have just been listening to a discussion in the House of Commons on a "definite matter of urgent public importance," namely the "acute distress existing among the coal miners and steel workers of Nova Scotia." The effect was similar, although on a smaller scale, to that experienced on reading the report of the Inter-Church Federation on the condition of the steel workers of the United States Steel Corporation; that is, surprise that the great onward sweep of civilization has left behind such stink-pots of injustice. As the case for the miners unfolded—lack of employment and insufficient wages—resulting in low standards of living, if not actual starvation and nakedness—my mind would instinctively stray toward radio, League of Nations, Einstein's Theory, etc. What was all our boasted progress if we had not been able to put an end to such simple and primitive enemies as cold, hunger, want! Labor—that is the man who actually puts his hand to the plough, to the hammer, to the stone—received the short end of the stick ten thousand years before Christ, according to hieroglyphics and papyrus, and he receives the short end now. Of course his condition has advanced, but measurably. A slip of a cog, a wink of sleep, a momentary relaxing of the guard and —cold, hunger, want. As the members talked on I realized that Labor had been caught napping somewhere, and was everlastingly paying the piper. "We are consulted only in regard to the wage cost, and our stand in regard to it is that it is already too low to give our men a decent standard of living. It is now proposed to lower it further. Many children cannot attend school owing to lack of food and clothing, and whole families face starvation at the present time." Thus spoke workmen of the Conciliation Board, grown hopeless of ever finding a basis for conciliation. "How can we conduct that fight in the face of the opposition of the Press, the provincial and Dominion governments and the public at large, all of whom are forced to misjudge us by the false propaganda of the corporation?" The odds sound heavy indeed.

But are they? I glanced over the floor of the House and felt reassured. Was not Labor itself championing its own cause, and through one of the ablest fighters in public life? Beside him sat another brilliant and fearless speaker. To their right and behind them sat other men and one woman who, if not specifically committed to Labor yet could be depended upon to rally to the defence of practically every plank in the Labor platform. Glancing further afield I caught expressions of understanding and sympathy in unexpected places. In the Press Gallery was more than one freelance pencil, whose stories, unedited by party censors, would find small but eager audiences throughout this broad land. No, the coal miners and steel workers of Nova Scotia might be further removed from the Court of Justice than they are. Tardy justice will come to them—in so far as the present system of trade and economics permits.

And there is the real rub. Any corporation, through public pressure persistently applied, can be induced to toe the legal line, obey the existing laws governing capital and labor. But this does not bring in Utopia, or even a just distribution of the desirable things of this world. The brotherhood of man, in a more practical form than the world has ever practiced, alone can do this.

In the meantime why the "acute distress" among these workers. As one member questioned, "What is going to happen to the Canadian women and children who are there, to those people who have nothing whatever to do with this industrial strife but who must suffer because of it?" Blaming the tariff or the lack of it, competition of non-union miners, delinquencies of the British Empire Steel Corporation, is cold comfort to these. Can the government longer evade coming to the rescue with the only substance that talks under such circumstances? Of course, it is an expensive and wasteful method of meeting social obligations, but we should have thought of that before. After all, a blow to our pocket-books might prove the most effective method of effecting a cure, just as it was to the burgomasters of Flanders and the merchants of the Thirteen Colonies. We are inclined to wax sentimental over cold, hunger, want, but increased taxation brings immediate action. "If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit?"

—Alberta Labor News.

Reparations Coal Effects All Workers

"Coalowners declared in each country that it is British competition that is causing them to worsen the conditions of the miners, while in Great Britain the owners contend that it is German competition."

This is an extract from a report on the Miners' International Conference in Brussels, made recently by Mr. A. J. Cook, secretary of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

Mr. Cook went on to say that unless the Miners' International could act together to stave off further reductions, international competition would be intensified, and British miners would suffer far more than those in other countries.

Position in Germany

The situation was bound up with Continental politics. German miners' representatives were anxious to act in conjunction with the miners of other countries so that they could regain their lost condition—that was less hours and higher wages— but they declared definitely that it was impossible for them to do this while they have to supply reparations coal, and as long as the Dawes scheme operated.

The Glasgow Board of Health is reported as calling attention to poor health and impaired physical conditions among the city's working classes, who are being sorely pressed to make their incomes meet the cost of living.

Montreal, Que.— 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 that 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.

It is because at all times and in all countries there were people who did not fear either prison or death that it has been possible to propagate new ideas, and to bring our poor humanity some little relief to its misery.—Gustave Herve.

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BAKERIES ARE WORKING

(Continued from Page 1)

send delegates. The executive recommended that the letter be fied. A motion was made to affiliate and an amendment to affiliate on condition that the association goes on record as favoring a $4 minimum wage for eight hours work. Several delegates spoke of their trades being affected by Oriental labor while other suggested that merchants who were now affected by the competition of the Oriental merchant wanted labor to help pull the chestnuts out of the fire, whereas a few years ago when labor asked for an exclusion measure they were ignored by the business element. The amendment carried.

A communication from the Toronto Union of Painters advising the council of its efforts to get compensation for Benzol poisoning was referred to the parliamentary committee. Delegates from the painters union informed the council of the dangers and of a very recent death in this city from the same cause.

Quarterly Working Button

Electrical Workers Union 213 asked that the council consider the proposition of purchasing a quarterly button for general use of all trades. Some delegates thought the plan a good one, but others, who had adopted the card system, were not so enthusiastic. The matter, however, is to be referred back to the affiliated unions.

Del. Bartlett reported on the work of the organization committee and its present efforts in connection with the metal trades. Noon-day and evening meetings are being held and results encouraging.

Organizer Burn of the Molders Union is in town and already doing good work.

Organizer Clise of the Sheet Metal Workers has already made good progress in that trade.

Lining Up Exhibition Board

Under the heading of reports from committees del. Scribbins reported that when the Publicity Board of the Exhibition Association proposed getting a band from the outside he opposed it and the board agreed that a suitable one would be obtained from local talent. The board also intended to get an "announcer" from Calgary, but del. Scribbins again suggested that Vancouver had plenty of talent for this job. He also insisted that all contracts should be specified as using union labor.

Del. Hunt reported on the success of the Tag Day efforts for the miners and their families of Nova Scotia, which netted $1319. A letter of thanks had been sent to all who took part in the work, including the 17 Japanese women. It was also pointed out that although the Great War Veterans had promised to help that only one from that organization participated.

TOOTH TALKS FOR THE HOME
Dr. W. E. Wessels, B.A., D.D.S.

Is your child backward at school? Perhaps the reason is simply tooth-trouble. That is usually the cause. The Vancouver School Board has reports showing that half the "dunces" and backward children in the public schools have defective teeth. If those children's teeth received attention they would not only remove the distraction of poor teeth and poor digestion, but the little folk would have a fair chance in life. They would be enabled to study without distraction, but would go forth into the world, after school days, with perfect dentition.

You can't expect a child to grow into adult age and achieve 100 per cent efficiency with 40 per cent teeth. You wouldn't expect a machine to produce 100 per cent results with impaired mechanism, and the same thing applies to backward children in possession of poor teeth.

The pubic schools have many instances where dull people became bright smart students, after their teeth received attention. Childhood is the proper time to look out for tooth trouble. It not only gives the child a chance, but it also arrests tooth trouble that is likely to become serious in time, and prove detrimental to digestion in the growing, formative years of the growing child or adolescent.

There is only one advice on this—take your child to the dentist, and make sure he is a good dentist. It is the best investment a parent can make for his child.

WHAT OUR READERS WANT TO KNOW

If it isn't high time for the Government to step in and take over control of the Children's Aid Society and put a stop to conditions that have stirred up so many unpleasant rumors?

* * *

What is behind the whispered reports regarding the Christmas Fund of the Society and what really became of it all?

* * *

If Vancouver hasn't about 95 per cent too many beauty parlors and so-called schools, including the Moler institution?

* * *

How much longer the city council intends to pay the $2 an $1 a day wage to the 37 workers on sewer work?

* * *

How many more sets of harness the city will lose through giving contracts to McKay.

* * *

And why the city pays him $6 a day for the use of each team and supplies him with wagon and harness while he is paying his teamsters $3 a day.

* * *

When the public prosecutor or somebody in power intends looking into the complaints of girls being skinned out of their hard earned money by certain malodorous "schools" of beauty culture?

* * *

If it isn't time for the morality squad to keep an eye upon some of those Chinese cafes where obscene hoodlums and parasites congregate to caress little white girl waitresses, and young girls who patronize these places at all hours?

* * *

And if it isn't an injustice to our white Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union to allow Chinese cafes to be opening up on all sides, without protest?

* * *

If it isn't a reproach to our infamous wage slave system for women to see Vancouver infested with girls forced into shame to eke out a bare living?

* * *

If, as a local pastor says, "there is no Hell," where has business gone to these days?

BARGAIN MATINEE TOMORROW
"CHARLIE'S AUNT" AT AVENUE

Charlie's Aunt, which has been going strong at the Avenue, will close tomorrow, aSturday, with a bargain matinee (25c.) followed with the evening performance. This funniest of all comedies is staged by an excellent stock company, Paul Burnand's Players, and made a hit of the season with a comedy that has won unabated favor on three continents for two decades. The Avenue is booking a number of high class attractions for the season.

Berlin, Germany.— Metal manufacturers have locked out 7,000 employees who struck for wage increases.

Painters to Have a "Ladies' Night" Social

Another successful general meeting under the organizing campaign of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council was held by the Painters', Paperhangers' and Decorators' Local 138 on Thursday evening, May 14, in their hall, 319 Pender St., W.

Bro. Walter Wilson presided and introduced Organizer Somerville, of the Machinists, who proceeded to make a very strong appeal to those present who were not members of the union and urged them to join and give their co-operation in bettering the working conditions of their craft. The twenty minutes talk was full of facts and straight to the point on the position of the organized labor movement of this continent and was heartily applauded by the large audience. He was given a hearty vote of thanks.

Twelve New Members

Twelve new members were initiated and several signed application forms.

Secretary R. Stevenson gave a short talk and this was followed by community singing and a programme as follows: J. Goldie, Scottish recitation; the Lyric Quartette, T. Killick, first tenor, W. Whitby, second tenor, F. Brierly, first bass, C. Gudmansar, second bass, F. T. Marriage, A.L.C.M., accompanist. This quartette gave several numbers and received very persistent applause. Bro. Edwards recited "Pat and St. Peter at the Gate;" followed by Bro. Champlin, Irish comic song; Mr. Gudmansar, bass solo, "Trumpeter," Bros. J. King, W. Bolton and several others assisted on the programme and Bro. T. Newson accompanied.

Bro. Ed. Smith announced that the next open meeting on Thursday, May 28, would be Ladies' Night and urged all members to bring their wives and sweethearts, as a very fine programme and refreshments will be provided.

Refreshment were served and everyone went home happy and determined to bring their wives to the next event.

The Social Welfare Committee has made arrangements for their annual picnic, which will be held at Bowen Island, Saturday, July 11, and expect a record crowd.

COMIC OPERA AT ORPHEUM

The Brandon Comic Opera Company opened the summer season of comic opera at the Orpheum Theatre on Monday night with the Bernard Shaw satirical comedy "The Chocolate Soldier". The enthusiastic reception greeted this brilliant company by the Vancouver music lovers bespeaks a splendid season of light opera. Brandon Brothers have brought a splendid organization to the city and giving the music lovers and theatregoers an opportunity that comes only too seldom.

The offering next week is "The Bohemian Girl," starting Monday, May 25th, with the 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. While the plot is quaint and amusing, there is no getting away from the potency of the music. It flows without ceasing. It gurgles and chortles. It sobs and sighs in the smoothest, simplest and easiest way. The libretto has all the necessities for successful 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 one of Gilbert and Sullivan's successes, "The Pirates of Penzance," and each week throughout the summer a new gem will be produced. Brandon Brothers are providing a wonderful treat for the theatregoers and music lovers of Vancouver and vicinity.

U. B. OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, LOCAL 452
NOTICE

Owing to the next regular meeting of the Local falling on the holiday, May 25th, the meeting has been postponed to Wednesday, May 27th.

The Teamsters strike that threatened Seattle last week was settled by a board of arbitration which granted the men fifty cents a day increase.

Outside electrical workers in Seattle are asking a wage increase of from $1.30 to $2.30 a day.

Carpenters Union in Everett has denied membership to men who have not taken out their first citizenship papers.

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