Labor Statesman

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Supported by Sixty-two Local Unions

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Labour Intelligence Br.

First Canadian Carpenter Enters Home of United Brotherhood

Miss Jessie E. McTaggart of the Mail and Empire staff tells of the contemplated trip of Canada's first union carpenter to the union's beautiful home for aged members in Florida, and as Jessie tells it better than we can, we reprint her story verbatim:

The eventide of life to some people is pathetic and to others cruel, but to Richard Southwell it is splendid. For in just a few days he will be sitting on the banks of Lake Gibson in the warm sunshine of Florida, a guest for the remainder of his life in the new million-dollar Carpenters' Home that he has helped to create.

Imagine being able to bask in the sun under blue skies and swap tales with chaps who have worked at the same work that you have, who have lived about the same number of years that you have and who have earned the same right to rest there that you have!

This is how Dick Southwell, as his friends call him, purposes to spend the rest of his days.

Born 77 years ago in Pembrokeshire, South Wales, Mr. Southwell has the distinction of being the only surviving member of the 100 carpenters who took out a charter in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters as Local 27, Toronto, in 1882, and whose first meetings were held in Lennox's tap room, where the city hall now stands. "I've seen 99 of them drop out," he said reminiscently, yet with a faint touch of the pride that is due a man who could survive them all.

Slight and of medium height, with white hair and moustache, Mr. Southwell carries well his many years. He has remarkably placid blue eyes, eyes that have the peace that comes only to one who knows that gazing for more than three-quarters of a century on the trials and turmoils of this world that they are only small items in the great span of time.

He has been a carpenter since he was 14 years old. His first job was at home in Wales in the shipbuilding yards at Pembroke Dock, and, although the apprenticeship was eight years in those days, the firm for whom he was working went bankrupt before his term was up, in his own words, "letting us boys out."

Coming to Toronto when he was 22, he assisted in the erection of a building that still stands on the southwest corner of Terauley and Yonge, then Alice and Yonge. "They had to tear down a building on that site to erect the new one, and that

How Wages Have Risen

"Twenty cents an hour was top price for a good man in the old days and a working day was ten hours long," he said. "Today we get $1 an hour and we work only a 44-hour week. At that, some of them are complaining and we are negotiating for $1.10 an hour and a 40-hour week." You see, he says "we." It has been "we" for 46 years.

And he is not a bit old-fashioned. He thoroughly approves of modern methods of specializing. To the suggestion that machinery probably would never take the place of hand work, he said: "Why not? It is done more quickly and lasts just as long." And it was probably this same ability to keep up with the pace of the times that suggested itself to his fellow carpenters and resulted in his being elected the first business agent of the Toronto branch 35 years ago.

But now his voice warms with pride at mention of his brotherhood. "If you've nothing else to ask me, I guess you might fill up the space about the lodge," he gently hinted. "I have always been an active member, a very active member, I might say, and I am the first Canadian to go to the new Florida home."

"Fortunate Man," He Says

Then he went into the next room and brought out a folder of the new home. It is a beautiful place. He displayed the pictures and pointed out the descriptions with pride. Although they must have been familiar to him, adjusting his spectacles, he read them all over again.

At the bottom of the paper there was a little plea on behalf of the old men for whom no provision has been made. It was entitled "The Old Workers." Mr. Southwell hesitated, then pointed it out in a manner that showed plainly that he did not wish to appear sentimental, but nevertheless he had lived long enough in this hard old world to be unaffected.

"Yes," he said, "I am a fortunate man."

Shall We Starve Workers Over Forty Years of Age?

American Federation of Labor Discovers Startling Condition in the Employment Field—Is Asking for a Congressional Investigation

HOW TO STOP the growing practise of fixing forty or forty-five years as the age limit for employment is one of the first problems President Hoover will be asked to solve. At the recent Miami meeting of the American Federation of Labor, says Chester M. Wright, it was decided to undertake a nation-wide survey to determine the extent of the practise, and to lay the results before the President. That the situation has reached the serious stage seems apparent to the Columbus (Ohio) "Dispatch" from the anxiety manifested "by labor leaders and students of sociology the country over."

In the opinion of Federation officials, there has been created an antisocial phenonmenon out of what was originally intended to be a beneficent social aim and ideal. The comparatively recent practise of insuring employees by groups, they maintain, is working against the older employee, for the simple reason that the older a man, the higher the insurance rate. Says William Green, head of the Federation:

"Among other things, we propose to find out just how much untruth there is in the assertion of some employers that social-justice legislation is responsible for discrimination against men of forty or over. We rather believe that much of this is due to the desire of employers to get lower rates for workmen's compensation and group insurance. The premiums on such insurance are based on the average age of the men insured.

"Here enters the question of State monopoly of workmen's compensation insurance, where the cost of administration is low and there is no profit, versus the system which permits private companies, operated for profit, to write such insurance.

"One way of erasing the 'forty-year dead line' may be in the general adoption of the former system.

"As for group insurance, that is always paternalistic, and the employer usually wishes to pay as small a price for his paternalism as possible."

The New York Evening Post and a number of other representative papers are convinced that "the sympathies of the country will be wholeheartedly with the Federation in its efforts to discourage the growing habit in industry of discriminating against applicants for work who happen to be over forty or forty-five." As a matter of fact, declares the Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger, "men over forty are doing most of the important work of the world, and there are many trades and professions in which men in their forties are far more efficient and dependable than younger men." True, admits the Philadelphia Record, "the man of forty-five hasn't the snap and vigor of a youth, but he has the knowledge born of experience. And he uses his brains." "Youth may possess greater physical strength than age," observes the New York American, "but physical strength is becoming less and less important in commerce and industry." To the Providence News:

"The tendency of employers to discrimnate against the man in his forties is a most unfortunate one for the employers, the community, and the families of the workers. It deprives men with young children of the opportunity to bring them up as well as they would like to, thus handicapping a future generation of working Americans, and, as a consequence, America itself. It deprives industry of all that is acquired by way of experience and a sense of responsibility on the part of the workers."

If pension funds and group insurance are responsible for discrimination against the man of forty-five, maintains the New York Journal of Commerce, "then changes in methods of pension and insurance administration are in order." Any scheme for the protection of the worker in his old age which encourages his elimination from industry while he is still in the prime of life, asserts this business daily, "is uneconomic and intolerable."

Engineer Prejudiced

City Engineer Brackenridge seems to be capable of saying anything to prejudice the city council against day labor on road and sewer work. He recently informed the city council that if civic employees were laid off they wailed about having seven or eight children to keep, sick wives, etc., in order to be kept on the job. The Civic Federation informed the city council this week that [illegible] instances or complaints have been reported. It's now up to the city engineer to find some other excuse.

Another Big Mill to Go Into Operation

P. B. Anderson, an old-time logger, has bought the interest of the McNair saw mill at Marpole, and is fitting it out, at a great expense, and will have it in operation in about four months' time. The millwrights are as busy as bees out there at present and more will be needed to finish the work. This mill will employ in the neighborhood of 200 men and Mr. Anderson, the owner, is going to install the most up-to-date machinery, and by this means will help to have a greater output of high grade lumber.—R.J.T.

Milk Monopolies

Now that it is openly admitted that the P. Burns Company has gone into the milk business, we might point out that there are some big monopolies getting into that line of business. The big financial house of Nesbitt, Thompson & Co. is handling the stock of Eastern Dairies Ltd., which is swallowing up many dairy enterprises in Eastern Canada.

New Cafe Opens with An All-White Crew

An all-white union crew will be on the job when the Leonard's Cafe opens up on Granville street next week. This place is situated almost opposite the Capital and Orpheum theatres and will be handy for a large number of our readers when taking in these and other nearby shows. The company, in opening their new place, has adopted an entirely new policy in seeking the friendship of organized labor. A union card will be found on display and a full union crew in the kitchen and waiting on the table will feature this new cafe from the day of opening. We are taking this opportunity to extend our best wishes for the success of this venture and to urge organized labor's co-operation in giving this place the patronage it deserves.

Local Millwrights Gaining in Membership

By a great effort on the part of members of the Millwrights' local, they have established a scale of 87 1-2 cents per hour throughout this province. Time works wonders. Just a year ago the same men had to fight to get even 70 to 75 cents an hour; but these days have gone forever. Organizer R. J. Thompson has done some useful work for them lately. In fact, he has lined up some of the mills that were thought impossible, and is still working in their interest, and has taken in several members. If this keeps up there won't be a non-union millwright in Vancouver and district by the time spring is over.

GRAY HAIR CUTS WAGES

"There are many shops today in which the appearance of a gray hair in a man's head is the signal for a wage reduction."

In this striking statement, Benjamin Schlessinger, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, told the condition prevailing in the sweatshops which have sprung up in that industry during the last three years.

Mr. Schlessinger is seeking an early conference with New York manufacturers, in the hope of avoiding a strike when the present contracts expire on June 1.

City Engineer Can Put More Men to Work

In spite of the splendid weather we are enjoying and the opening up of a considerable amount of building work, there are still a large number of laborers around hunting jobs. It seems that the city council might help in this situation by putting on two or three shifts to finish the work now under way on the road on Richards street. The work is interfering with traffic and could easily be speeded up by extra shifts, inasmuch as there are plenty of men available to do it. In fact, this should become the policy of the city on downtown work when it interferes with traffic.

* * *

The city council is ordering seventeen new automobiles for its various departments and contemplates the purchasing of more at a later date.

Water Meter Fails

A sidelight on metering city water came before the city council this week when it was discovered that Point Grey residents had been advised to keep their water running during the recent cold snap and the city would only charge for the average consumption and not take the meter figures. It seems as though the meter also increased the danger of the water freezing, and this obligated the city to sanction the running of the water to keep it from freezing.

CHICAGO TO BROADCAST OVER LABOR RADIO

Chicago.—Microphones were placed last week in the office of the mayor of the city of Chicago and in the council chamber by radio station WCFL, "The Voice of Labor."

This station is owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor and represents the personal contributions of some 300,000 trade unionists as well as the organized farmers of the state of Iowa.

It is expected that broadcasting of city council discussion of important issues will be a real contribution to civic betterment.

Workers' Nostrils Just As Sensitive as Others

Strenuous objections were raised by Aldermen MacInnis and De Graves to the habit of dumping garbage in various parts of the city. Alderman MacInnis stressed the need for incinerating the garbage instead of dumping it in the East and South ends of the city. Alderman De Graves stated that he had recently seen some deplorable sights around these garbage dumps, and considered they were a menace to the health of the city. The subject came up when the city was granting a lease to some property at the foot of Campbell Road, South Vancouver. The lease gave power to the city to use some of the ground for dumping purposes. The scavenging department was instructed not to dump any offensive matter on the place without the city council, in spite of the fact that Alderman Atherton thought that the hands of the city engineer should not be tied. Alderman MacInnis said that most of the garbage was dumped in the East End and although the people who lived there might look a little shabbier, their nostrils were just as sensitive as those of other people.

Against Discarding of Men at Forty

Miami, Florida.—Immigration bars must be raised to greater heights if employers continue to refuse employment to workers who are over 40 years old, said President Green, at the quarterly meeting of the American Federation of Labor executive council.

To draw the dead line of employment when a man is 40 or 45 years old is folly," said Mr. Green. "Most men are in their prime at this age. They have acquired a mental balance and a rounded knowledge that equips them for service, but they are refused employment because of the new state of mind of employers.

"It is inconsistent for employers to lay off middle age men and then demand that young men be imported to fill their plants. If that policy is to continue, organized labor will urge laws that will further restrict immigration."

Data in possession of executive council shows that private compensation insurance companies encourage employers to discharge workers over 40 and 45 years by offering lower insurance when younger men are employed.

Sociology Club Lecture Dates

March 14th—Prof. C. McLean Frazer. "A Glimpse of Japan." (Illustrated).

March 21st—Mr. F. Cusack. "Labor and Immigration."

March 28th—Prof. H. F. Angus. "Political Freedom."

April 4th—Mr. Jos. Lane, U. B. C "Religion as a Social Force."

—F.C.

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FRANCE GIVES A BONUS TO WEDDED STATESMEN

Each married member of the French House of Deputies and Senate will hereafter receive an annual bonus of $1,200 for his wife and a like sum for each child. This project, defended as an inducement to increase the birth rate, was recommended by the finance committee and adopted by the Deputies.

Senators and Deputies in France receive 45,000 francs a year, equal to about $1,800. Bachelors in both houses will continue to draw only that amount—a penalty for being single.

Critics of the scheme say it is just another plan for boosting legislators' salaries.

Scotch Yarn

"Won't you give a shilling to the Lord?" said a Salvation Army girl to an old Aberdonian.

"How auld are ye, lassie?" he inquired.

"Nineteen, sir."

"Ah, weel, I'm past seventy-five. I'll be seein' Him afore you, so I'll hand it to Him mysel'."

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The People's Opinion

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The Week At Ottawa

By J. S. Woodsworth

In the Senate there are two men who tower far above their fellows—Senator Raoul Dandurand and Sir George Foster, both keen advocates of international good-will. In discussing the Kellog Peace Treaty, Sir George Foster, instead of denouncing the United States for its cruiser bill, called attention to the fact that, after all, the United States was simply bringing up its naval strength to something near the arrangement made in Washington in 1921-22.

He urged that, since we were entering into this compact, we should not hereafter trouble ourselves very much about large appropriations for instruments of war for land or sea. "Through how many ages has humanity struggled to attain within its national limits the renunciation of violence and force and the construction of its national and social relationships on the basis of justice, right, truth and good-fellowship. This has been achieved. Now we have approached an era in which, long delayed though it may have been, humanity has at last reached the similar point in its national development where it has proclaimed the reign of peace and justice in contradistinction to violence and war."

* * *

Mr. Neill, Comox-Alberni, made a strong protest against the proposed legislation which would cut down the time allowed for members to discuss private bills. The suspicion is that this regulation, which is to be tried out for one year, is being brought forward to overcome the opposition which last year blocked the passage of the Sun Life Bill and the Bell Telephone Bill for increased capitalization. Mr. Neill, who has a dry, Scotch humor, at his best is one of the most interesting speakers in the House. He quoted an epitaph on a tombstone in an old English graveyard erected to the memory of a three-year-old child. After stating the particulars of the infant's name and death this doggerel follows:

"If so soon I would be done for,
What on earth was I begun for?"

Or again, he reminded us of the Eastern potentate who had captured a city and who proposed to burn a valuable old library. On being remonstrated with he said: "Either these books support the Korean or they are opposed to it. If they support it they are unnecessary; if they oppose it, they are wicked. In either case they are superffous." Therefore he ordered the library burned.

Mr. Neill continued: "We are told that this would shorten the debate and save the precious time of the House. Well, that was the very bait that was held out to us two years ago when we sold our birthright of free speech, or a portion of it (referring to 40-minute rule) for a mess of pottage. And a very sorry looking mess the pottage was when we got it; to me it seemed more like the funeral baked meats of the ancient Egyptians. Certainly, it was very much inferior to the life giving pottage of the days of Isaac and Esau, and, indeed, even inferior to what is supposed to be its lineal descendant, the brose of the modern Scot."

He considered that the proposal would lend itself to log rolling, which he proposed to describe as a bargain between himself and a brother British Columbian across the House. "If you vote for the wise and just estimates for my district, I will vote for the rotten unjust estimates for yours. It is to be hoped, of course, that neither the Hon. Member for New Westminster nor myself would yield to that temptation. Still, Mr. Speaker, you, yourself, deem it advisable every day at three o'clock to pray that we be delivered from temptation, and sometimes I wonder whether it would not be wise if you renewed the supplication at eight o'clock for fear the strength prayed for earlier in the day might have waned."

* * *

In view of the scandal in connection with the Seven Sisters Falls, I brought forward a motion: "That no disposition of the natural resources under the control of the Federal Government shall be effective until ratified by Parliament." According to the prevailing practice there can be no expenditure of public monies without ratification by Parliament, yet by a mere Order-in-Council the Government can give away tens of millions of dollars and then blandly tell us that "nothing can be done in the matter."

Mr. Bird made a very eloquent speech in this connection. He began with the old English rhyme:

"It is bad enough in man or woman
To steal the goose from off the common;
But surely he is without excuse
Who steals the commons from the goose."

After his short review of the enclosure of commons in England, he said: "Now, today we are passing through a parallel process. Moneylordism is foisting itself on our free institutions in this country. As President Wilson said some years ago, there has risen up behind the forms of democracy an invisible government; it is the government of money kings, who seek privileges from parilament, whose cupidity has been stirred by the vast natural resources of the country, and who have been encouraged by the servility of governments—encouraged by our system, wherby grants of our natural resources do not come up for consideration by the people's representatives, but are passed upon in the secrecy of the cabinet council."

He showed the growing value of our natural resources. In the old days when the water power was just a matter of scenic beauty; when an oil field was just a potential sheep pasture, and the pulp forests, a muskeg, it did not matter very much whether our natural resources were administered one way or the other. There was nothing very serious implicated; but in recent years, particularly since the war, our natural resources have assumed a value that our great grandfathers could not have imagined."

* * *

There is a growing tendency on the part of the Federal Government to refuse to make grants to the provinces for undertakings that in the past have been considered as part of the Federal Government's responsibility. The Federal Government assisted in highway construction; in technical education; in unemployment relief—grants for these are being cut off. The Old Age Pensions scheme has been only recently adopted. This, of course, involves an arrangement by which the Federal Government is responsible for half the pension paid, yet the Prime Minister the other day made the astonishing statement that the Old Age Pension was a thoroughly vicious system—that it was a thoroughly vicious system to have one body raise taxes and have another body spend the money thus secured. If this principle is to be adopted, it will mean a readjustment of our taxation. For, as matters stand today, the Dominion Government has much wider powers of taxation than the Provincial Governments, which are limited to direct, and hence unpopular, forms of taxation.

This year the Senate Bill providing for a Divorce Court for the province of Ontario actually got a hearing in the House—a hearing that for two preceding years had been denied. Everyone seems afraid to touch this matter. The Roman Catholic Church is so strongly opposed to divorce that a great many members, even strong "Orangemen," seem to be afraid of running the risk of antagonizing some of their constituents.

In the meantime, the giving of divorces by Parliament has grown to be little less than a public scandal. All the provinces, except Ontario and Quebec, have divorce courts. The Bill proposes to establish a divorce court to be set up in Ontario from which most of the cases now come. Some of us took the ground that the principle of divorce was not at stake. Even Mr. Bourassa conceded that the principle had been recognized at the time of Confederation. The Bill simply meant the transference of the court from Parliament to a properly constituted court, where investigation could be more carefully carried on, and where provision could be made for alimony for the wife and for the custody and maintenance of the children.

After some impassioned speeches on the sanctity of the home, and the evils of divorce, the Bill was voted down and we are supposed to continue to grant divorces, in the picturesque words of Mr. Bourassa "by the bushel," and with the Roman Catholic Members of the House salving their conscience by having the Speaker say, after every divorce case, "carried—on division," thus intimating that the Roman Catholics in the House were opposed on principle.

* * *

The expenditures for harbors are not now made direct by the Government, but since the more important harbors have set-up commissions, the Dominion Government is now asked to advance money by way of loan to these commissions. This year, this will involve for the various harbor boards, an expenditure of some $27 millions. Interest on this sum is supposed to be paid, although this is not always done. We seem here to be adopting a principle about as vicious as that referred to by the Prime Minister, namely, that the actual administration of public funds is being taken over by bodies not directly responsible to the people, and in fact not very closely responsible even to the Government.

* * *

A vext question is the control over the St. Lawrence, and this is likely to be settled by a joint conference between the Dominion and the provinces concerned. The reference to the Supreme Court brought no very definite result, so that negotiation seems now to be the most practicable way.

Nova Scotia has again come forward with a scheme which would involve the expenditure of some money in that province. It proposes to transform itself into an island by the cutting through of the Chignecto canal, thus making it possible for ships to pass from the Straits of Northumberland to the Bay of Fundy. This is an old scheme, but one that has never received very serious consideration. Parliament adopted the motion that the Government should make an investigation regarding costs and the feasibility of the scheme.

The much-talked-of clash between the programmes of the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National in the west has apparently simmered down to difficulties in one district. The Minister of Railways made the statement in the House that in other respects matters had been "ironed" out.

* * *

We are to have before us the vext question as to what has been done with regard to war reparations. The Government has brought down a bill providing for a distribution of $2,500,000 for those who have suffered property losses during the war. This Bill is being criticized from several standpoints. There are those, especially in the East, who take the view that war losses, as determined by the Commission, should be paid in full. Others take the ground that payment should be made on the ground of compassionate allowances, giving preference to those who are in greatest need, rather than to the big companies. Still others suggest that since people all over the country lost so much by the war there is no reason why one particular group should be handed over the reparations fund.

ASSOCIATION REORGANIZED

Stockholm. — Having renewed its agreements with the trade unions, the Swedish Employers' Association has reorganized its own structure into five industrial groups. The first is the cellulose, paper and saw mill industry; the second is the textile and clothing industry; third is the metal-working and engineering industry; fourth is the building industry with allied trades; fifth is the victualling industry. These groups are to confer and make inter-agreements as to policy in industrial relations, although the associations in the individual trades will continue to negotiate with organized labor.

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Trades Union Directory

LABOR HEADQUARTERS, 529-531 BEATTY STREET

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council—President, J. Thomson; general secretary Percy R. Bengough. Office, 200 Labor Headquarters, 531 Beatty St. Phone Sey. 7495. Meets in Labor Hall at 8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays in month.

Beverage Dispensers Union No. 676—Meets last Sunday at 8 p.m., Room No. 3, Labor Headquarters. Pres., W. H. Clancy; Secretary and Bus. Agent, T. J. Hanofin. Office: Room 14, Flack Block. Phones: Sey. 4783 and Bay. 1656-R. Hours: 9 to 12 a.m.

Bridge & Structural Iron Workers, Local 97, Int. Assos.—Meets every Friday, Hall 311, Labor Headquarters, at 8 p.m. President, James F. Burns, 2833 Turner St.; Secretary, P. Lauret, Room 311, Labor Headquarters. Phone Fair. 2108 L.

Building Trades Council, Vancouver—Meets second and fourth Tuesday in Hall 315, Labor Headquarters. President, E. H. Morrison; Secretary-Treasurer, W. Page, Room 301, Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 7495.

Barbers' Journeyman International Union of America—Local 120, meets second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, in Hall No. 3, Labor Headquarters. President, Fred Dawe; Sec.-Treas., C. E. Herrett. Office, 304 Labor Headquarters.

Bookbinders' Local No. 105, Int. Brotherhood—Meets second Tuesday in month at Professional and Business Woman's Club, Empire Bldg., 603 Hastings W. President, G. Low, 61—53rd Ave. W.; Secretary, Thos. Carroll, 842 Hamilton St.

Bricklayers', Masons' and Tile Setters' Int. Union, No. 1—Room 309, Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Wednesday, in Hall No. 3. President, L. Padgett, 2066 W. 8th. Phone Bayview 1558 R; Secretary, W. S. Dagnall, 1244 East 20th, Phone Fair. 845 R; Fin. Sec., J. H. Riley, 5884 Inverness, Phone Fraser 542 L.

Camp and Mill Workers Federal Labor Union No. 31—Vancouver and vicinity, meets every second Wednesday at 8 p.m., at 544 Powell St. E. President, H. Miyazawa; Secretary, K. Tsuyuki.

Carpenters and Joiners, United Brotherhood of, Local 452—President, J. G. Smith; Financial Secretary, R. W. Hatley; Business Agent, W. Hargreaves. Office, Room 310, Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Mondays, 8 p.m., in Hall No. 1.

City Hall Employees' Association—Meets first Wednesday of each month at 251½ Hastings East at 8 p.m. President, A. J. Harrison; Treasurer, W. J. Scribbins, 3208 Pender St. E.; Secretary, J. Tarbuck, 2792 Pender Street East.

Civic Employees' Union, Local 28—Meets first and third Fridays in the month at 251½ Hastings East at 8 p.m. President, R. N. Hogg, 1718 Commercial Dr.; Secretary-Treasurer, George Harrison, 3427 Triumph St.

Electrical Workers, Local 213, International Brotherhood—Meets First and Third Monday, at 8 p.m., at Labor Headquarters. President, D. McDougal; Business Agent, E. H. Morrison. Office, 201 Labor Headquarters.

Engineers—International Union Steam and Operating Local 844—Meets every Friday at 8 p.m. Hall 315. President, Geo. Pettipiece; Rec.-Sec., D. Hodges; Business Agent and Fin. Sec., T. A. Newbigging. Office, Room 306, Labor Headquarters.

Fire Fighters, No. 18, International Association of—Meets every month at call of president at 251½ Hastings E. President, N. McDonald, 1136 McLean Drive; Financial Secretary, C. A. Watson, 1329—13th Ave. E.

Floorlayers' Union, No. 1875, U. B. of C. & J. A.—Meets first and third Thursdays in month at Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, G. Mayne; Fin Sec., T. H. Hamlin; Rec. Sec., W. D. Wilson, 1535—5th Ave. W.

Hod Carriers and Building Laborers, No. 602, International—Meets first and third Fridays in month at Hall No. 3, Labor Headquarters. President, Sam Floyd, 952 Seymour St.; Fin. Sec. and Acting Business Agent, James Binding, 52 West 24th; Phone Fair. 6159L.

Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Marine Cooks & Stewards, Local 28—Williams Bldg., 413 Granville Street. Meets second Monday each month at 3 p.m., last Monday at 9 p.m. President, Thos. Edwards; Sec.-Treas. and Bus. Agent, J. Cumming. Phone Sey. 125.

Ladies' Auxiliary, Local 171—United Brotherhood of Carpenters—Meets every first and third Wednesday of each month in Hall 201, Labor Headquarters, at 8 p.m. President, Mrs. C. J. Atkinson, 730 19th Ave. W.; Secretary, Elizabeth J. Hope, 1042 7th Ave. E.

Lathers, Wood, Wire and Metal, International Union, Local 207—Meets second and fourth Mondays in month at Hall 211, Labor Headquarters. W. Fontaine, Secretary, 1828 Commercial Dr. Phone High. 2169 R.

Machinists' Local 692—President, Thos. Sills, 1352 Burrard St.; Secretary, P. R. Bengough. Office, Room 200, Labor Headquarters. Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays in Hall 313.

Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees, Local 464—Office 308, Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Fridays in Hall No. 1. President, E. Metcalfe; Secretary-Treasurer, Birt Showler, 2841 Triumph. Phone High. 5327.

Mill and Factory Workers' Union, Local No. 1599—Affiliated with United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners. Meets first and third Thursdays in Hall No. 3, Labor Headquarters. Pres., G. Campbell. Secretary-Treasurer, H. G. Avery, 7964 Montcalm Street. Phone Marpole 648R.

Millwrights' Local 1638—Construction and Operating—Meets second and fourth Wednesday in Hall 315, Labor Headquarters. J. H. Campbell, President; P. H. Edge, Fin. Sec.; J. Murray Ure, Rec. Sec. Box 127.

Motion Pictures Projectionists' Union, Local 348, of I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.—11:30 p.m. in Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, J. R. Foster; 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, E. C. Miller; General Secretary, W. E. Williams; Organizer, F. Fletcher, all at 991 Nelson Street.

Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, Local 138—Meets second and fourth Thursdays at Hall No. 2. President, Carl Jorgenson; Rec. Sec., A. E. Varah, 1442 Clark Drive; Business Agent, Ed. Smith. Office, Room 313, Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 3609.

Pile Drivers, Bridge, Wharf and Dock Builders, Local No. 2404—Meets every Friday night at 8 o'clock in 122 Hastings St. W. President, Al. Graham; James Thomson, Secretary, P. O. Box 320. Phone Sey. 7874.

Plasterers, Local 89—Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International Association—Meets first and third Wednesday in month at Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, Wm. Broomhead; Secretary, A. Hurry, 861—34th Ave. E. Phone Fair. 3222R. Cement Finishers' Secretary, S. Cotton, 2630 Turner St. High. 3463R.

Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 170, International Association—Meets every second and fourth Friday in Hall No. 2. President, Art Jane; Secretary and Business Agent, W. Watt, 305-7 Labor Headquarters.

Printing Pressmen and Assistants, Local No. 69—Meets every second Tuesday in the month at 8 p.m. in Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, Max Ernberg, 2035 Georgia East; Secretary, Thos. S. Ezart, 1603 40th Ave. E., So. Vancouver.

Railway Carmen of America, Lodge No. 58—Meets first and third Friday in month at Labor Headquarters. President, H. Warde, 1102—23rd Ave. E.; Secretary, J. D. Vuliamy, 2215—15th Ave. E.

Street and Electric Railway Employees, Pioneer Division No. 101—Meets K. P. Hall, 8th and Kingsway, first and third Mondays at 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. President, J. E. Smith; Recording Secretary, J. Price; Treasurer, J. Auton; Financial Secretary and Business Agent, H. W. Speed. Office: Corner Prior and Main streets. Phone Sey. 5000.

Sheet Metal Workers Association, Local Union No. 280—Meets second and fourth Thursdays in Hall No. 3. President, Jas. Strachan, 2205 W. 11th; Business Agent and Secretary, D. MacPherson, 308 Labor Headquarters.

Shingle Weavers, Local 17813—Meets second Tuesday in month in Room No. 2, Labor Temple, New Westminster, and fourth Sunday, 7:30 p.m., in Hall No. 3, Labor Headquarters, Vancouver. President, J. Stevenson; Secretary, J. N. Chute, 1163 Pender E., Phone High. 1982 Y.

Tailors' Journeymen Union of America, Local No. 178—Meetings held first Thursday, each month, 8 p.m. Executive meets third Thursday of every month in Labor Headquarters. President, Colin McDonald; Secretary, W. W. Hocken, 1582 13th Ave. S.; Financial Secretary, H. Nordlund, 1930 12th Ave. E.

Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, Local 466—311 Labor Headquarters. Meets every First and Third Monday, Labor Headquarters, President, A. A. McKay, 765 Cambie St.; Secretary-Treasurer, A. P. Black, 880 Homer St.

Theatrical Stage Employees' Union, Local 118 of the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.—Meets at 991 Nelson Street on the second Friday in month, at 9:30 a.m. President, Rod Martin; Secretary, Gordon Martin; Bus. Agent, Harry Mitchel; Address P. O. Box 711.

Typographical Union, No. 226—President, C. S. Campbell; Vice-President, R. Gouthro; Secretary-Treasurer, R. H. Neelands, 300-2 Labor Headquarters. Meets last Sunday of each month at 2 p.m., in Women's Bldg., Thurlow street.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY No. 75 to Vancouver Typographical Union meets first Thursday of each month, in the Vancouver Women's Building, 752 Thurlow Street. President, Mrs. E. J. Trumper, Suite 41, 840 Nelson Street; Secretary, Una A. Pettipiece, 1846 Balaclava Road.

Prince Rupert Trades & Labor Council

MEETS second Thursday in each month. President, S. D. McDonald, Box 268. Secretary, Frank Derry, Box 498, Prince Rupert, B.C.

Dad's Profession

"Johnny, is your father an optimist or a pessimist?"

"He ain't neither one. He's a chiropodist."

An Interpretation of Dictator Mussolini

An address delivered by A. Sprice of Queensborough, New Westminster, before the Kiwanis of New Westminster.

The able leadership of King Victor Emanuel, the statesmanship of Mazzini, the enthusiasm of Garibaldi, accomplished the unification of Italy, after costly, prolonged and bloody wars against Austria and France on the outside and against numerous independent and reactionary small states within.

The inheritance from these struggles for independence and unity was a large national debt and economic exhaustion. The relentless pressure of a rapidly increasing and vigorous population, intensified by the niggardliness with which nature endowed Italy with natural resources, forced Italy into a policy of colonial expansion.

The results of this colonial policy were disappointing. Lack of finances, lack of sufficient determination in the execution of this policy, military as well as politically, the active as well as secret opposition on the part of other colonial powers against Italy's expansion, made these attempts to acquire valuable colonies nearly fruitless. For Italy, colonies are not a luxury; they are a vital necessity. Italy is about one-quarter the area of British Columbia, but with about ten times its population and with only a small part of British Columbia's resources. Agricultural land is scarce. In the few fertile valleys of the north agriculture is conducted with the highest degree of intensity, nearly like in China. Terraced gardens and fields hang perilously on the slopes of the Alps and Apennines and on the flanks of its volcanoes. Every square foot of its lands is valuable and it used to its utmost.

Of iron, the mainspring of modern industry, is only a little on the island of Elba and a small mine in northeast Italy. There is no coal, there are no copper or other industrially important ores, nor is there any lumber. The country must purchase its raw materials from its competitors and must resell the transformed industrial products again in the world market in competition with its more generously endowed competitors.

It is succeeding, by giving utmost attention to detail and economies, by combining quality of its merchandise with artistic appearance, and by producing cheap (wages 10 to 12 lira, i.e. 50c to $1.50 per day, for skilled labor). Cutlery, surgical and scientific instruments, autos, clothes and haberdashery, cotton goods, fruit, wines, etc., are some of its exported goods.

Italy cannot compete in the world market in the erection of large engineering undertakings like England, United States America, Germany, Belgium, etc. She has neither the material nor the finances. She cannot export capital for remunerative investments abroad. She has no such surplusses. But suitable colonies are are condition sine qua non for Italy's population.

By suitable, I mean such colonies where raw material can be found or produced, where agricultural land is available, countries which are not overpopulated nor too distant from the mother country, and are without too severe climatic handicaps. There she could direct the overflow of her population, which population, instead of being permanently lost to the mother country, would become the producer of its raw material, the consumer of its industrial product, and which colonial market could be defended against outside competitors with tariff walls. Their own game preserve. Neither Eritrea nor Libbia, their two colonies, answer these requirements. They may possess economic possibilities, but are more a source of expense than a revenue. At the conclusion of the Great War, Italy received as a magnificent remuneration for its participation in it, Trento Trieste Fiume Zara and some Greek islands on the coast of Asia Minor. ot one of these possessions is of any real economic value to Italy. They are a continuous drain on its finances, a source of friction, a menace of conflicts and a handicap to friendly and profitable commercial intercourse with the peoples from whom these territories have been taken and who do need them.

Speaking of Italy of today, we are instantly face to face with its most interesting personality, Mussolini. He occupies the centre of the stage and is at all times in the fullest limelight. The interest the world takes in him is not only on account of his personality and the diverse manifestations of it, but far more in how does Mussolini try to solve the complex and difficult problem of Italy's economics as described here. The world watches him with curiosity, mixed with no small degree of anxiety in many quarters. Where does he succeed—where does he fail. Food, clothes, shelter for an ever-increasing population, with no adequate resources at home nor in its present colonies, the necessity of maintaining the necessary but highly expensive prestige and respect in the family of nations, an ever-increasing difficulty of disposing of her export goods (its industrial products) in a rapidly shrinking world market, with such little purchasing power at home. The effects of a hostile policy, originating from an overdose of exaggerated nationalism, against Austria and Jugoslavia. These two countries, Italy's nearest neighbors, possess a surplus of foodstuffs and agricultural lands, which countries could be Italy's best customers. Specially Jugoslavia, with her mineral resources, her need for development, could be a profitable market for Italy's goods, Italy's engineering, organizing and financing skill, and Italy could gain by peaceful penetration and exploitation more than she gains from her own present colonies.

Mussolini failed signally in the field of popular education. Nothing of practical value has been done here. It is time that the splendid gifts of the Italian race were trained to develop rationally instead of emotionally. There is widespread ignorance and crudest superstition among the masses, especially in the middle and southern Italy. No country can make lasting and true progress without progress in education.

The curiosity and interest about Mussolini is not confined to his fiery speeches, his actions and policies alone; it is equally as strong about how did he come into power and stay put so long a time.

The close of the war found Italy exhausted, its best customers, Austria-Hungary, Germany, Turkey, Russia, etc., gone; a large disbanded army finding no employment, no bread. It found a disintegrating parliamentary system based and elected on geographical concepts, unable to solve economic problems or do anything except speechmaking, a dishonest bureaucracy and a weak king.

An attempt was made in some of the northern Italian industrial centres to establish Communism. An attempt dictated more by desperation than by intelligence, and foredoomed to failure from its very inception through lack of leadership, prematureness of the movement at home and impropitious conditions in the other countries on whom she has to depend for her raw materials and food and who are customers for her products. There was chaos, desperation, everywhere. Mussolini, a Socialist editor, ambitious, keen, energetic, took advantage of the situation. There are evidences that his intentions were at that time not fully crystallized as to what he really intended, and that event after event forced him to alter his original plans and adapt himself to the occasions and opportunity as they arose and to profit thereby. One of the most potent factors was the sweeping fundamental reform movement by Kemal Pasha in Turkey. This reform movement, this Renaissance of Turkey, called suddenly into demand a huge amount of machinery, railroad stock and equipment, agricultural machinery, school supplies, building material, European dresses, electrical supplies, etc. Here was Italy's chance, but she did not have the money. The financial magnates of New York had the money and the choice to either manufacture these goods in United States America, with high wages and a long haul, or to use Italy, with its industrial machinery and low wages, and to sell to them raw material and food.

They chose the latter course. High finance knows only profit, but no patriotism. Italy became busy, and is busy yet, but for how long? Already Germany, Austria, Poland, with cheap labor, are butting in on the profitable market.

The dissatisfaction at home, overtoned for a while by a nationalist enthusiasm, and fed with promises of better times, is growing. Taxes have multiplied. For instance, a piece of property that was taxed, pre-Mussolini, 70 lira, pays now 1200 lira. Everything is taxed to the limit, cost of living has gone up (400 per cent), wages are coming down steadily. In the meanwile, Mussolini tries to buttress his weakening structure with an intensification of his dictatorship and a bargain with the Pope for his support. How the ghosts of the dead liberators of Italy must mutter imprecautions against Mussolini in their graves! What is the explanation for Mussolini's policies and his wanting a strong army and navy? What is his ulterior purpose in advocating large families and his prohibition of emigratio nof able-bodied subjects in the face of the undeniable fact of an over-population that cannot be fed now? He does not want to be caught unprepared when the next big conflict comes. The last war brought Italy a great disappointment and taught her a great lesson. She did not get what she imperatively needs and what she bargained for.

A strong army and navy with large reserves will enable Mussolini to sell Italy's participation or her neutrality in the next large war to better advantage, or he may take advantage at the finale of a conflict between colonial powers to hit a hard blow and to take by force from the weakened belligerents the necessary land. And for the realization of this object Mussolini is willing to sacrifice, to compromise, to suppress and to tyrannize. This is the leitmotive of his policies.

Even an overthrow of Mussolini will not solve Italy's problem; it will only shift its solution to another, perhaps less determined, man. But let us not be too dogmatic and pessimistic. Perhaps another less dramatic solution will be found that will give the Italian people the needed room for expansion. So it may perpetuate to its own benefit and progress and for the progress and benefit of humanity. Italy has given the world, in the past, such a large number of geniuses that she should expect more in the future, for the benefit of human progress and enlightenment.

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The Labor Statesman

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Vancouver, Fri., March 15, 1929

SKILL IN MODERN PRODUCTION

In sharp contrast to careless affirmations of the decline of skill in modern production is an interesting record of experience of the British firm Hans Renold, Lmt., published in The Economic Journal. The personnel records of the firm over the period 1911-1928 show that just as high a proportion of skill of one kind or another is required under modern industrial methods as formerly.

The writer of the article, C. G. Renold, uses this definition of skill:

"Any combination, useful to industry, of mental and physical qualities which requires considerable training to acquire."

This definition assumes a combination of conscious knowledge and dexterity. Renold finds that as fast as one type of skill is eliminated other types are called into being. He calls attention to two tendencies:

"The first is that the skill which is being eliminated from the actual production of 'consumption goods' is being replaced by skill devoted to the making of the means for producing them. New skills are also being called into being in the axcillary services in the factory, in the way of inspection, routing of work, control of more complicated organizations, etc. The increased skill of modern selling must also not be forgotten.

"The second tendency is that, as the process of replacing the primary workers' skill by more and more automatic machinery goes on, the machine becomes so complicated that the work which can be entrusted to the unskilled man gets to be so restricted that it is included with that of the skilled machine setter, the unskilled man being finally eliminated. True, the machine setter does not need the skill of the 'cunning workman,' but the qualities of judgment, observation, quick action and understanding constitute skill of a very real kind. The output of machines that have developed to this stage is, of course, so great that the direct wage element of the cost of the product is insignificant, and does not constitute a bar to employing a skilled man."

Renold points out that certain plants which occupy the limelights like Ford's do not give a true picture of what is happening to skill because part of the development is hidden in plants that make supplies for Ford and because Ford has not reached the final stage of machine development.

A great change has been taking place in production and the superficial have imagined that machines would replace human intelligence. Often management has been at fault by attempting technical changes without considering the effect on workers and planning to benefit by intelligent co-operation of workers under new methods. Such mistakes are primarily due to failure to advise regularly with those who carry out work orders.

A change in craftsmanship is taking place, but not, except in the case of individuals, a degrading of workmen to unskilled machine tenders.—American Federationist.

Denials that horseflesh is being sold in the city for consumption are coming in thick and fast. One would imagine such a thing was impossible, but judging by the stuff that is sold for consumption and the concoctions and adulterations in a large number of food items we would consider that horseflesh would be of greater food value than a whole lot of stuff we are compelled to eat.

The maximum church site area which may be exempted from taxation in the city of Vancouver has been raised from 12,000 to 20,000 square feet. We suppose that the increased taxation on other property to offset this exemption will cause a slight reduction in the amount going into the collection plates on Sundays, which will cause the preacher to suggest that his congregation is spending too much on worldly things and not enough on the church.

What Is Citizenship?

Citizenship is that status of membership in a civilized community which on the side of privilege, involves production of individuals in the enjoyment of life, liberty and the continued pursuit of happiness on the side of duty; a certain obligation on the part of those individuals to contribute to the welfare of the whole community. All this connotes a human relationship and a mutual responsibility which is the essence of the social idea. The civilizations and cultures of the historic past have risen and flourished and endured or faded, according to the measure of their fidelity to a high appreciation of this human relationship. Those who lived by the sword have perished by the sword; those who lived by slavery have perished by slavery. The civilization of today seems to be earnestly seeking to live by tolerance, peace and goodwill, which it must attain or perish by the barbaric impulses which have brought other historic civilizations to disaster and decay.

We have been reminded recently by actual, if so-called "sham," experiments, that neither Vancouver nor any other city can survive in any future war in the air. What we have next to consider is that civilization may perish also from certain internal disintegrating forces, such as slum development and disorderly planning, which may prove not less mischievous than the wars and slavery of the past. Our view is that the best preventive of such internal disintegration, is modern scientific humanism, which is the essence of town planning.

I have many times described slum development as commercial cannibalism. Men perish by the slaughter of congestion, as well as by the ghastly arbitrament of war. During the Great War both Canada and the United States lost approximately 60,000 each of their citizens. But since the close of the war 23,000 to 26,000 people are being killed annually in the United States, consequent on the physical disabilities of insufficient street width and lack of visibility for drivers, due to congested building.

Town planning is a constructive science of environment, based on a definite social philosophy which holds that ethics, economies and expression (in art) are indivisible manifestations of natural law. It holds that a biological environment must be obtained and maintained in which human life can be, and thrive, and advance, for efficient survival. It holds that congestion of houses leads to calamity, because the congestion of traffic retards movement, and lessens the area reachable within the economic time available to workingmen. This reachable area must be kept as large and accessible as possible, if available property values are to be kept from crowding out simple self-contained homes. As the available radius of accessibility and the area lessens, land values go up, migration crowds in, buildings crowd closer and up, resulting in less sunlight, less air, less nourishment, less efficiency and decreased production.

Town planning, in principle, is a simple gospel of regeneration, physical, mental and moral. Its curative and preventive application requires technical skill. Your railways, your highways and your byways, and the buildings are all inter-related problems, integral to the great problem of sanitary, efficient, happy and productive human living conditions. These make a biological medium and they should make the best medium for human life.

Ruskin's great dictum, "there is no wealth but life," sums up the philosophy of town planning, though there are books without end on how to implement it. If citizenship implies responsibility as well as privileges, then the relationship of citizenship and town planning should be clear to every thinking citizen. Town planning, as the technique of sociology, should become the policy and the politics of all individuals and communities, and cumulatively of the nation.

In ancient Greece, among the most cultured race that ever wrought for human welfare, citizenship was called poltics. Pericles, through the assistance of artists and designers, but also because of the sympathy and support of an enlightened democracy, and because he knew himself that the proper planning of a city was the best means to civic fame and fortune, built Athens, and builded so much better than he knew, that now, after 25 centuries, all nations eagerly visit Athens on the chance of learning from Pericles how to build a great and glorious city.

W. DEPTFORD.

No, Maude, dear, the muffler isn't the thing that keeps your car from freezing.

I. L. P. Notes

By RAB TAMSON

The Conservative Party showed much concern, and spent a whole lot of money, in order to convince the workers of B. C. that the only party willing and capable of looking after the interests of the masses was headed by Mr. Tolmie. THAT WAS BEFORE ELECTION. The following question by Tom Uphill (Labor) and the answer should disallusion the most ardent "time for a change" worker, about their intentions NOW:

Mr. Uphill: Is it the intention of the Government to extend the provisions of the "Hours of Work Act" to bring all industries, trades and callings within its provisions?"

The Hon. Mr. McKenzie replied as follows: "NOT AT PRESENT SESSION."

So that's that.

* * *

It is great to bring up a family in Vancouver—MABY.

Mr. Wrench asked the Hon. the Provincial Secretary the following questions:

(1) How many clinics are in the province for the free treatment of venereal diseases?

(2) How many treatments were given at each of these clinics for the year 1928?

The Hon. Mr. Howe replied as follows:

(1) Two clinics, Victoria and Vancouver.

(2) Vancouver treatments, 34,848; Victoria treatments, 12,210.

Those figures should convince the mothers of B. C. that there is grave danger in young girls trying to keep up a Clara Bow style on a department store wage. There is only one way to rid the country of that evil, and that is to make women economically free. There is only one way to secure that freedom, and that is the introduction of the Socialist state.

* * *

The B. C. Electric has been very much in the public eye of late, and Mr. Murrin gave the show away last week, in answer to a question in the City Council. Alderman Bennett asked how much the B. C. Electric charged the B. C. Railway for power, and the answer was about ½c per killowatt hour, to be correct .55/100 of a cent, which is the wholesale cost of power to the B. C. E. Contrast this with your next light bill and you will note a difference of about 800% in the City of Vancouver and 1000% in Burnaby and Point Grey. Now we know why $60,000,000 was paid by Holt for control of the B. C. Electric.

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IF YOU WORK FOR A LIVING, THE I. L. P. IS INTERESTED IN YOUR PROBLEMS, and is entitled to your support.

VANCOUVER SOUTH I. L. P. NOTES

The Parker Williams meeting was quite a success. The hall was comfortably filled. The speaker, unfortunately, was not well. At the opening of his speech his voice was a little tired and strained, but it recovered its natural timbre as the lecture went on, though not his superlative vigor and energy. It is difficult to say how extremely gratful we are to Mr. Williams for attending our meeting in the trying circumstances. Mr. Sidney Wybourne, in the chair, spoke of the high respect Labor had for the services rendered by Mr. Williams in the early days. The meeting was notable, too, in that it brought together some West Kent faces in Labor's ranks. Comrades Lefeaux, of Central; Watts, of Mount Pleasant, and Holmes of Burnaby, are seldom found together at a Labor meeting in Vancouver South.

Trip to Burnaby

The trip to Burnaby, on the following day, was something in the nature of a field day to the Vancouver South contingent. First, we lost ourselves in a maze of side streets, each one looking like the other and all of them looking like the street we had had described to us as our destination. Nevertheless, we reached the Labor Hall in time to take away the bulk of the prizes. The towel, won by Mrs. Turner, and the safety razor, won by Mr. Turner, gave rise to some friendly banter which was expressive of the popularity of our friends. Comrade Harry Neelands arrived later with his two bonny daughters to add distinction and grace to the gathering. The fun of the evening reached its peak when Mr. Holmes tried to teach his good lady to dance an old country two-step in a manner known only to the natives of Patagonia. A howl of merriment went up, too, when, after leaving with his wife to catch a car, amid general "good nights" and good wishes, Mr. McCormick returned, having missed the service, in mock solemnity and importance, dinky, dapper, debonair.

The next meeting of Vancouver South Local will be held in the Horticultural Hall, 43rd and Fraser, on Friday, March 22nd. It will be a business meeting, but that ought not to keep friends away. Comrade Wallis Lefeaux will speak at the meeting. There is so much divided opinion today on Labor's policy in relation to contemporary politics that we might expect a very representative gathering to hear Friend Lefeaux speak on "Labor's Prospects."

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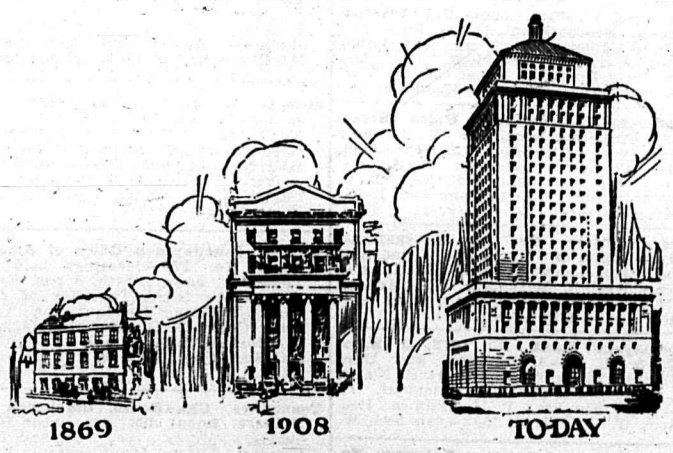

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"Well, I heard her telephoning her mother inquiring if she had to use soft water for soft-boiled eggs and hard-water for hard-boiled ones."

Workmen's Compensation

Old Age and Mothers' Pensions

When circumstances compelled Mr. Parker Williams to cancel his first engagement with the Vancouver South I. L. P. he promised that only his doctor would prevent him from being with us on Friday, March 8th. As it happened, even that estimable gent was unable to prevent our lecturer from a- -earing and delivering an engrossingly interesting address on the B. C. Acts which cover Workmen's Compensation, Old Age and Mothers' Pensions. That the speaker was not well was apparent on sight. The swathing folds of silk that surrounded his throat and the annoying little obstacle that obtruded into his usually distinct speaking was strong evidence of indisposition. Yet, withal, he appeared to revive rather than wilt under the heavy strain of the long meeting.

With but few introductory remarks the speaker stepped right into the heart of his subject. Classifying the subject of his address—"Compensation, Old Age and Mothers' Pensions"—as coming under what was known as social legislation, he defined as social legislation those acts which provide social service and social amenities to the public and that are financially a burden on the exchequer. Such reforms as Minimum Wage Acts, acts affecting the hours of labor, etc., not incurring financial responsibilities to the province, were not considered as social legislation. On purely social legislation, B. C. has nothing which other provinces have not got. In fact, all reformers found that in order to have a reform even considered in the Victoria House it was required of the advocate of the innovation that he could tell various places where his reform was already in operation and how it was succeeding.

Mothers' Pensions

The Mothers' Pensions Bill was a children's charter, designed to give the advantage of a mother's care to fatherless children: it was the one safeguard of childhood against the morality of the streets; a recognition on the part of the province that the mother was the natural guardian of her children, and however poor a manager she may be she is infinitely better than the best managed charity organization in the world. The speaker indicated that though the act did not specifically include unmarried mothers, it was the Board's privilege, when circumstances warranted, of helping in these cases too.

The Board of Commissioners who had to apply the Mothers' Pensions Act received many cases with which they could do nothing. They could not be expected to maintain the elderly mother of a well-to-do family, for example. It was not intended that the act should enable unworthy sons, who could well afford to maintain their widowed mother, to pass their responsibilities on to the citizens of the province. This did not apply to ordinary working men, who, it was generally accepted, had usually enough to do to maintain their own families. Under the present act a person may have a home valued at $1500 and $500 in cash and yet be entitled to the full pension. If the lady can earn a little extra she may do so without affecting her right to the pension, if her earnings are under $75 per month.

Old Age Pensions

There is a very widespread belief that in order to claim an old age pension one has to sign over all one's belongings to the government. This is not so. One may have an income of $365 per year and still be eligible for the pension in full. In order to estimate the income of an applicant all property is assumed to return 5% interest, which means that one might have property valued at $7000 and still draw the old age pension in full. A home valued at $2500 is permitted the aged applicant without affecting his right to pension. Where a person has unproductive property, which, were it producing income, would take the owner out of the class catered for by the Old Age Pensions Act, the pension is paid him in the interval, and when the market conditions allow his property to show a return he may pay back what was given him.

The Old Age Pensions Act has lost favor in the eyes of many because it states that on the death of the recipient of the pension his or her property will revert to the government. It is true that the act states this, but it is not generally known that there are some qualifying clauses which almost cancels it. For example, one clause states that where a husband and wife are living together the property of one goes to the other at death. On the death of the second partner a relative may claim compensation for his help to the deceased. The right of the pensioner to sell or dispose of his property as he thinks fit, which is stated in the act, almost entirely negatives the opening paragraph of the act. It will be understood how very little, indeed, this objectionable clause affects those who benefit from the act when it is stated that less than one hundred dollars has been collected under this clause since the act became operative, and that small sum was voluntarily given to the government without compulsion or duress.

Workmen's Compensation

Arguing for the principle of Workmen's Compensation against the old system of suing one's employer for damages, Mr. Williams outlined the grounds on which the employer almost invariably defeated the injured workman in the courts. The principal arguments were three in number:

(1) That the workman assumed an unnecessary risk in doing what he did when injured.

(2) The accident resulted from the action of another workman; a fellow servant was responsible and not the employer.

(3) When other arguments failed the legal brains, bought for the occasion by the employer, tried to prove contributory negligence on the part of the workman.

That this would not be difficult can be easily understood when we think of how wise we are after an accident, how, had we only stepped one way instead of the other, or done some other simple thing, the accident would have been avoided.

Under the present arrangement those arguments and that legal quibbling had lost its potency and a fairer system prevailed.

The Compensation Board was often called upon to face very unpleasant situations because of the peculiarities of the labor market in B. C., and some shortcomings in the Compensation Act. The act demanded that where a person was 25% incapacitated he could only claim 25% of the regular compensation and was expected to go out and sell the other 75% of capacity to an employer. The cold fact is, however, that in B. C. employers don't want cripples or old people, and the injured person who was deemed to be 25% incapacitated is in fact, by reason of his accident, shut out of the kingdom of social usefulness. Workshops open —but not for him. Employers look for men—but not for him. It matters not that at home he has left a distracted mother and hungry children. Only queer people put human needs before property rights. The employment of men is a business and business cannot consider human misery. And under the present act the Compensation Commissioners cannot come to the aid of such a case. The act needs to be drastically amended in this regard.

The I. L. P. is grateful to Mr. Williams for having come to speak for us when he was so unwell. We also think that the fact that our Compensation Commissioners are available for public meetings on these subjects should be more widely known and taken advantage of. Trade union branches would be well advised to avail themselves of this opportunity to be instructed in the much misunderstood Compensation Act.—J.D.

Extra Valuable Prizes at Upholsterers' Dance

The upholsterers are holding their last dance and whist drive of the season on Wednesday, March 20th, at the I.O.O.F. hall, corner of 6th and Main. A large upholstered Chesterfield chair, covered in mohair and moquette, valued at $100, will be given away to the holder of the lucky ticket. A lovely fireside bench and some nice soft silk pillow cushions can also be won on that night.

Attention is called to those who have ticket stubs of previous dances to bring them along for the draw. This should be a great night for those who like to shake their feet, and the music supplied by Harry Dakin's orchestra will make you do that whether you want to or not.

Besides those already mentioned, other good prizes can be won at the whist drive, which will start at 8 p.m. sharp. Come on time and let's get away to a quick start and save disappointment. Dancing will be from 9 p.m. till 12 p.m. At 10:15 refreshments will be served, and at 11 p.m. the draw will take place.

Come and have a real good night's enjoyment. Tickets can be had at the door or from any member. Admission 50 cents. Whoopee! Let's all go. What say —B.

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Who Says Organized Labor is Profiteering?

In 1921 the value of manufactures in the U. S. A. was $43,618,000,000.

In 1927 this had risen to $62,714,000,000.

In 1921 the wages paid to manufacturing workers totaled $8,200,000,000.

In 1927 this wage bill came to $10,848,000,000.

That is to say, while the value of manufactured products rose $19,000,000,000 in six years, the sum total of wages paid to the workers who produced these goods increased only $2,648,000,000.

In view of those figures, what becomes of the moth-eaten claim that the high cost of living is due solely or chiefly to increased wages?

STAFF OF 6 IN INDUSTRIAL CREDIT CORPORATION

Enlargement of its staff to six was announced today by the newly-organized real estate department of the Industrial Credit Corporation, Ltd., 350 West Pender.

Opening its real estate branch in November, the Industrial Credit Corporation, which has engaged in the financial business here for many years, has found a splendid response in its new line of endeavor, E. J. Peters, manager of the department, said today.

In addition to handling property in all sections of the city, the department arranges mortgages and property loans.

Mother Eve was the first woman in the world to complain that she had nothing to wear.

INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY BRANCH SECRETARIES

Mount Pleasant: J. Sidaway, 623 East Tenth.

South Vancouver: W. Ford, 84 West Forty-seventh.

Central: W. W. Lefeaux, 401 Metropolitan Building.

CENTRAL BRANCH

At the regular meeting held at the office of the secretary on the 7th of February, a discussion took place with regard to the possibility of holding public meetings in conjunction with the other Vancouver branches. It was thought that the three branches between them should be able to run a small monthly meeting in one of the small halls available. What do the other branches thing about it?

Several chapters of Bernard Shaw's book, "The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism," were read and discussed.

W. W. LEFEAUX, Sec.

Strike For.. Freedom NOW!

Rob me of all the joys of sense,
Curse me with all but impotence,
Fling me upon an ocean oar,
Cast me upon a savage shore,
Slay me, but own above my bier,
The one, now gone, still held while here
—the jewel, Independence!

T. D'Arcy McGee.

Prospective Home Builders

ATTENTION!

BUILD A HOME OF YOUR OWN. IMPROVE AND BEAUTIFY YOUR PRESENT HOME - THEN HELP SOMEONE ELSE TO ACQUIRE A HOME BY LENDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

LIBERTY, Freedom, Independence, have supplied themes to inspire poets and orators throughout the ages—ideals for which men have fought, starved, suffered and died to attain. Their opposite—commercial slavery—plunged the great neighboring republic into an unnatural fratricidal war, which lasted four long years. And wherein do they differ—slavery and independence?

Slavery, in fact, is drudging for another without the right to demand adequate compensation or a change of taskmasters—independence is the right to choose an employer, whether it be a corporation, a fellow citizen, or one's self. The right to liberty, to freedom, to independence, has ever been regarded as the most sacred and most important attribute of human nature. Without it no advance towards a more perfect civilization is possible.

Now to practice: Are you a tenant, or do you own your own home? If a tenant, you are not independent, and you know it. Rent day drags around, and, if you cannot meet the obligation, out you go. You may be given a few days'—or a few weeks'—grace, but the end is inevitable. Your time is not your own, for that is all you have to market, and the landlord claims so many hours, or days, each week. And when employment fails, neither you nor your family have a place to call your own. Slavery may be too strong a term to describe your condition—but you are far from being INDEPENDENT!

There is one way out. There is one way to strike the shackles of serfdom from your shrinking conscience, and canonize your self-respect and the esteem of your neighbors. What thinking people the world over are convinced of, and advocating, is a scrapping of tenantry—a return to home life. This can be accomplished only by the erection of more real homes, which must, in turn, be built by those needing them—and by no others. The community as a whole realizes this truth—hence the community spirit.

MORTGAGE LOANS ARE THE SAFEST AND SUREST OF INVESTMENTS

The following progressive firms and organizations are co-operating in presenting this Weekly Campaign to our readers. Read the list. You know them all. And remember that, apart from their recommendation and advice, they are always ready to help you build your own home.

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Authorized by the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council, for the information of all union members.

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General Sec.-Treas. ..... P. R. Bengough
Statistician ..... C. E. Herrett
Warden ..... Walter Deptford
Executive, Committee Chairman.

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Jas. Thomson, Pile Drivers.
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B. Showler, Dairy Employees.
W. Hargreaves, Carpenters' Union.
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NATIVE-BORN DESTITUTE LEAD ALL OTHER GROUPS

New York.—Native-born Americans are more in need of charity than newcomers from any other land, according to the annual report of the Charity Organization Society.

The largest single nationality aided by the society last year was the native-born American, representing more than 37 per cent. of the entire group. Italians were next with 20.5 per cent.

The report reveals more money was spent last year for relief of families in distress than ever before in the 46 years of the society's history. Some of the increase is laid to unemployment last winter.

War Banished from Schoolbooks

Will the "dismal science" be glorified so as to replace war in the interests of children of the future? "Dismal science" was Carlyle's term for political economy, while he crowded his books with figures who were the leaders of armies with banners. But the authors of a new set of text-books are presenting the subject as a series of "fairy tales," and thus seeking to bring about world peace by providing this form of history for our 25,000,000 school children. Emphasis is placed on "an economic and industrial interpretation of the world in place of the age old story of strife and bloodshed." The experiment is now under way, we are told by Wayne Parrish in the New York Herald-Tribune, and more than 600,000 of these text-books have already been studied by school children in 300 school systems in 38 States. These figures are obtained from Dr. Harold Rugg, professor of education at Teachers College, Columbia University, who states that Denver, Colorado, is one of the larger communities using the text-books. Mr. Parrish goes on to interpret Professor Rugg's idea:

"Scrapping the separate subjects of history, civics, geography, economics, and sociology, Dr. Rugg has combined them all into a new course, which he calls 'Social Science,' in which all the elementary grades and high school children will be provided with an economic, rather than political, interpretation of the world's history. He has been encouraged and aided financially by Teachers College, which supplied him with a a laboratory and research facilities with which to work.

"Newspaper headlines, newspaper style, cartoons, and graphs have been used freely and frequently. The texts have been so 'jazzed' up by Dr. Rugg that no old schoolmaster would recognize them. Mechanical and industrial conquests are told as 'fairy tales,' with emphasis on a literary style found mostly in fiction books.

"The rise and fall of kings and empires are often told in lines and sentences. The World War receives 1700 words. The assassination of President Abraham Lincoln is told in 38 words. The Civil War, given chapters in every text today, is presented in 2000 words in these revised texts. Mechanical and industrial conquests are told in chapters, with whole books being devoted to social and ethical problems which Dr. Rugg says have never before appeared in school books.

"Conceived shortly after the war as an idea, and started on its road to realization seven years ago, Dr. Rugg first obtained pledges to buy books from 100 school systems over the country. Texts for the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades have been completed, ready for a final printing this summer. A decade will be required before the revision is completed for all grades. Dr. Rugg considers his move to be the first attempt ever made to 'condition' the minds of school children of a whole nation to tolerance, peace, and understanding of the world's peoples and problems."

Scarcely a single battle is mentioned in the whole text-book series. Little Peterkin will not sit in wonderment over gory tales and ask "But what good came of it at last?" Nor will Grandpa, equally vague, have to murmur, "But 'twas a famous victory."

"An example of how this educational experiment works is found in the treatment of the Civil War, which Dr. Rugg has mentioned in the abstract in a small section of the first volume of his 'America's March Toward Democracy,' which is the equivalent to prevailing American histories. A paragraph of what the children will read about the Civil War is typical of the whole treatment:

"In the excitement of the moment much of the horror that civil war must mean was not realized. The first few battles, however, shocked people into the knowledge that it was not a war to be quickly or easily won. Indeed, it was to last four long years. Seven hundred thousand men lost their lives in its battles. In order to pay the expenses of war, the Government had to borrow enormous sums of money, which it could not repay for many years. When the war was ended the South was a ruined land; her plantations deserted, many of her cities burned; her commerce completely destroyed. The Civil War was one of the most terrible wars that the world had yet known.'

"Perhaps the most pertinent and the most dramatic example of Dr. Rugg's wholesale revision is told in America's part in the World War, which is given in the second volume of 'America's March Toward Democracy.' On page 105 is the statement: 'On April 6 war with Germany was declared.' On page 110, five pages later, is the sentence: 'On November 11, 1918, peace between the warring countries finally came.'

"The whole story of the World War is told in about 1700 words, again with scarcely any mention of a battle, and then only in a perfunctory manner. War is mentioned in the abstract. A few paragraphs concerning the World War are:

"'A was in the modern world is no comic-opera affair. A war engaged in by industrial nations is vast and complicated. It involves industry of all kinds, it depends upon fleets of ships and thousands of miles of railroad.

"'Now in order to transport millions of men to the front, in order to feed and clothe them and supply them with ammunition, in order to feed and clothe the home population, in order to keep industries going and railroads running, in order to raise money to do all the other things some one must control all these people, all these armies, all these industries, all these means of transportation. Who or what is big enough to do this job? Only the Government. Therefore, when the United States Government found itself in the greatest war in history, it had to take on itself greater powers than it had ever before assumed.

"'The Government had to persuade 100,000,000 people to enter the war, it had to build ships, it had to run railways, it had to manage industry, it had to feed armies, it had to send goods to the Allies and keep some at home for the home population, and it had to raise huge sums of money.' . . .

"This is what Dr. Rugg gives the school children in place of descriptions of the battles of the Marne, Chateau-Thierry, the Hindenburg Line, and the like. The story of the World War is essentially one of how the Government was forced to enter all branches of activity, the tremendous costs, and loss of life."

Urges Union to Assist in Organizing Campaign

Bob Hesketh, secretary-treasurer of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance, says in the current issue of The Mixer and Server:

In the organization program, which is general throughout the country, many Central Labor Councils are taking the initiative through their different committees and assisting Local Unions in every way desired. May we suggest to our organizations who need advice and help in their organization work, not to be backward in mingling with these voluntary groups whose greatest desire and ambition is to solidify Labor. On the other hand many of our members and Locals are in the forefront, lending their best efforts to other organizations who need support, knowing that in return a greater demand for our House Card and Button will be the result.

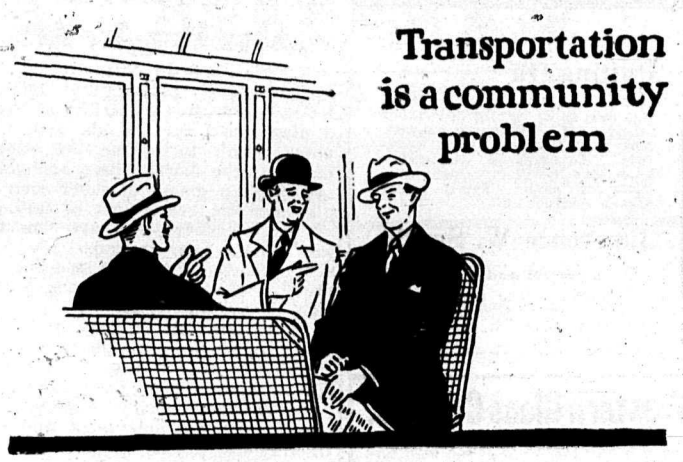
Special conferences are being called by State Federations of Labor, a number have already been held, and special committees are at work awakening sentiment for more thorough organization all along the line. Our members are not lagging, but with their experience are taking the lead in many instances, with beneficial results to all concerned. The months of May and June are now set for our big effort to close up our ranks, and add to our membership.

The fees and dues of our affiliated Locals are published in this issue of The Mixer and Server, and will be handy reference in the case of picking up old members who are in arrears and seeking reinstatement. The fees are not high and there is little excuse for any well-meaning follower of our craft remaining outside of our organization. Undoubtedly, some of our Locals may see fit to make it easier during the months of May and June, while our campaign for additional membership is on, for worthy new members to come in and delinquents who have not transgressed too much to square up. That is within the Local's province and might be worth while considering.

So, the months of May and June are set for the job of our entire membership to reach out and everyone do their portion towards augmenting our forces, making our ranks more solid, and for better job control. We have an organization we can all be proud of. Get ready —and go.

$100,000 FOR MINERS

Toronto.—The Toronto Globe has been conducting a remarkable campaign to secure relief for the distressed coal miners of Great Britain. The Globe's fund is rapidly approaching the $100,000 mark.



Transportation is a community problem

SUPPLYING street car service is not like selling groceries. A grocer can quit business and no one would be seriously affected. But a street railway—No.

Transportation is therefore the concern not of the street railway alone, but of those who benefit by it; that is, everybody.

Sometimes matters conspire to make the supplying of transportation difficult if not impossible. Traffic congestion may make car service so slow people will not use it. Fares, regulated by the community or public opinion, may be fixed so low that they do not pay the cost of the service. As a street railway company is not a free agent, these are matters which must be settled by the public if they are to receive good transportation service.

In a public utility service such as a street railway, for which there is no substitute, it is essential that enough persons use it and that those passengers pay a fair rate for it.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO.

VANCOUVER VICTORIA

GW. 6-29

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PURE SWEET AND SOUR APPLE CIDER

"Made from B. C. Apples"

TRY OUR GRAPE, LOGANBERRY, ORANGE, PUNCH, ETC.

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WE ASK all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole, or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.

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Men's Slater and Strider Shoes; also Women's and Children's Union-made shoes.

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HUDSON'S BAY CO.
Ladies': Hohansen, Bancroft-Walker, Colella-Leighton.
Men's and Youth's: Tetrault's.

MODEL BOOT SHOP
1186 GRANVILLE
Tetrault's. Men's, Women's and Youths' Union Label shoes.

WM. TRICK, 146 Cordova WEST.—Tetrault's Men's and Youths; also Strider and Slater's Union Label shoes.

UNION SHOE CO.
63 WEST HASTINGS STREET
Men's and Youth's: Strider.
Women's, Men's and Youth's: Tetrault's.

YALE SHOE CO.
305 WEST HASTINGS STREET
Men's and Youth's Strider.
Women's and Men's: "Yale" Special.

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While the Rich Play Labor Men Are Active

Miami, Fla.—In this city by the sea, where a tropical sun and the nearby Gulf stream combine to make a playground for the idle rich who come South to escape the wintry blasts of the North, there assembled last week a group of labor men to plan for the betterment of millions of wage earners who are "on the job" all the year around.

It was the quarterly meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

Paradoxical as it may seem, in this luxurious atmosphere, where ringside seats for a prize fight sell for as high as $500 and boxes at a "charity ball" bring $5,000, the question of unemployment and the right of the worker to earn a livelihood received first consideration.

Some Discordant Notes

Something must be done, voted the Council, to combat the growing disposition of certain industrial concerns to make 40 to 45 years the "deadline" of employment.

Other employers are discriminating against married men with dependents in order that the cost of liability insurance may be cut down.

It was perhaps well to make these dismal facts public here, where many barons of big business are enjoying their winter vacation.

President Green was instructed by the Council to make an extensive survey of the "age deadline" and the penalty imposed upon married men. He was authorized to call to his assistance the officials of state federations and city central bodies, and such other help as he may deem necessary. His report will be submitted to the next convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Machines and Idle Workers

As another, and more important, step toward solving the problem of unemployment, becoming steadily more serious by reason of machines that supplant human labor, the Council expressed the view that the immigration gates should be closed for a period of ten years. Emphatically, there should be no easement of the present quota law.

The five-day week and high wage scales were emphasized as logical methods of insuring the workers against unemployment. That many employers and the public are alive to this is evidenced by a changed attitude among business men and the press in favor of the views advocated by organized labor.

The national and state governments should plan extensive programs of needed public works to take up the slack during periods of temporary industrial depression, and some sort of clearing house be established to connect the idle man with a job, was the further sense of the Council.

The main object of the clearing house would be to route workers into lines for which they are best adapted, thus obviating the hit-or-miss system that usually prevails.

Steel Workers Want Help

Reports to the Council indicated that the "Double-the-membership-in-1929" slogan adopted at the New Orleans convention is making progress in various industrial centers and is expected to take on more momentum during the spring months.

Hitherto unorganized employees of the United States Steel Corporation, one of the nation's industrial giants, have been making overtures for help in forming unions. A recent cut in wages at the big steel plant at Elwood, Ind., has still further aroused these workers to the need of organization.

"No corporation can defend itself when it orders a wage cut and declares a stock dividend at practically the same time," said President Green in discussing the Elwood situation. —Labor.

Toronto Pays High For Fire Equipment

Minneapolis, Minn.—Frantic efforts on the part of a high official of the American La France & Foamite Corporation to gain immunity for Donald Green, the company's general representative in charge of western territory, have failed, and Green has been indicted on charges of bribing Minneapolis aldermen to vote in favor of awarding a contract for a $14,500 non-union fire engine to his company.

According to the indictments returned by the Hennepin county grand jury, $1,500 was spent to swing over to the La France firm three of the five votes on the city council fire department committee.

Committees from the Minneapolis Central Labor Union and the local Machinists' Union went before the aldermen and explained that a strike of machinists was on at the Elmira, N.Y., factory of the La France Company, but apparently "money talked" louder than the workers' committees and the contract was let for the non-union engine.

How Public Was Gouged

As related in previous issues of The Labor Statesman, the engine, which was not delivered on specified time, ran wild on its trial trip here and smashed two automobiles, seriously injuring their occupants, and then it was discovered after the bill had been paid, that the city had been overcharged an amount that not only paid the cost of the bribes, but left the La France Company $1,800 to the good above its ordinary profit on this type of engine.

Green was not in Minneapolis when the indictment against him was returned.

Two of the aldermen whom Green is accused of "mitting" have been indicted on bribery charges. The third councilman took advantage of the Minnesota "squealers' law" and forestalled an indictment by turning state's evidence.

The results of the Minneapolis indictments and the La France Company's anti-union policy appear to be far-reaching. Previous to its refusal to maintain friendly relations with the Machinists' Union the company had a practical monopoly of the sales field in this territory. Now it finds itself being "shoved out in the cold."

Reject Non-Union Apparatus

At Hudson, Wis., the city council last week voted 4 to 1 against buying a new pumper from the La France people, even though the company's bid was the lowest.

Then the New Ulm, Minn., council handed a jolt to the company when it voted to reject all fire engine bids after Herman Hussman, business agent for the Minneapolis Machinists' Union, had put the labor and bribery facts before the aldermen.

The Minneapolis graft inquiry also found an echo in Toronto, Ont., when copies of the Minneapolis indictments were brought to the attention of officials of the Canadian city.

This development took the form of a demand for an investigation of the purchase of American La France fire fighting equipment by Toronto.

According to the Toronto Telegram, which carried the story under an eight-column head, followed by an editorial demanding a clean-up, the La France firm got a recent contract there, although their bid was $7,400 higher than the lowest bid.

Demand an Investigation

The low bid was for $51,200 less $800 for old trucks. The La France bid was $57,800, and the Toronto paper makes no mention of any allowance for old equipment.

Regardless of the striking difference in prices, the La France Company squeezed through the board of control by a vote of 3 to 2.

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Who Is G. B. S.?

SOCIOLOGY CLUB LECTURE

"George Bernard: The Man and His Philosophy." Prof. W. L. MacDonald, U. B. C., discussed the life and views of the Anglo-Celt satirist during the usual Thursday night lecture at 135 west Hastings street.

Shaw, who is descended from Yorkshire ancestry which accompanied Richard the Second on his expedition to Ireland in the 14th century, was born in Dublin in 1856. His father was an ex-civil servant, who lost his money in a business venture "of which he made a tremendous failure." Shaw went to London in 1876 and engaged in socialistic agitation, and in 1884 became one of the founders of the Fabian Society. He has addressed over 1500 public meetings. In his earlier career he was looked upon by the authorities as a dangerous character. At one meeting in Hyde Park his audience consisted of six policemen, who were sent there to observe him. He harangued the six minions of the law for an hour and a half on the subject of Socialism, and with such evident success, that the police authorities provided him with no more official audiences.

Shaw's philosophy is that of creative evolution. He is opposed to the machanistic natural selection theory of Darwin. Shaw believes that the Life-Force, or the will to live, can, by intelligent guidance, be directed to the good life. His philosophy comes from Samuel Butler's "Erewhon," where poverty and illness were the only punishable crimes. If the poor were given penal servitude instead of sympathy and cast-off clothing there would be an alteration for the better. The poor are an excuse for the existence of organized religion, which means to Shaw, organized hypocrisy. Shaw's outlook on life is best summed up in his own words: "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

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