Labor Statesman

OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Supported by Sixty-two Local Unions

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NO. 252—EIGHT PAGES VANCOUVER, B. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1929 FIVE CENTS PER COPY

DEPARTMENT of LABOR APR 3 1929 RECEIVED Intelligence Br.

John Bull Is Preparing For Important Election

General Election Soon After May Day—"Jobs For the Jobless" Is Paramount Issue—Lloyd George Is Singing His "Prosperity Chorus"—Tories Fear Defeat—Labor Has Strong Program.

BRITAIN IS GETTING READY for another election, which probably will be held immediately after May 1. On that date the law giving votes to nearly 5,000,000 women between the ages of 21 and 30 years goes into effect. Until then a woman must confess to 30 years in order to vote.

All parties are wooing the "flapper vote," as some ungallant Tory called them. In the Chelsea district Sir Samuel Hoare, present air minister, and his wife are giving receptions to the women employed in domestic service, and saying frankly that they are making an entirely new sort of campaign.

The Conservatives are making a definite effort to get the servant vote, but though first in the field in this area they will soon have competition.

Unemployment the Big Issue

This will be the first election since October, 1924. The maximum duration of a parliament is five years; but it is seldom that any English-speaking parliament holds out its full possible term.

At the last election the Tories won a majority of 200 in parliament, largely on the "Bolshevik" scare, but they had a minority of the popular vote, 8,000,000 against a combined Liberal and Laborite vote of 8,500,000.

Unemployment will be the overshadowing issue.

The last week in February nearly 1,500,000 persons were listed as out of work, in a total population of 45,000,000.

Part of that was seasonal, part due to the cold wave which paralyzed England, but more than a million persons have been on the unemployment rolls constantly for years.

The big question that every candidate for parliament must answer is: "What will you do to get work for men who want it?"

Tory Position Is Vague

The Tory answer to that question is vague. Its policy of assisting the unemployed to emigrate to the dominions has not been a flaming success.

The government recently proposed to extend the "dole" to emigrants for a period of two years after they reached their new homes.

This was to meet the argument that one reason British workers insisted on remaining in the Mother Country was because they were assured of at least the pittance they received from the unemployment insurance.

Canadian labor was up in arms on the instant, pointing out that newcomers with the dole might undercut Canadian wages.

Aside from this, the Conservatives talk vaguely of tariffs and are expected to present plans for a big government housing project, designed to clear out slums. Also, Winston Churchill is sure to try to revive the Bolshevik scare.

Labor's Constructive Program

Labor proposes housing projects in every part of the kingdom where a slum exists, and wants to finance these, in part at least, by reduction of military expenditures. An increasing number of Englishmen hold that their country can be safeguarded better by agreements than by armaments, and labor is emphatic on this point.

Also, labor wants to reopen relations with Russia, hoping to secure large markets in this way, and the former labor plans for nationalizing the coal mines are not wholly forgotten.

Lloyd George, czar of the Liberal party, is out with a campaign book, "We Can Conquer Unemployment."

He says flatly that if given a majority he will abolish unemployment in a year. His scheme calls for gigantic housing and road-building projects; but he contends that these will pay for themselves and that the government money needed to start them will be only what Americans call a revolving fund.

Lloyd George's Campaign Fund

All observers agree that the Conservatives will lose heavily. Some believe that Labor will win a clear majority; William Harrison, himself a stanch Tory and owner of 25 British newspapers, predicts this.

Others think the Conservatives will keep control, though with a greatly reduced majority.

Lloyd George, with a big campaign fund derived from the sale of titles while he was in office, is putting up Liberal candidates in 500 of the 615 districts, and talks of winning a majority. What he really expects to win is the balance of power.

If the 40 Liberal seats in the present parliament can be increased to 80, he will be in a position to dicker with Tories or Laborites—and Britain believes that he who trades with "L. G." is foredoomed to lose.

Hot Contest Is Assured

Everyone distrusts the little Welshman; but everyone admits that he is the master politician of the age—and wholly unhampered by scruples. He has made it clear that he is ready to form a coalition with any party which will adopt his "prosperity" program.

Everything points to a hot fight; and, in the main, a clear-cut fight. When Britain sets out to elect a new parliament she doesn't mix the business with any other job. The voters in each district have the simple task of deciding which one of not more than three candidates they prefer.

Alderman Confesses and Goes to Prison

Minneapolis, Minn.—Frank E. Gibenhain, Tenth ward alderman who accented a bribe from the American La France Corporation, has started serving a two-year sentence in Stillwater penitentiary.

Rather than stand trial on the La France indictment Gibenhain pleaded guilty to taking a bribe from a night club owner.

Gibenhain came into office when he defeated a Labor alderman four years ago.

J. R. Sheffield, Eighth ward alderman, and Donald Green, general representative of the La France firm, are still awaiting trial on bribery charges growing out of a purchase by the city of a $14,500 fire engine from the La France company, whose machinists are on strike at Elmira, N.Y.

According to the confessions of two aldermen, Green paid $1,500 graft to get the majority of the council's fire department committee to favor his company.

Three-fourths of the miseries and misunderstandings in the world will disappear if we step into the shoes of our adversaries and understand their viewpoint.—Candhi.

Chicago Building Trades Get World's Fair Job

Chicago.—The Chicago Building Trades Council has just concluded a five-year standard agreement with the Building Construction Employers' Association. It will run through the Chicago World's Fair period ending June 1, 1934, and provides for a 100 per cent. union shop in the building trades.

Because of the great number of workers involved the document is of international importance.

Provision is made to arbitrate all grievances and disputes; work shall go on undisturbed during arbitration; decisions of arbitrators shall be final and binding on both parties.

The agreement shall not be construed [illegible] to work with non-union men, nor to work for contractors having construction work done in Cook county by non-union workmen.

Each trade remains free to make its own contract with employers as to wages and working conditions.

Blow to "Open Shoppers"

The recognition of a virtual closed shop in the Chicago building trades marks the passing out of the notorious "Citizens' Committee to Enforce the Landis Award."

It was composed of a group of financially powerful "open shoppers" who, within the past few years, collected millions and left nothing undone to destroy the building trades unions.

The coup de grace was given the Citizens' Committee in a recent decision of the Illinois State Supreme Court, which upheld the contention of the Carpenters' Union that the Citizens' Committee had "unlawfully conspired" to interfere with the employment of union carpenters and had attempted to interfere with freedom of contract between union carpenters and their employers in the building industry in Chicago and vicinity.

Spent $3,000,000 Fighting Labor

Testimony submitted in this case showed that general contractors and sub-contractors had been intimidated into hiring "Landis award" mechanics in place of union carpenters. The Carpenters' bill of complaint alleged that the Citizens' Committee expended more than $3,000,000 in conducting its campaign against the unions and had resorted to persuasion, threats, coercion, economic intimidation and other unlawful means to prevent employers from dealing with the union members, to force down wages and to destroy the union.

The Landis award was handed down years ago at a time when a great effort was being made to "deflate" labor. It fixed the scale of wages for certain of the building trades, who with their employers had submitted their dispute to Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, then on the federal bench and now the "czar" of baseball.

In making his award, Landis undertook not only to fix the wage scales of the unions party to the dispute, but of all other building trades as well. It was a clear usurpation of jurisdiction. It was hailed with joy by the "open shoppers" and the Citizens' Committee was formed to force acceptance of the award upon all the trades.

All of the building trades are now on a solid union footing in spite of the nefarious work of the defunct Citizens' Committee.

PUBLIC HEATING SYSTEM IS FAVORED BY LABOR PARTY

Winnipeg.—Public development of central heating systems instead of private franchises will be pushed by the Manitoba Independent Labor party. Following perfecting of the slow distillation process of coking coal, private companies have rushed to get municipal franchises for distributing heat to business houses and homes, selling the coke to people who prefer to maintain their own house heating plants.

Winnipeg has a highly efficient publicly owned central heating plant supplying most of the downtown business structures. It is a profitable city department, a part of the city-owned electric plant that sells juice to citizens at an average cost of 1.007c per kwh.

JUICY STOCK DIVIDEND OF ANACONDA COPPER

New York.—Anaconda Copper will increase its stock 40 per cent. and wipe out its funded debt. Each present holder of five shares of the stock will be allowed to buy two new shares at $55 per share.

Wall street figures that these "rights" of purchase are worth not less than $30 per share now outstanding, and there are more than 5,000,000 shares.

In effect this is a stock dividend of about $150,000,000, and under a decision of the supreme court it cannot be taxed. The stock is now selling around $159 per share, and pays dividends of 14 per cent.

Electrical Workers Score Again in N. Y.

New York.—Local No. 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has scored another victory in its battle for the five-day week.

As heretofore reported, the Electrical Contractors' Association entered into an agreement with the brotherhood for the five-day week and a 10 per cent. increase in wages. This boosted the scale from $12 to $13.20 a day.

The Building Employers' Association objected, fearing the extension of the five-day week to all building trades.

First they tried to get an injunction restraining the Electrical Contractors from carrying out the agreement. Failing in this, they appealed to the courts for an order forbidding the members of the brotherhood from accepting the benefits of the agreement.

Last week Supreme Justice Townley denied the injunction.

Edmonton City Laborers Given 55 Cent Rate

Establishment of a 55-cent rate for common labor was decided at a meeting of the Edmonton City Council on Tuesday night, although the city commissioners had recommended 52 cents per hour. This rate will therefore be embodied as the fair wage clause in all contracts let by the city. It was also decided that the rate for men and teams will be one dollar per hour instead of the 95 cents per hour rate recommended by the commissioners.

When the matter came to a vote, there was a straight party split, the six Labor members of the council favoring the 55 cents rate, with the exception of Ald. L. S. C. Dineen, who demanded that the rate be 60 cents, and the C. G. A. aldermen voting in favor of the commissioner's recommendation of 52 cents per hour.

Number One Apprentice Honored in Vancouver

Certificate Number One and $100 west handed out to Raymond West last Friday when he graduated as a full-fledged Journeyman Carpenter after undergoing four years' apprenticeship under the Vancouver Board of Trade apprenticeship plan.

The presentation was made in the Hotel Grosvenor by J. K. McRae, chairman of the Building Trades Section of the Board of Trade, when a score of apprentices were hosts at a dinner given by E. G. Baynes, prominent contractor, and member of the Parks Board of Vancouver.

Raymond West was the chief guest of honor at the dinner, in which capital, labor and technical leadership were represented. Organized Labor was represented by W. Page, secretary of the Building Trades Council; J. G. Smith, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters; W. Hargreaves, business agent of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters; Dan McPherson, business agent of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union; Ed. Smith, business agent of the Painters' Union; W. Watt, business agent of the Plumbers' Union, and Bert Stinchcombe of the Steamfitters' Union.

Among the other invited guests were: J. P. Hodgson of Hodgson, King & Marble; Col. J. F. Keen of the E. J. Ryan Construction Company; R. G. Leckey, secretary of the Vancouver Contractors' Association; Herbert C. Harrison, foreman for Baynes & Horrie, the firm under which Raymond West served his apprenticeship; J. G. Lister, principal of the Vancouver Technical School, and Mr. Chippendale, instructor at the 'Tech.

Mr. Baynes arranged a high-class vaudeville enformecent for the boys and they thoroughly enjoyed the affair.

Bro. Scott of the Barbers' Union and Mr. Aylett entertained with musical selections, dancing and monologues. Bert Stinchcombe's impersonations were particularly well received and others on the program helped to make the event a well-remembered affair.

Immediately after the banquet Raymond West of 2938 Imperial street signed up with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Many old-timers will remember Bill West, Raymond's father, and organized labor are as one in congratulating Raymond and his parents on the honor of being Number One Apprentice.—W.H.

SPEED UP CUTS WAGES

Greenville, S. C.—More than 2,000 unorganized employees of the War Shoals Manufacturing Company's mills at War Shoals suspended work. A speed-up system, installed by "efficiency" experts, means more production with a lowering of wages.

Learn From The Lowly Sardine

A PHILOSOPHIC friend and subscriber writes the following note from San Pedro, California:

> "Free and independent" American workers might well take a lesson from the lowly sardine. Everyone knows that by himself the sardine is a "poor fish," but with 1,999,999 others acting in unity he is quite a good-sized whale.
>
> Recently eight Japanese fishermen here were out seining for mackerel. Unknown to the fishermen, 2,000,000 sardines filled the nets, and when efforts were made to draw it in 300 tons of sardines "sounded."
>
> Before the nets could be cut free the 50-foot boat was drawn under and sunk. The crew saved their lives with difficulty.
>
> What would happen to the "open shop" employers if labor would follow the example of these sardines?

It seems to Labor that the moral which the correspondent draws from that fish story is sound, practical and wise.

To be sure, the sardines probably acted together because they were scared. **But that is better than scattering because you are scared.**

Workers do not need to "sound," that is, dive for the bottom, when menaced by the seine of the "open shop." **They only need to stand together.**

Let all the members of any craft move as unitedly as did those sardines, and they can sink the boat of any hard-boiled employer or group of employers.

No net, not even when weighted with injunctions and floated by industrial spies, can stop the "poor fish," who have learned to act together.—Labor.

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American Government Refuses Aid to Farmers

The United States Shipping Board has already loaned $18,500,000 to private ship owners under the Jones-White merchant marine act.

Vessel owners can borrow 75 per cent. of the value of a proposed ship. They receive additional sums for carrying the mail.

The act created a $250,000,000 revolving fund out of which these loans shall be made. Loans shall be paid within 20 years. Interest charges are 2 1-2 per cent.

Farmers asked for the same kind of a revolving fund to equalize the low price of American wheat sold in competition with foreign wheat.

"Government aid to business must be avoided," the farmers were told. President Coolidge vetoed the McNary-Haugen bill in a stirring message that was loudly praised by elements that approve the Jones-White bill.

Government aid is "patriotic" when applied to ship owners, but "bureaucracy gone mad" when applied to farmers.

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The Week At Ottawa

By J. S. Woodsworth

In the budget debate a very wide latitude is allowed. While the discussion is supposed to centre around the fiscal policy of the government, in practice the members are permitted to talk about almost any matter whatever. The leaders of the various groups usually state their positions on the outstanding financial questions involved. Other members then largely echo their leaders, or devote themselves to discussing matters that primarily affect their own constituencies. It is the common custom for members to order large quantities of their budget speech and distribute them among their electors. In many instances this is the only method by which said electors can know that their members are really in attendance at Ottawa.

Mr. Guthrie acted as financial critic for the Conservative party, and made what is regarded as perhaps the strongest speech he has yet delivered in the House. Let me share with my readers some of the statements that struck me as of general interest:

"I think we may now take it as fairly well settled that the net debt of the Dominion of Canada on March 31 next will be the sum of $2,227,068,000, as stated by the minister of finance." Mr. Guthrie suggested that the debt could be taken care of by the creation of a sinking fund:

"Or if $19,000,000 per annum is too much—and I submit it is not—if he took the sum of $15,000,000 per year, in fifty years we would wipe out the dead weight debt of Canada." . . .

In discussing the Canadian National System, Mr. Guthrie stated that the bonded indebtedness to the public had now passed the million-dollar mark:

"On January 1, 1928, Canada was a creditor of that system to the extent of $1,258,000; the total indebtedness of the road as of that date was $2,239,00,000." . . .

Turning to the taxation, he pointed out that 87 per cent. of every dollar which goes into the treasury is secured through taxation, and charged that in the last five years this government "had wrung from the people in taxes $259,000,000 more than was taken by their predecessors in the same length of time." That meant that for a family of five the increased taxation is $26.80 per year.

In discussing the reduction in taxation, Mr. Guthrie pointed out that such reduction was in the interests of the well-to-do, rather than of the poorer citizen:

"The rich travellers are relieved of a rather heavy tax of ten per cent., while the ordinary travelling public get one dollar of relief upon every hundred dollars of railway tickets they buy. . . . When it comes down to the ordinary, everyday people of Canada, all he has to say to them is: I have taken one per cent. off the sales tax. . . . Do the people know even yet that they have to pay two per cent. on practically everything that goes into the ordinary household? And yet the minister has left forty million dollars of that tax still on the people, a tax which will average at least four dollars or five dollars for every man, woman and child in the Dominion next year."

* * *

Mr. Guthrie gave instances of what he described as extravagant expenditures:

"Last year the vote to maintain our Washington embassy was $60,000; today it stands in the estimates at $100,000—an unwarrantable and extravagant increase of $40,000. Paris, too: last year the vote for our representative stood at $75,000; now there is $5,000 more for the Paris office. No warrant for it. But in addition to that I find in the public accounts that we are maintaining another institution or agency in Paris on which $44,000 was spent last year. Take Tokyo: last year in the estimates the vote was $50,000. This year, another glaring extravagance, that vote is raised to $75,000. And there is no justification for it. And London: This government launched into a very magnificent bit of extravagant expenditure when it bought that wonderful property on Trafalgar Square. There is a considerable yearly overhead to carry in respect of that property. When I was in the Meighen government the vote for the whole establishment in London was $69,000; this year the vote is $117,000. And there is absolutely no warrant for such an increase. . . .

"Another thing I view as an extravagance is our so-called tariff board, an absolutely useless board. This board now appears in the estimates at $120,000 a year, and I see by the public accounts that, for some reason or other, there was paid last year the sum of $71,000 for advisers to the tariff board. . . .

"Does the House realize that during the last twelve months for which the auditor general's report contains a record this government spent—I had better be exact in this statement—for 'new autos and auto repairs and renewals' the sum of $542,000?. . . .

"This year I find on looking over the estimates the increase involves 143 new civil servants. Last year it was 159, and the year before, I think, 173. What is the extra work of these departments that renders it necessary to increase the civil service of Canada at this rate? . . . Why, in some of the departments they are falling over each other this minute; they are so numerous that they are actually hindering each other in doing proper work."

In a general review of the alleged prosperity, Mr. Guthrie stated that, with the exception of the few larger cities of Canada, the population was either stationary or retrogressive; that the government was catering to the big corporations, and they only were enjoying the alleged prosperity; that the cost of living in Canada was just a little higher today than it was in 1921, and that unemployment had not decreased.

* * *

Mr. Irvine, who followed Mr. Guthrie, protested strongly against the party system, and the position in which, under it, the private members were placed:

"This parliament has perfect freedom in so far as speech is concerned, but when it comes to actually doing something we have the limits of the robot. . . .

"Our cabinet have the power to give away our water sites. They tell us we can ratify their actions, or if we do not we defeat the government. . . . They sign treaties that may have a far-reaching effect upon the peace of the world, and then come and ask us to ratify them. They bring down the budget, which has important economic and political implications, and we are not permitted to change one jot or tittle within the entire compass of that budget."

He pointed out that, while the minister of finance had boasted that the Canadian dollar could now look the American dollar square in the eye without blushing, a result of the deflation policy, had not been in the interests of the public. He quoted a recent statement of Lord Beaverbrook with regard to the parallel policy of Great Britain, under which the per capita debt of Great Britain, who won the war, now stands at $817.60, while that of Germany, who lost the war, has a per capita debt of only $8.76. Mr. Irvine charged:

"The responsibility, I would say, was upon the minister of finance to have stabilized the value of the Canadian dollar on a war basis so that the dollar with which he now pays the debt would have had precisely the same value as the dollar with which the debt was contracted. But instead of doing that the minister permitted the dollar to drop from its inflation value to its present deflation value, which practically doubled the Canadian war debt, plus five per cent.; so that, due to the inactivity of the minister during the first few years that he was in office, he has placed a greater debt on the shoulders of the Canadian people than he will ever live to see removed, no matter how high he taxes the people. . . .

"The minister of finance had reported that the total exports amounted to $1,187,400,000, which, when the total imports of $1,033,300,000 are subtracted, leaves a favorable trade balance of $154,100,000 for the ten months' period."

Mr. Irvine stated: "If there is a balance, it has been erroneously named a favorable balance. Trade, of course, is a fair exchange of goods, and if what the minister reports is true, then Canada has given away $154,000,000 for which she has received nothing. . . . Our favorable balance means that Canada has increased her capital investments abroad. . . .

"Let me also point out to the minister that the balance of trade is to a considerable extent made up of investments by insurance companies in foreign securities abroad."

The reduction in taxation made in deference to the agriculturist of the West were ridiculed by Mr. Irvine.

"The minister of finance says that he has not reduced the tariff because the tariff board has not had time to make sufficient investigation in the three years it has been sitting. But I would point out to the members of the House that the tariff board has managed in that time to discover one kind of hame-strap on which the tariff ought to be reduced. However, it is too late now for that, because most of the farmers are using tractors, and tractors do not require hame-straps. . . .

"The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy) told us last session that, in an examination of the tariff over a period of forty years, he discovered that the Liberals had reduced it four-fifths of one per cent. more than had the Conservatives. . . . A free-trade party? Of course. A revision-of-the-tariff-downward party? Certainly. A low-tariff party? Certainly. A tariff-for-revenue party? Yes. But always 'tariff' appears in the title, and the tariff is the only part implemented."

* * *

Let me add a postscript of protest. A number of readers, especially from Saskatchewan, have been writing me asking me to take up their personal grievances with different departments. That is not my job. Were I to undertake this work I would be prevented from doing the larger work for which I am sent to Ottawa. Even to answer the letters to say that I cannot undertake such work takes time that should be devoted to other matters. Too much ought not to be expected from a member, even by his own constituents. If a member is to be a chore-boy he will not be able to have any very real part in determining the larger policies of the country.

BIG DIVISION IN COMMUNIST RANKS

New York.—The Communist brethren staged their well known act, "Free Speech and Solidarity," at a meeting in this city to protest against Trotsky's deportation from Russia.

Stalin, present king-pin in Russia, was not without friends, and the factions fought in a manner that would shame a political convention of the "agents of the capitalist class."

Police reserves were called to separate the kicking, biting, gouging champions of the proletariat. The Stalin crowd broke up the meeting.

The minority protested against "the Fascist tactics of these gangsters," but the steam roller was well oiled.

Police and detective squads made a second call and dispersed the big show and several secondary meetings in various parts of the hall.

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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, 3517 West 25th.

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, 816 East 12th.; 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.

Farmer: "If I were as lazy as you, I'd go and hang myself in my barn."

Hobo: "No, you wouldn't. If you were as lazy as me you wouldn't have any barn."

Woman Coal Operator Blazes New Trail

Miss Josephine Roche, of Denver, chief owner of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, the first, and up to date the only, coal mining corporation in Colorado to recognize fully and freely the right of the mine workers to organize as they please and to have some say about wages and working conditions, stopped in Washington during a trip East recently.

"The way organized labor has backed us in this effort to stabilize conditions in the coal industry on a decent, civilized basis is inspiring," said Miss Roche.

Every union in Denver organized coal committees to sell the coal of this company which gave the workers a square deal. The movement has extended beyond Denver. Coal committees have been formed in Pueblo, Salida and other Colorado towns and the State Federations of Labor of California and Nebraska have appealed to their members to help.

So far as sales for domestic use are concerned, the results have been splendid.

Workers Held Conference

"Their loyalty has been beyond all praise," Miss Roche declared. On February 14th—St. Valentine's day—about 200 representatives of these coal committees met in Denver, to get acquainted with each other, and consider ways and means for pushing the good work still farther.

The oppostion to this new deal in the coal industry, though still as savagely bitter as ever, is no longer so united as it was at the beginning.

In the mines themselves, the policy is working splendidly. Many things had to be changed and tested out, but, says Miss Roche, "the patience and understanding of those workmen are amazing."

Adjust All Grievances

Many suggestions leading to more efficient management have been received from the workers; and thus far, only one complaint has been made which had to come up to the head conference between union and management to be settled. The rest were disposed of by agreement without being referred to the "higher-ups" at all.

Miss Roche's work has attracted national attention, as is evidenced by the fact that one object of her Eastern visit was to address a conference on trade union organization called by the Labor College in Philadelphia last week.

"It was a wonderful gathering," said Miss Roche, "and I am sure will be productive of much good."

Miss Roche inherited large holdings in the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company from her father, a pioneer operator in the Colorado field.

Secured Control of Mines

It was not a controlling interest, but it gave the young woman a place on the board of directors, where she found herself surrounded by "hard-boiled" operators of the old school.

After the tragic failure of the last coal strike in Colorado she succeeded in securing enough stock to enable her to elect new directors and to inaugurate an enlightened labor policy.

Naturally this did not please the "open shoppers," in and out of the coal industry, and they have thrown every possible obstacle in her way, but she has bravely held to her course.

John D. Jr. Protests "Coercing Employees"

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., says that Robert W. Stewart coerced the employees of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana into giving him their proxies.

The charge gets strong presumptive support from the fact that 99.67 per cent. of these employees have given their proxies to Mr. Stewart, who is chairman of the board of directors, and therefore their boss.

What is the "employee ownership" idea worth if it does not tie the worker to the management? What is a company union for if not to coerce employees?

Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., has been an apostle of "employee ownership," and he is pretty nearly the father of the company union in America.

He introduced that abomination in California shortly after the Ludlow massacre, and no worker in the Rockefeller mines there has been able to claim his own soul since.

"Coercing employees!" Labor has little doubt that Stewart did it; but he learned how to do it in the Rockefeller school.—Labor.

The proxies from the employees did not save Mr. Stewart, however, for he has been eliminated entirely from the board of directors of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

British Labor Wins 10,786 Votes Over Tory

Another staggering blow to the Government has been delivered by the electors of the Wansbeck Division, Northumberland, who have returned Mr. George William Shield, the Labor candidate, by a majority of 10,786 over his Tory opponent, says the Daily (London) Herald. The figures are:

G. W. Shield (Lab.)	20,398
I. M. Moffatt-Pender (C.)	9,612
H. A. Briggs (L.)	5,183
Labor majority over Conservative	10,786
Labor majority over both opponents	5,603

It is a great victory and a splendid omen for the general election, said Mr. G. W. Shield, when congratulated on his 10,000 majority.

"It is evident," he continued, "that the Baldwin Government, with its black record of class legislation against the workers, and its callous neglect of the industrial problems of today, has lost the confidence of the bulk of the electors, even including many among its own former supporters."

The new member, a native of Haltwhistle, Northumberland, is 52 years old, and started work in the pit at 13. For the past 18 years he has been check-weighman at South Tyne Colliery, Haltwhistle, where he is also a member of the local council and Board of Guardians. He has also served on the county council, and is a trustee of the Northumberland Miners' Association.

Scenes of tremendous enthusiasm were witnessed at the declaration, and in every part of the division the workers of Wansbeck received the news with delight.

Winston's Shock

"Winston Churchill rang the alarm bell and got an electric shock," was the comment of one Labor supporter. "Baldwin won't want to remember his Newcastle visit," said another.

At the 1924 elections the figures were:

G. H. Warne (Lab.)	21,159
Mrs. Middleton (Tory)	18,875
Labor majority	2,284

It will be seen that the total poll has fallen from 40,034 to 35,193, a reduction foreshadowed in view of the great number of workers who have left the northeastern industrial areas owing to the terrible conditions brought about under the Baldwin regime.

The Tory vote has dropped by 9,263; the Liberal, as usual, cuts a miserable figure.

2,171 DEAD MINERS REPORTED LAST YEAR

Washington.—There were 2,171 deaths in the coal mines of this country last year, according to the United States Bureau of Mines. Of this number 1,724 fatal accidents occurred in soft coal mines and 447 in the anthracite fields.

The mine output for the year is estimated at 492,755,000 tons of bituminous and 76,734,000 tons of anthracite. The fatality rate per million tons of coal mined was 3.50 for bituminous and 5.83 for anthracite, with a total of 3.81 for the entire industry.

Labor has won another by-election in Great Britain. This makes five wins in a month. In this connection, Ramsay MacDonald and his followers are sure taking the "win" out of Baldwin, and leaving him quite "bald."

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The Labor Statesman

14

Published every Friday, at Labor Headquarters, Vancouver, B. C.

Owned by the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council.

H. W. Watts, Man. Editor.

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Vancouver, Fri., March 29, 1929

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP IN CANADA

As bearing on the problem of unemployment, the British Labor party advocate the nationalization of various industries, answering that this is no solution Premier Baldwin instances Canada's government railways to show that nationalization is a failure. There are many things about Canada that Premier Baldwin does not know, or does not want to know. Canada's experience with State ownership of railways is really three separate problems. To bring the Maritime Provinces into the Canadian Confederation, what was then called Upper and Lower Canada agreed to build a railway from the St. Lawrence to the Atlantic seaboard. It was felt that the proposed road would for some unknown period be run at a loss, but the two Canadas were willing to pay the price to extend the new union to the Atlantic shores. The writer knows very little regarding the construction of this railroad— the Intercolonial—and a great deal about its operation.

In the hands of honest and capable men, it is a fair presumption that the road would have been self-supporting within a few years, but strange to say Liberals and Conservatives have been singularly unfortunate in that the man whom they selected for Parliament were anything else but honest, and with this class of person in control the Intercolonial degenerated into a political tool with which the party in power bought the support of the districts tributary to the road. For forty years the operation of the road was so inefficient and dishonest that it passed the point where men condemned and became a huge joke; from end to end over a thousand miles every government supporter within titheing distance looked for something from the road—a job on the road, a contract for ties—and sometimes the railway forgot to ask for delivery, and the contractor forgot to cut the ties. A sick cow with vitality enough to be driven to the railway was paid for by the government. A "free pass" was political legal tender, and, if nothing else could be devised a claim was made for damaged freight, and collection was made from a claims agent who knew he could be fired for paying too little. On the top of this style of management the Canadian Pacific Railway was subsidized to connect the two terminals by a much shorter route, and still worse; in mail and other matters our government deliberately favored the Grand Trunk to the American city of Portland, Maine, as against the Intercolonial to St. Johns and Halifax. Our Governments did not favor government ownership, and they took every necessary step to assure that the principle was a glorious failure.

The Canadian Northern was the whim of two men—McKenzie and Mann—who decided that the people of Canada were sufficiently railroad crazy to build a transcontinental railway and make them a gift of it. When McKenzie and Mann started they could not build forty miles of road, but with the Dominion and Provincial subsidies, government guaranteed bonds, and moneys wheedled from English investors, the road was built. Towards the finish the war upset the money market so that the two musketeers were unable to complete the terminals or equip with rolling stock. Having to meet the bond interest and principal, the government stepped in as receiver and took over the road. But let no one imagine that Messrs. McKenzie and Mann lost money on the deal. From the Atlantic to the Pacific they plundered the road by letting construction contracts to themselves, their agents travelled ahead of the projected line, staking everything that the railway would give value to, and a hundred thousand simple folks were persuaded to pour their savings into these gentlemen's pockets by means of townsites, like "Port Mann." Out of the profits of this railway failure these gentlemen bought the street railway system of Havanna and made other large South American investments.

The Grand Trunk Pacific was Laurier's dream—or nightmare. The plan was that the government being able to get money cheaper than the railway company they should build the road from Quebec to Rupert. When completed the Grand Trunk Railway were to lease it at a rate relative to the construction costs. Laurier and his party built the road on the same plan as both parties operated the Intercolonial. From Quebec to Rupert patronage and plunder ruled—construction contracts were given in payment of political debts. Men who had absolutely no experience and not a dollar's worth of equipment, and not a dollar in cash, blossomed out into railway construction contractors with ten to twenty-five miles of construction to put through. The government candidate in an interior British Columbia district was defeated; his previous experience was school teaching; he was penniless, but we next find him with a ten-mile construction contract in the Hazelton district. The result of this method of construction was that the Grand Trunk refused to take over the road and pay a rental that would take care of the millions of dollars potlached and charged to construction. This left the government with two transcontinental railways on their hands. At many points they paralleled each other and served a territory that could be served by one road. As a sample of this: For three hundred miles west of Edmonton a fence and sometimes a creek separates the two railway grades.

These three roads, brought under one management, is the Canadian National Railway of today. When the two last foundlings got left on the government doorstep, together with three hundred millions of bonds indebtedness, and which must be paid whether the roads are operated or not, the thing got past the joke stage, in which the Intercolonial had always been and so both political parties agreed to take the railroad out of politics and place it under competent management. The result of this policy already has justified the hope that nothwithstanding the duplication of lines and the tens of millions of waste in construction, the Canadian Government Railways will yet prove successful. Whatever of failure there has been in Canada's railway experience has been due to the cupable dishonesty of Liberal and Conservative politicians, and not to any weakness in the principle of State ownership.—M.

General Booth has been deposed from the leadership of the Salvation Army and General Higgins appointed in his place. The "iggins" will now contract to deliver freak religion or cheap labor.—M.

The joker which rules Italy has just staged a comic opera election. There was only one candidate allowed for each position, so the question voted on was: "Do you favor our appointee, or would you like to be laid on your back and pumped full of castor oil?" A very large majority favored the appointees.—M.

"The Sons of Freedom," a Doukhobor sect, were chased out of Nelson. They gathered on a corner and denounced the present civilization, the United States and Great Britain for cruiser building, the educational system, capitalism, and said that the world was ruled by Saten. If this fellow could only keep his clothes on while he rattled like this there would be hope for him yet.—M.

"The Province" calls the Honorable Attorney-General "Cromwell, Napoleon, Punch and Judy Pooley." We are rather glad to have this precedent set, because we might sometime wish to apply a few pet names to some other members of the Cabinet.—M.

OLD-AGE PENSION LAW ENACTED IN WYOMING

Cheyenne, Wyo.—Organized labor in this State is jubilant over the legislature's acceptance of the old-age principle. The act will be enforced by county commissioners. The maximum monthly allowance will be $30 for dependent persons over 65 and whose total assets do not exceed $3,000.

ANOTHER LOCKOUT

Bill found the door locked and bolted when he arrived home at 1 a.m. the other morning.

"Where have you been till this time in the morning?" his wife yelled at him out of the window.

"I've been at the Labor Headquarters, considering a strike," said Bill.

"Well, you can stay outside and consider a lockout," said Bill's wife.

Spring

Editor Labor Statesman:

Sir—Why all this fuss and flare over this fellow Archibald? You seem to think he is the only poet on your staff. Maybe you're right in this respect, but there is another poet (not on your staff) who in spite of Archibald's abilities can and does, much as he regrets being forced in self-defence to do so, places Archibald in the shade.—Berner Pshaw.

Homer wrote his poetry in antiquated Greek,
Which very few of us can read, and fewer still can speak;
Homer died, as all men must, he did not live to see
The marvels of the present age: that's Archibald and me.

Archie's poems ripple like the sunshine in the glade,
A transcendental genius, he was born, he wasn't made;
His vague, illusive rhymes, weaves a mystic fleeting spell
That will lift one up to Heaven from the labyrinths of Hell.

He hurls his shafts of satire, like the thunderbolts of Jove,
Then, graciously relenting, leads through gentle forest grove;
When righteous rage possesses, he will emulate the roar
Of mighty ocean pulsing upon earth's unyielding floor.

That Archibald is wonderful, all poets will agree;
But he's not the greatest wonder, for they must consider me.
—Berner Pshaw.

SPRING

There is no doubt now that Spring is going to be early this year, if we only judge from the activities of some of the Spring Poets that seem to be at large. The above letter and verses arrived by mail just before we went to press. We thought they were rather complimentary to Archibald, but, strange to say, he took quite a different view of the matter, since he flew into a violent rage and, drawing his pen, dashed off the following reply:

Oh, pray, what has your motive been, now Mr. Berner Pshaw?
I'd like to know just what you mean by shoving in your paw;
There's more in this than meets the eye, if I can read the signs,
For the green-eyed monster Jealousy, peeps out between your lines.

It seems to me, my noble friend, you have a pretty wit,
But nothing you can say or do e'er worries me a bit;
For Archibald's not in the shade, he's second still to none,
And only hopes that he some day will meet you in the "Sun."

So come out in the open, sir, cast off your vile disguise,
For I'd like to see this creature who does dare to criticize,
Who stoops to villify my name, just simply for a whim,
If e'er I get him in my clutch, I'll tear him limb from limb.
—P. A. Beall.

Decent Wages Will End Child Labor Evil

Dr. John A. Lapp of Marquette University wants to prohibit the industrial employment of children under 16 years of age.

"It is social suicide to permit children under 16 to be employed when adults with dependents to support cannot find work," says this famous economist. "With the million or more children under 16 now employed taken out of industry, there would be room for an army of unemployed adults."

Of course Labor agrees with Dr. Lapp, and it wishes to suggest two ways by which the desired objective may be attained:

Give the father wages enough to support his family in reasonable comfort, and nine times out of ten he will keep the children in school at least until they are 16.

If the father dies or is diasbled, pension the mother. In the heavy majority of cases she is a skilled worker in the home—and an unskilled worker outside. Her economic value is far greater in caring for the children than in any other occupation.

Incidentally, wherever mothers' pensions have received anything like a fair trial, they work.

Dr. Gorgas—the real builder of the Panama Canal—once said that if he were limited to one measure for improving public health, he would take high wages. The same rule holds good in promoting social health. Other things are desirable, useful, even necessary; but a good-sized pay envelope stands at the head of the list.

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Trade Schools Are Still Getting Suckers

The worst feature of the profit system under which we exist is not so much the large amount of wealth the profiteers are able to grab for themselves, and the small amount that is allowed to the producers of wealth, but the fact that, under the greatest of all delusions—"democracy"—the owners of wealth can deliberately condemn millions of workers to idleness and starvation.

Considering the size and seriousness of the problem, it is seldom mentioned in our newspapers, churches or fraternal organizations; the average worker with a job has very little sympathy with his unemployed brother. Little does he realize that this disease, if allowed to go unchecked, will sooner or later get him. They look upon those who tell them that it is possible to have a social system—without enforced poverty—as cranks, but are quite willing to listen to quacks who prey upon their ignorance to fleece those who happen to have a few dollars of hard-earned savings. Perhaps the worst offenders are the so-called trade schools, correspondence courses, etc. Here is an example.

"$100.00 Clear Cash Profit for You."—An eastern company offers to teach any and everybody showcard writing for the small amount (?) of $46.00. As bait, it suggests that you pay $16.00 down and the [illegible] you have made $100 out of the work. There are more showcard writers looking for work today than could supply the needs of the trade for ten years. Thousands of returned soldiers took up that line, and are not working at it because they would have starved at it, yet trade schools are still able to pick up suckers.

There are so-called trade schools that profess to teach motor mechanics, or even plastering, in a few weeks' course—trades which ordinarily should take years to learn—the price averaging $100 for a four to six weeks' course, and there seems to be plenty of suckers to be caught.

How many people have had their cars ruined by inferior mechanics, the product of trade schools? A friend of mine had his house plastered by two ex-students of a local trade school. They professed to be experienced plasterers, but confessed afterwards that they had only had one month's training, paying $100 each for the alleged training. They took on a contract, spent five times as long on the job as a union plasterer would have taken to do it, and made such a mess of it that they had to get off the job without pay. The work then had to be stripped and done by a union plasterer.

Might we suggest that the Trades and Labor Council try to get these so-called schools abolished, or at least placed under government supervision. We cannot blame the poor fellows for trying to better themselves, or to keep out of the pit that the profit system is relentlessly pushing them into.—T.R.

VANCOUVER SOUTH I. L. P. NOTES

The branch executive considered a letter from the Winnipeg I.L.P. re a proposed meeting of the public representatives of Labor in the various provinces. The need for such a meeting is apparent. The size of Canada, which decided the federal character of our political institutions, also imposed the form of independent provincial groups for political Labor purposes. The provinces of Canada have no individual traditions or racial differences that keep them apart; only the vast area and difficulty of communication provides a reason for their independent political existence. As the geographical difficulties are overcome, I feel sure our political institutions will tend to centralize, the provincial governments becoming more administrative than executive bodies. And similarly the Labor movement will lose its federal character and take its place in the councils of the nation as a united national party.

These changes are probably well ahead of us. Yet, somehow, one cannot think of meeting our Winnipeg friends without seeing the value such a meeting might have on the permanent development of the party. The executive were sympathetic to the proposed meeting, the only difficulty was financial. Our final proposal was that the provincial executive should get in touch with the branches and learn how much each branch could donate toward the expense of at least one delegate to the meeting. We trust that the branches will see the necessity for pinching themselves in order that we be represented.

The next meeting of Vancouver South I.L.P. will be held in the Horticultural Hall, 43rd and Fraser, on Friday, April 12th, at 8 p.m.

I. L. P. in Manitoba In Important Fight

Winnipeg.—The Independent Labor party of Manitoba announces a campaign to tell the truth about the transfer of the Seven Sisters power site to private power interests by the Bracken government.

This is in preparation for the general election which is expected in the near future. The Seven Sisters deal will probably be the paramount issue.

CANADIAN PACIFIC'S EARNINGS HIGH IN 1928

Montreal.—Gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific for 1928 were the highest in the history of the road, according to a preliminary report issued last week.

Net profits were equal to 14.89 per cent. on the common stock, and compares with 12.07 per cent. in 1927.

The gross earnings were $229,039,297; working expenses, $177,344,345; leaving net earnings at $51,694,452. In addition there was "special income" amounting to $12,677,683.

STORM OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS IN HUNGARY

The severe unemployment and geneconomic depression in Hungary has caused the Social-democratic party o fthat country to hand in no less than 34 questions in the Hungarian parliament. These questions set forth the present economic situation as follows: "Industry and trade are suffering from severe depression. The number of bankrupt firms is increasing enormously, and the concentration of the employers also tends to increase unemployment. But the government obtains year by year ever-increasing surplus balances, which are due to heavy taxation. Production and consumption are burdened by a two per cent. tax on sales and by high duties, also by an anti-social taxation system, from which even the subsistence minimum is not exempted. All this is terribly oppressive to the living conditions of the working class."

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

OUR Federal and Provincial Governments, banking and Business houses are all preaching THRIFT. Even our schools have taken it up in late years, and, by practical demonstration (miniature banks and savings accounts), are inculcating the virtue of thrift into the children.

There can be no question in regard to the necessity of this campaign. Whether we realize it or not the fact remains that the Canadian people are wasteful to a degree. It would not be difficult for any of us to make a list of things we buy habitually which we do not need and which are of little value to us.

There is one outstanding example of wastefulness, however, which can be laid at the door of most families and for which there is absolutely no excuse—and that is, buying rent receipts. And it is so unnecessary. If the wage-earner gave but a moment's thought to the matter this is one leak in his expense account he would mend immediately.

We have all known families to pay rent as long as they lived. And one hundred per cent. of them longed for a home—a real home of their own—but felt that they couldn't afford one. They never stopped to think that the rent they paid—say $20 per month, or $240 per year—would pay interest on $3,000 at 8 per cent. And $3,000 would build a better house than the majority of those which they occupied. And it would be THEIR VERY OWN, BUILT TO SUIT THEIR INDIVIDUAL TASTES. AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS OR CONVENIENCES ADDED WOULD BE THEIR'S, TOO!

You may feel that you cannot lay out that amount NOW. Here is where THRIFT comes in. By reducing the amount of luxuries indulged in, the problem is easily solved. We have not the figures for Canada, but statistics compiled in the United States show that an average of $276.00 a year for every man, woman and child is spent on cosmetics, chewing gum, sodas and soft drinks, joy rides and pleasure resorts. And these are only a very few items in the list of extravagances.

Saving a little here and a little there—and that for a very few years—and a real HOME is assured. And by saving is not meant total deprivation. By no means! Simply a curtailment of the many unnecessary expenditures you now make. And what more sensible investment than buying a home? It not only ensures happiness and contentment to yourself and your life partner, but provides a fitting setting as well as a congenial atmosphere for raising a family. Think it over tonight.

Don't wait. Time is fleeting and the present only is yours.

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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QUEBEC AGAIN DENIES WOMEN RIGHT TO VOTE

Quebec, P.Q.—Women of this ancient province were again denied a vote in provincial elections when the legislature last week defeated the proposal by a vote of 50 to 16.

"Only when the women get the vote will this province enjoy needed social laws," declared William Tremblay, Conservative, sponsor of the bill.

Quebec is the only province in Canada where women do not enjoy full franchise rights with men.

A financier is a man who knows how to use the money other folks work for.—"Tee-Dee."

Co-op. Living Plan Now Not Utopian

New York.—When Edward Bellamy, American author, wrote "Looking Backward," a generation ago, the public laughed at his Utopian schemes. One of these included a central place for cooking meals for families.

Bellamy's theory, however, is accepted by an educational committee at Teachers' College, Columbia University, in their plan for family apartments. Conveniences to be made possible by co-operative living will relieve housewives of cooking by means of a central kitchen.

The committee will interest educational and civic organizations in the project that the necessary finances is assured to erect the building.

"It seems possible," said Professor Benjamin R. Andrews, "to find practicable means for removing from the family of moderate means the burdens which are handicapping them in their work and their home life. Service, central preparation of food and child care are already being provided in many apartments for families of larger income. The proposal is unique in endeavoring to combine these and possible other services and put them within the reach of families with smaller incomes."

Soviet industrial production reached a new high level during December, reports Amtorg, Russian-American trading firm. Oil and steel reached record figures, while foreign trade showed a favorable balance. During the year oil production increased 16 per cent.; steel, 30 per cent.; textiles, 25 per cent. Despite decreased grain exports, total exports for the year showed a two per cent. increase, while exports gained 26 per cent.

Child Night Work in America and India

New York.—"How do Americans like the company we are keeping?" asks Thomas F. McMahon, president United Textile Workers, in pointing out that United States, China and India are the only nations that enforce night work on women and children in textile mills.

Mr. McMahon quotes this statement from the Textile World, a "hard-boiled, anti-union, pro-mill paper":

"Night work for women and children in Japanese textile mills will be prohibited by imperial edict on and after July 1, 1929. Thereafter, and until such time as they see fit to change their policy, the United States, China and India will be the only important countries in the world having social standards which permit the exploiting of women and minors on all-night shifts."

"Americans will hardly be proud of their company," said Mr. McMahon. "Lest we forget, the Nationalist government of China is moving as rapidly as possible to abolish such exploitation.

"Yet the paragraph quoted is a good sign. Textile World editors have wit enough to see that, just as a matter of far-sighted interest, night work for women and children is bad for the industry. It means over-production and under-consumption; it means the starvation wage that has characterized the textile industry for a generation—women and children will not work nights if they or their families can help it; and starvation wages make no markets.

"Night factory work for women and children is an economic and a physiological crime. It is a sad commentary on employers who maintain conditions in their factories that are only equalled in China and India.

"These conditions exist in north as well as in southern States."

CO-OPERATION BEATS STOCK SPECULATION

Young, Sask.—Here's a story that beats the stock market, even in these days of heavy speculation.

A local farmer joined the Young Co-operative Society in 1914, buying a $20 share. He purchased his supplies through the society and left his patronage dividends with the organization until the share was worth $100, the limit set.

Then he continued to leave his annual dividends as loan capital until he had reached the limit of $400.

Since then he has drawn dividends. He now owns $100 share capital, $400 loan capital, and has received $359 cash as interest and dividends.

Co-operation pays!

CONVICTS COMPENSATED

The employees' compensation laws of two states, Maryland and Wisconsin, have been extended by recent legislative action to cover convicts injured in prison industries. California has recently amended its law so as to exclude convicts from the benefits of compensation.

Manitoba I. L. P. Seeks Financial Assistance

Winnipeg.—The following communication is being sent out to labor organizations in Canada in an effort to finance a big important fight in Manitoba:

Fellow Unionists:
Greeting—

The workers in Manitoba have definitely established themselves on the political field. To the House of Commons, Ottawa, they have sent two representatives; to the Provincial House three; on the Winnipeg city council eight of the eighteen councillors are labor, while four Winnipeg school board members were placed there by the workers. In the various municipalities throughout the province the wage earners have been able to elect one or more of their own to represent them.

Moreover, we have pioneered in labor legislation. The Mothers' Allowance Act, the Minimum Wage for Girls Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Child Welfare Act, etc., stand as monuments to labors' endeavor on the political field to raise the cultural levels of its own class.

But that is not all. So energetically have we pushed the question of public ownership that now Manitoba stands in the vanguard. Our publicly-owned telephone system is regarded as an efficient service-at-cost institution. Of still greater interest is our publicly-owned hydro-electric development. Here is a public service, brought into being largely by labors' efforts, that supplies the workers of Winnipeg and others with power for light and domestic use at an average rate of 1.0007c per K. W.H. Workers elsewhere (Ontario workers excepted) pay much more. Cheap power, as you can readily imagine, is equivalent to an increase in wages.

We have not related the foregoing in order to boast. What we want to show is that labor in Manitoba has by its own efforts made history on the political field.

Now we need help. Public ownership of our power sites is threatened. We will not bother you with the details of the Seven Sisters falls deal, which has been featured largely in the newspapers; suffice it to say that the power trust is bending all its energy to retain that site.

Largely on account of our efforts the Bracken government of Manitoba is morally beaten. So shaky had its seat become that they had to adjourn the House for three weeks. At Ottawa, as you may recall, the Liberal government barely escaped defeat because of its attitude toward public ownership of these falls.

The burning question of the day is public ownership. The fight is centred in Manitoba, and all eyes are fixed upon us.

The Independent Labor Party of Manitoba is the political expression of the workers in this province. All recent battles on the political field have been fought under its banner. Today we are tackling a big job. We propose to restore the Seven Sisters falls to the people. The lease should be cancelled. To accomplish this task, speakers must be sent throughout the province, a volume of literature has to be printed, a province-wide agitation must be started immediately.

Should we be successful in our efforts to restore the Seven Sisters falls to the commonweal, it will have a salutary effect on those provinces now totally in the grip of the power trust, and have a deterring influence in places where insidious propaganda against public ownership is being carried on by private interests. Our victory will be your victory also.

It takes money to do this. Heretofore the Independent Labor Party has paid its own way. It has never asked for a cent outside of the province. Now it becomes necessary to make a general appeal. We have a job to do—a big one—and we want you to help us put it across.

Those we have elected to public office, Woodsworth, Heaps, and others, have rendered service to the whole of the workers in the Dominion freely and gladly. Our work on the political field has helped you in your fight on the industrial field. Show your appreciation of what we have done by donating liberally.

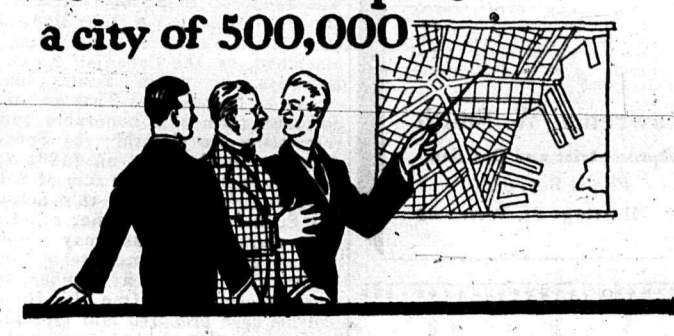
Make all monies payable to the Independent Labor Party of Manitoba, Room 405, Chambers of Commerce Building, Winnipeg, Man.

Fraternally yours,
THE INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY OF MANITOBA.
T. E. Moore,
Organizing Secretary.

EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA

Ottawa, Ont.—The employment situation in Canada on February 1, 1928, was the best of any years on record, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

How shall we transport a city of 500,000



VISUALIZE the Vancouver of tomorrow—half a million people, streets congested with traffic, making individual transportation impossible and street cars a necessity, hundreds of street cars carrying home tens of thousands of workers!

How can we prepare today for the city of the future?

By making it possible for your street car company to grow with your city. Only a prosperous street car system can give expanding service. New cars, new tracks, new substations and power houses will require millions of dollars within the next few years.

Any transportation company that is not making a fair return on its investment will make these improvements reluctantly and the service will thus lag behind the requirements.

A liberal policy towards your street car company today will pay you dividends in better service tomorrow.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO.
VANCOUVER VICTORIA

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Drink and enjoy!

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COLLIS LOVELY, General President
CHARLES L. BLAINE, General Secretary-Treasurer

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

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33 EAST HASTINGS STREET
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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.

Fellow Unionists, demand the Union Label, Shop Card and Working Button, and patronize fair employers and employ UNION LABOR.

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Canadian National Action Is Pleasing

Detroit.—President F. H. Fljozdal of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes is greatly pleased by the announcement that the Canadian National has decided to extend the union-management co-operative plan to its maintenance of way department.

"It is a long progressive step in collective bargaining," said Mr. Fljozdal. "I am gratified indeed that I have been able to give some practical assistance in bringing about this understanding.

"In my judgment, this plan will bring about many improvements in industrial relations wherever the management and the men are willing to recognize each other's rights and endeavor to understand each other's problems.

"The Canadian National is the first railroad to accept the invitation to co-operate along this line in the maintenance of way department. This was due to the fact that the National under the management of Sir Henry Thornton is definitely committed to the principle of co-operation.

"It seems to me that a new order is struggling into being and will displace the old system of industrial warfare."

CANADIAN NATIONAL 1928 NET EARNINGS INCREASE 28%

Montreal, P.Q.—Net earnings totaling $58,383,577 were produced by the Canadian National Railways during 1928, according to an official statement issued last week. This was an increase of $12,982,887, or 28.60 per cent., over 1927, and is more than sufficient to meet all interest charges due the public.

The year was the most successful one, financially, for the government-owned system since its creation.

Women laugh when they can and weep when they will.

COLONIAL
NEXT WEEK
One of the Greatest Love Stories ever told!
"The White Sister"
Comedies, News, and Extras
PRIZE NIGHTS:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Court Denies Claim of One Big Union Member

Winnipeg, Man.—Verbal judgment was rendered today by Mr. Justice Dysart, presiding in the Manitoba courts in the case of Wm. Young, a machinist, vs. the Canadian National Railways, in which Young made claims as follows: (a) That an order do issue from this honorable court reinstating the plaintiff; (b) Special damages in the sum of $120; (c) General damages in the sum of $50,000; (d) The cost of this action; (e) Such further and other relief as the nature of the case may require and as to this court may seem meet.

Young, who was a member and local officer of the One Big Union, had his case prepared and presented to the court based entirely on an alleged violation of certain seniority clauses, the existing agreement that had been negotiated and signed between Division No. 4, Railway Employees Department of the American Federation of Labor, and the Railway Association of Canada, as he asserted in his claim that this agreement covered all employees in his class on the road.

The court dismissed the action, holding that Machinist Young, by not being a member of the International Association of Machinists, or any other organizations that were parties to the agreement, had no rights under same.

The court also held that the agreement was not a legal document in the sense that recovery under same could be secured through the courts.

Of course the latter feature of the decision is something that is well known to members of unions who have any knowledge of the movement, and arises from the fact that labor unions decline to become incorporated, which means that as an organization they cannot be a party to an agreement upon which court action can be secured, or sue or be sued.

Hence it should be generally known that such agreements are not in that sense "legal" documents, their existence and value depending entirely upon the honesty and integrity of both parties to them, plus the economic strength of the employees organization to enforce them.

This case arose out of a staff reduction by the Canadian National Railways in their Fort Rouge shops at Winnipeg during the month of June, 1927, and when five boilermakers, five machinists and two helpers from each craft were laid off.

Due to falling off in revenues at that time, and that economies must be made, the company decided on reducing the staff of their shop employees; however, none of those selected by the company to be laid off were members of the international unions parties to the agreement, some of them being members of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees, others the One Big Union, and some were not members of any organization.

As all of those laid off had been longer in the company's service than some other employees, apparently more desirable to the company, those laid off immediately approached the shop committee and general chairman of the unions parties to the agreement and pleaded with them to endeavor to adjust their grievances with the company.

This the committees declined to do, first, because they were only authorized to represent the employees who were members of the international unions; scondly, in their opinion, those who were not members of said unions did not have any seniority rights in an agreement they were not a party to; in fact, by their actions during the past few years they had done all that was possible to prevent any kind of an agreement.

Failing to secure their reinstatement in the company's service by this method, acting on behalf of those laid off the O.B.U. and C.B. of R.E. then approached the officials of the Dominion government and endeavored to get them to intercede; also failing in that, and all other ways. They then entered suit in the Manitoba courts in the name of Wm. Young during July of 1927, the case finally coming up for a hearing before Justice Dysart in May, 1928, the trial lasting about three weeks, the decision in the case being rendered this week. At this date those laid off are still out of the company's service.

As far as it is known, this is the first time where an individual has endeavored to secure redress through the courts of Canada from his employer where his entire claim has been based upon an alleged violation of an agreement between said employer and a union that he was not a member of, so this case has created much interest and is of considerable importance to the bona fide labor unions in Canada.

Detroit Judge Stops Signing of Wage Pact

Detroit.—One of the most amazing injunctions in union history has been granted by a federal district court here.

On complaint of the Detroit Tile & Mosaic Co., a tile contractor, the court has enjoined the Bricklayers', Masons' and Plasterers' Local Union No. 32 from entering into a joint agreement on wages, terms and conditions of work with the Mason Contractors' Association.

The temporary order was served on the union and employer representatives by a United States marshal as they sat around a conference table with the agreement before them ready for signature.

Allegation of the plaintiff is that the union agreement forbids union men from working on jobs where non-union men are employed and the plaintiff operates on a non-union basis.

Seattle Projectionists Sue Theatre Owner

Seattle.—The Motion Picture Operators' Union of this city has filed suit for $25,000 damages against the Mount Baker Theater because of a notice posted on the door of the wrecked establishment reading as follows:

"Closed on account of damage done by the Operators' Union, who demanded $140 a week for operating a machine four hours a night. We were doing the work ourselves."

The union states that when the theater management installed sound equipment two operators were required, but the union waived the point; but insisted on the employment of one union operator at $60 per week.

The firm replied that the house was on the verge of bankruptcy and that the offer, unusually fair though it was, could not be accepted. A few days later the new equipment and the machines were found wrecked.

The union has posted an offer of $100 reward for the arrest and conviction of the vandals. Up to date the theater management has made no similar offer.

Consumers Coal Mine Opening Just In Time

The recent announcement of the CONSUMERS COAL MINES LTD., that it plans to have their property owned and managed by British Columbia people, is a new thing in Vancouver's coal mining industry. The installing of the equipment and the work at the mine is to be done by British Columbia men.

The recent announcement in the papers that several of the present producing mines are about worked out and are to be closed makes the opening of this new mine, at Round Island, near Nanaimo, come at a very opportune time. This new mine will give employment, not only to miners, but to all classes of mine workers that otherwise might have to look for employment outside of British Columbia.

THE CONSUMERS COAL MINES LTD., by its very name, implies that it is planned to have it owned by those who will use their own coal instead of by a small group of men.

We learn that the working conditions inside and outside the mine will be in accordance with the highest ideals for those working in such employment. Fair wages are to be paid for all classes of workers.

The engineers estimate that there will be 26 million tons of coal in the upper or Douglas seam. The company has proven this property by diamond drilling. They are about 300 feet into the coal seam, which averages about 7 feet in thickness. The engineers estimate that, if the mine produced 1,000 tons per day, it would require over 80 years to mine out this upper seam of coal alone. This does not take into consideration the Newcastle and Wellington seams, which are below the Douglas.

As the coal comes from the Douglas seam, it is the highest heating quality, which insures the consumer of the best coal on Vancouver Island. The mining costs will be low, as there is no deep shaft to sink and no railroad to build. The coal can be loaded direct from the mine to scows and ships.

The plans already made contemplate making shipment some time during the summer, with a production up to 300 tons per day early in the fall. ***

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