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Harvard Professor Expects Labor Unions to Triumph

Says Employers Overlook Human Costs in Mad Rush to Reduce Money Costs—Unions Are Great Need of All Workers

By DR. SUMNER H. SLICHTER, Economist.
Published by arrangement with Harvard Business School Alumni Bulletin.

UNDER THE TITLE of "The Significance of Trade Unionism" in the Harvard Business School Alumni Bulletin, Dr. Slichter presents a calmly reasoned yet pointedly emphatic view in regard to unions, not usually taken by erudite men. He defines a wise business policy towards unions and predicts that the union movement will grow because ever more workers will insist upon participating in making the rules of the factory or shop where they toil.

Strikes and revolts of workers are found far back in history but only within the last two centuries, and especially within the last century, do we find wage earners maintaining more or less continuous organizations for the purpose of representing them in dealing with employers. Trade unions are just as much a distinctive feature of modern economic society as the corporation or the trade association. All over the world—in Mexico, Australia, South Africa, China, India, as well as in Europe and the United States—we find them. Of the 70 separate countries in the world, associations of wage earners have obtained some importance in over 50, and great importance in over 20. Since 1897, the number of trade unionists in the United States has increased from 450,000 to approximately 3,900,000, or 14 per cent. of the non-agricultural wage earners. The degree of organization is, of course, very much greater in some branches of industry than in others. In building construction, over two-thirds of the workers are organized; in manufacturing, about 10 per cent.; in mining, about one-third; in the transportation and public utility industries, somewhat more than one-third.

Philosophic Background

To the man in the street, the principal function of unions are to raise wages and reduce the working day. But this conception misses the main significance of labor organizations. Primarily they are significant because of their relationship to the government of industry. In the early ages, sovereignty and property were not separated—the ownership of land carried with it many powers that have since become functions of the state. The gigantic units of modern industry appear to be bringing about a revision to the days when the sovereignty was an attribute of property. With the ownership of property now goes the power to prescribe rules which affect employees as intimately as do the ordinances of the city in which they live, rules which prescribe when work shall begin, how long the men shall have for lunch, when work shall cease, for what reasons and how long employees may absent themselves without losing their jobs, whether payment shall be by the day or by the piece, by whom and for what reasons a man may be discharged, how promotions and lay-offs shall be made. Modern business enterprises, unlike feudal lords, do not have their own courts, but in their control over discharge they have a rough equivalent. Wage earners have sought, through the organization of trade unions, to resist the tendency of property to acquire sovereign or quasi-sovereign powers. Wherever trade unions have sprung up, they have sought to make shop rules a matter of joint determination and their administration a matter of joint control. In other words, in the place of despotism under which the word of the manager is final, unionism seeks to introduce the principle that decisions should be based upon rules and that rules should be based upon the consent of the governed.

Undoubtedly the greatest objection to labor organizations on the part of management is that they interfere with efficiency. To this objection there are several answers. One is that there are other things which are no less important than efficiency. Among them are security and liberty. Indeed, in view of the rapid rate at which we have been increasing per capita productivity during the last hundred years and our failure to make progress in the achievement of security, it is reasonable to conclude that security is far more important than efficiency. We could well afford to exchange some of our efficiency for more security. And the same holds true for liberty.

Security Invaluable

Whether or not trade unions interfere with efficiency, they are the only means by which the workman in the vast enterprises of modern industry can acquire liberty and security. They are the only way in which he can effectively bargain over whether he shall work six days a week or five, or whether he shall be paid by the piece or by the hour, over whether a change in conditions warrants a change in his piece rate. Likewise they are the only means through which the workman can acquire security, through which he can prevent the management from discharging him whenever it wishes. To a substantial extent, security and liberty is partly a result of security. Only when men are protected against arbitrary discharge, dare they to express their aspirations, ideas, and grievances without dread of being heard by the foreman. Only through security do they acquire opportunity to criticize the management, to find fault with the way the plant is run, to talk freely about how they think it should be run—in other words, to express the same sort of ideas about the management of the plant that free citizens are accustomed to express about the government of the country. If these things interfere with production, the answer must be that they are well worth the cost.

Human Values Upheld

The assertion that trade unions are indifferent or hostile to efficiency, raises the question: "What is efficiency?" We are accustomed to thinking of it in terms of money cost. That method of production is most efficient which yields a given output with the least expenditure of dollars; that enterprise is most efficient which has the lowest money costs. Trade unions are just as much interested in decreasing the costs of production as are managements, but the costs which trade unions seek to reduce are the human rather than the money costs—the fatigue, the monotony, the injuries, the occupational diseases which are part of the cost of production. In other words, trade unions are just as much interested in efficiency as are employers, but they measure it by a different test, by human costs rather than by money costs.

From the standpoint of the community, neither the wage earner's nor the business man's conception of industrial efficiency is satisfactory. From the community's standpoint, efficiency must include both low money costs and low human costs of production. At the present time, managers struggle hard to keep down money costs because they know that, if they fail, new managers will be hired. But there are no elaborate accounting systems and no expensive personnel for keeping track of human costs and, when these increase, the department heads are not called into the front office to explain. Real managerial efficiency will not be secured until management has just as strong an incentive to reduce human costs as it now has to reduce money costs. Here we see the need for strong labor organizations. Where labor is not organized, there is no one to hold management to account when human costs are unnecessarily high. Much of the management which today passes for efficient is not really such, because it achieves low money costs at the expense of high human costs. Real efficiency will not be obtained until there are labor organizations which can compel executives to watch human costs just as closely and carefully as stockholders now compel them to watch money costs. This is why it is highly probable that widespread organization of labor would promote, instead of injure, real industrial efficiency.

(Continued on page 4)

British Trades Union Congress To Meet Soon

London, Eng.—Unemployment insurance, operating industry on an economic plan with adequate protection for the workers in their living standards and the consumers against profiteering under the industrial reorganization, nationalization and public control of railroads and other forms of transportation, mines and minerals, and the building industries, and effective trade union representation on the administrative boards of Government services, are among the major questions the British Trades Union Congress, which meets at Bristol the first week in September, will consider, according to the program of the General Council and resolutions already submitted by the affiliated unions.

The General Council will submit two master resolutions, one on unemployment insurance and the other on economic planning.

The General Council will reaffirm the British trade union movement's support of the policy of unemployment insurance as absolutely necessary for the protection of the masses against the inability of the owners of industry to provide a market for the labor power of the workers. The Council will insist that the present contributory scheme be abolished and that the cost of maintaining the unemployed be made a national charge met out of national taxation in the form of a special unemployment levy on all incomes whether earned or derived from interest and profit.

On planned production and distribution the Council will tell the Congress that "nothing short of comprehensive planning of our economic development and effective regulation of our trading relations wil lsuffice to meet the needs of the present day." It will urge the Congress to support this policy and to take whatever practical steps are possible to advance it nationally and internationally, "keeping always in view the necessity of maintaining and improving the standard of living of the workers and the protection of the consumers against exploitation."

The Transport and General Workers' Union presents a resolution calling on the Government to introduce suitable legislation to the end that when any industry is transferred from private to public ownership or control provision is made to insure that the workers, through their trade union representatives, shall have an adequate and direct share in the control and administration.

The Miners' Federation of Great Britain demands the nationalization of mines and minerals, including by-products, and declares that this should be one of the first acts of a majority Labor Government.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation insists that the iron and steel industry be reorganized on the basis of a public utility.

The three railway unions—the Associated Society of Engineers and Firemen, the National Union of Railwaymen, and the Railway Clerks' Association—unite in asking the Congress to urge the Government to legislate in the next session of Parliament to take over, on fair terms, the railways and other transport undertakings and place them under a national transport authority.

The Pattern Makers urge the Congress to formulate a new workers' charter, comprising work or maintenance, a 40-hour week, workers' control of overtime, pay for holidays, adequate pensions at 60, and nationalization of the mining, railway and building industries.

Union Meetings at Labor Headquarters

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14th

Milk Salesmen, 464	1
Plumbers and Steamfitters, 170	2
Machinists, 182	3
Sheet Metal, 314	311
Blacksmiths	315

SATURDAY

Bakers, 468	3

MONDAY

Electrical Workers, 213	1
Boilermakers, 194	4
Egg Graders, 11	311
Painters' Committee	313
Cement Finishers	315

TUESDAY

Trades Council	1
Lithographers	313

WEDNESDAY

Iron Workers, 97	3
Elevator Constructors, 82	311

THURSDAY

Mill and Factory Men, 1599	311
Office Employees, 18,177	4
Sign Writers	315

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st

Engineers, 115	3
Molders	311

Nova Scotia Trade Unions Win $6485 Disputed Wage Award

Members of the Machinists' Union and the Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Union of Halifax, Nova Scotia, are jubiliant over their success in securing the allowance of their claim for over $6,000 for increased wages for work done on the Canadian Government ice breaker "N. B. MacLean" two years ago.

In the spring of 1929 the machinists and boilermakers and iron shipbuilders employed on the icebreaker requested a wage rate increase of 10 cents an hour. The Canadian Department of Labor granted the increase. But the management of the shipyards, instead of paying the 10 cents an hour increase, paid a 10 per cent. increase. The Department of Labor ordered the company to refuse to do so, and under instructions from the Department of Labor the Department of Marine withheld money due the company on this work. The money has been segregated in the Marine Department ever since.

Recently Minister of Labor Gideon Robertson determined to have the matter definitely settled and brought it to the attention of the House of Commons at Ottawa. Consequently, Fair Wage Officer Tom Martin, who has kept at the matter ever since 1929, received a check for $6,485 to be distributed among the workers who were paid wages below the rate set by the Department of Labor. Some of the men, many of whom are out of jobs, receive from $150 to $200 from the settlement.

"Among those who benefitted by the distribution of this money are some non-union men," says the Halifax Citizen. "Do they realize that if it had not ben for the fight put up by the organized unions of the Machinists and the Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders the new rate would not have been established? This is another striking illustration of the value of the unions, and it is to be hoped that the lesson will not be lost on those who at present do not hold union cards."

Union Secures Key Decision In Jobless Insurance Case

The advantage of a strong trade union in securing a square deal under unemployment insurance is illustrated by a recent experience of the Amalgamated Engineering Union of Great Britain.

The British unemployment insurance act prescribes that three days' consecutive unemployment shall entitle insured workers to unemployment benefits. "Customary or recognized holidays" are not included in the count.

A firm employing a number of the members of the union had the habit of closing its works from two to seven days around Christmas. In 1930 the shut-down extended to seven days. Members of the union claimed that certain of these days should count for unemployment insurance. The local Court of Referees disallowed the claim. Officials of the union appealed the case to the Deputy Umpire, who decided that for the works in question "customary Christmas holidays" consists of two days only. The members of the union were therefore entitled to unemployment insurance for five days out of the seven.

"This aspect of the union's activities should be kept in the forefront when pointing out the advantages of association," declare the union officials in commenting on the Deputy Umpire's decision.

Non-unionists Bear Brunt of Present Wage-slashing Mania

Evidence that many employers are disregarding the United States administration's warning not to "rock the boat" by slashing wages while the country is floundering in the depression is pouring into the United States Department of Labor in a steadily increasing stream.

Officials are reluctant to publicly discuss these disagreeable developments, but they say in private conversation that bosses in all sections of the country are taking advantage of the hardships and sufferings of workers to drive hard bargains.

This is especially true of unorganized workers, particularly women, the majority of whom have been compelled to take wage cuts.

65 Per Cent. Reductions

Many employers have put into effect two and sometimes three slashes, with total reductions running as high as 65 per cent., Labor Department officials declare.

The American Viscose Company, a British-owned corporation, several weeks ago put into effect a 30 per cent. reduction, affecting several thousand workers, and later followed it with a 10 per cent. cut.

This concern operates rayon plants in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and some southern states, and it has been immensely profitable. At a stockholders' meeting in London the president of the company declared it was a "bonanza." It was largely at the urging of the American Viscose Company that Congress raised the tariff on rayon to "protect American workers from pauper wages in Europe."

Escapes Public's Notice

"A great deal of wage cutting is escaping notice because it is being done by employers with a small number of workers," declared an official of the Labor Department. "When a factory with a dozen or so hands puts in a reduction, the fact is rarely mentioned in the newspapers. The workers, being unorganized, are in no position to protest and the public consequently does not realize that there has been a change in conditions.

"In the aggregate the number of workers whose power to consume has been lessened reaches staggering proportions.

"'Open shop' contractors are cutting wages to the bone and only the law adopted at the last session of Congress calling for the payment of prevailing wages on federal contracts enables the department to hold up rates on the emergency building program."

Women Are Victims

This official said that a recent statement by Frances Perkins, industrial commissioner of New York, that wages of thousands of women in that state make it impossible for them to live "decently" is applicable to practically every state.

The other day a macaroni factory at Chicago compelled workers to take a 45 per cent. cut. A telephone company in Philadelphia cut the weekly rate from $15 to $12. Mercantile clerks, stenographers and domestics are suffering along with factory workers. These are but examples of what is happening everywhere, the Labor Department official asserted.

"Where the workers are organized they are maintaining wage standards, although their income is sadly depleted by part time or total unemployment," said one official. "The situation is again demonstrating that the union is the worker's only hope in times of stress."

Union Mine Worker Is Mayor of Seattle

Seattle.—This city has a trade unionist for its chief executive. Robert Harlin, member of the United Mine Workers' Union and former president of the city council, is now mayor.

Mr. Harlin was selected as mayor by the city council to succeed Mayor Frank Edwards, who was recalled by a majority of 14,000 for his attempts to "hamstring" Seattle's municipally owned electric power system.

The new mayor will serve until the regular election next spring.

Colin McDonald says: Tip-Top Tailors have been fair to the Tailors' Union for over a year. We publish this statement as the manager says that a few prospective customers informed him that they could not buy his suits on account of his shop being not recognized by the Union. Ever since Mr. Graham has taken over the management of the Tip-Top Tailors store he has had an agreement with us.

Doak Favors 6-Hour Day and 5-Day Week

Secretary of Labor Doak has come out flatly in favor of the 6-hour day and 5-day week in the United States.

"Before I became Secretary of Labor I advocated a 6-hour day and a 5-day week for industry, and I am still of that opinion," Secretary Doak said.

"Since we adopted a 5½-day week in the government departments we have been doing just as well in the Department of Labor. The work is done just as efficiently and it hasn't cost the government one cent additional. I think we would operate just as efficiently with a 5-day week."

Trevelyan Hopes for Labor Majority Soon

Sir Charles Trevelyan, M.P., at Morpeth on Saturday said: "I am not going to make any attack on the Government. Even a Labor Government with the best will in the world is powerless to deal with the situation unless and until it can get power.

"I believe Labor will come into power in a few years, and I urge them not to take office without having a majority to introduce a Socialist policy.

"We have to do much the same as Russia.

"In Russia they have a five-year plan, and they are rebuilding their society under greater difficulties than exist here.

"You cannot organize on a national scale the industry of your country without placing economic control in the hands of the community."

Jobless Relief Stopped; Baltimore Lists 8000

Baltimore, Md.—The Baltimore Police Department has abandoned for the season its role as an unemployment relief agency and turned over to private welfare associations the 1000 families under its care.

In March the department had over 8000 families on its relief list. The police commissioner stated that numbers of the needy are able to find some employment during the summer.

The police department will be ready to renew its relief work in the fall. For the present its relief activities will be limited to one soup kitchen at the central station where unemployed persons can get breakfact and supper providing they do not apply more than two days in succession.

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Trades Union Directory

LABOR HEADQUARTERS, 529-531 BEATTY STREET

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council—President, C. McDonald; 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.

Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union, Local No. 468, meets first and third Saturday in month at 7:00 p.m. at Labor Headquarters. President, Jas. Brydson; Secretary's Office, Room 304, Labor Headquarters; Hours 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Phone: Sey. 3349.

Beverage Dispensers' Union, No. 676—Meets last Sunday at 8 p.m., Room No. 2, Labor Headquarters; second Friday at 10 a.m. at the office. Pres., M. J. Galvin; Secretary and Bus. Agent, T. J. Hanafin. Office: Room 1, Eagles' Hall, 535 Homer St. Phones Sey. 4783 and Bay. 1656-R. Hours: 9 to 2 p.m.

Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, Local 97, Int. Assoc.—Meets every Wednesday, Hall 3, Labor Headquarters, at 8 p.m. President, W. Dickson; Secretary, P. Lauret, Room 311, Labor Headquarters. Phones: Office, Sey. 7495; Residence, High. 5679X.

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, Mrs. Harvey, 1187 Quebec; Secretary, Thos. Carroll, 842 Hamilton St.

Bricklayers and Masons International Union No. 1—Room 309, Labor Headquarters. Meets second and fourth Wednesday, in Hall No. 3. President, J. C. Greenwood, Phone Bay. 8047-Y; Secretary, W. S. Dagnall, 1244 East 20th, Phone Fair. 1445-R; Fin. Sec., Albert Wright, 4128 Knight Road, Phone Fair. 2005-R.

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

Carpenters and Joiners, United Brotherhood of Local 452—President, Frank Woodrow; Financial Secretary and Business Manager, R. W. Hatley. 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 195 East Pender St. at 8 p.m. President, E. Mitten; Treasurer and Business Agent, 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, Jack Wood, 4571 Fraser Street; Secretary-Treasurer, George Harrison, 3427 Triumph Street.

Egg Graders' Union, No. 11—Meets in the Labor Headquarters, first and third Monday in month. President, R. Gela, 3287 West 21st; Record Secretary, Miss D. Simpson, 627 Carnarvon Street, New Westminster; Financial Secretary, Miss Marjorie Deyell, 555 East 20th, City.

Electrical Workers, Local 213, International Brotherhood—Meets first and third Monday, at 8 p.m., at Labor Headquarters. President, D. McDougal; Business Manager, E. H. Morrison. Office, 201 Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 3510.

Engineers—International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 115—Meets 1st and 3rd Friday at 8 p.m., Hall 3. President, F. L. Hunt; Rec. Sec., G. E. Jones; Business Agent and Fin. Sec., George Pettipiece. Office, 301 Labor Headquarters. Phone, Trinity 6434.

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, 1624 East 8th Avenue.

Floorlayers' Union, No. 1875, U. B. of C. & J. A.—Meets first and third Thursdays in month at Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, Oscar Soderman; Fin. Sec., Jack Nelson; Rec. Sec., John McDonald, 2905 West Twelth; Business Agent, W. D. Wilson, 1535 Fifth Ave. W.

The Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Marine Cooks and Stewards.—Local 28, Suite 39, 413 Granville St., meets second Monday each month at 3 p.m., and last Monday at 9 p.m. President, R. ("Dick") McHugh; Secretary-Treasurer and Business Agent, Harry Wood. Phone Seymour 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 first and third Mondays in month at Labor Headquarters. Secretary, F. Macey, 2456 West Seventh Ave. Phone Bayview 6831 L.

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, J. Mitchell; 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, C. Carslake, 1124 Alberni St.

Motion Pictures Projectionists' Union, Local 348, of I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O.—11:30 p.m., first Friday in month, in Hall No. 3 Labor Headquarters. President, Locksley Clark; Secretary, J. C. Richards. Box 345, Phone Douglas 1574-R; Business Agent, J. R. Foster, Phone Trinity 5708.

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, J. Bowyer; General Secretary, W. Couling; Organizer, F. Fletcher. Office, Suite 307-319 West Pender. Phone Douglas 2290.

Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, Local 138—Meets second and fourth Thursdays at Hall No. 2. President, A. B. Hodge; Rec. Secretary, A. E. Varah, 1442 Clark Drive; Financial Secretary, T. Kane. Office: Room 313, Labor Headquarters. Phone Sey. 3609.

Plasterers, Local 82—Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International Association—Meets first and third Wednesday in month at Hall No. 2, Labor Headquarters. President, F. G. Walsh, 378 East 37th, Fras. 108 R; Cor. Sec., A. Harry, 1115 East 33rd, Fair. 3222 R; Fin. Sec., E. A. Williams, 830 East 12th; Phone Fair. 5219 X.

Cement Finishers' Cor. Sec., J. W. Baines, 2866 Turner St.

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

Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 170, International Association—Meets every second and fourth Friday in Hall No. 2. President, Val Pearson, 787 East 52nd; Financial 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, W. W. Quigley, 2047 West Second; Secretary, Thos. S. Ezart, 1807 East Thirty-eighth.

Railway Carmen of America, Lodge No. 58—Meets first and third Friday in month at Labor Headquarters. President, A. S. Ross, 5806 Sophia Street; Rec. Secretary, J. D. Valliamy, 2215 West 15th.

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; 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, Thos. Burke; Business Agent and Secretary, D. MacPherson, 308 Labor Headquarters.

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

Taxi, Stage and Bus Drivers, Local 151—Meets second Monday at 8 p.m. and second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. President, W. Wilson. Office, 306 Labor Headquarters; Phone, Sey. 7495.

Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, Local 466—311 Labor Headquarters. Meets every First and Third Monday, Labor Headquarters. President, F. T. Goodrich, 1239 Woodland, High. 2095-X; Secretary-Treasurer, Birt Showler, Room 306, Labor Headquarters.

Theatrical Stage Employees' Union, Local 118 of the I.A.T.S.E. & M.P.M.O. Meets second Tuesday in Labor Headquarters at 9:30 a.m. President, Geo. W. Allen; Recording Secretary, H. Pearson; Business Agent, B. McGlone, address, P. O. Box 711.

Typographical Union, No. 226—President, C. S. Campbell; Vice-President, E. R. Bayley; Secretary-Treasurer, R. H. Neslands, 300-2 Labor Headquarters. Meets last Sunday of each month at 2 p.m., in Hall No. 1, Labor Headquarters.

Union Label Trades Council meets in Hall No. 4, Labor Headquarters, 529 Beatty Street, second and fourth Thursdays in each month at 8 o'clock. President, Colin McDonald, 2834 St. George Street, Phone Fair. 3317-Y. Secretary, Mollie Dolk, 1587 Fifth Avenue East. Phone High. 477-Y.

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.

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The Labor Statesman

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, Friday, Aug. 14, 1931

MRS. PARDINGTON'S BROOM AGAIN

Premier Bennett is decidedly slow in getting his scheme to relieve unemployment going. The condition today is materially worse than when Mr. Bennett called his special session of Parliament, a year ago, for a month. The British Columbia Government has the groundwork of an employment scheme, and for a month Premier Tolmie, like old Mother Hubbard, has gone to the cupboard and found it bare; Bennett is not yet ready to take up his end.

The Bennett unemployment relief scheme has been discredited as a three-legged affair. Relief for the impoverished farmer, work for the unemployed, and jail or deportation for any sinner that wished to upset the scheme of things which are so satisfactory to Mr. Bennett and his class. We would be willing to let all this go until we see how it works out, but we must point out that there is a logical order to most things, and this is most decidedly so in this case. If there is any excuse for the anti-Communist portion of the program, at any stage of the game, it is after Mr. Bennett has put his relief work scheme into effect and not before. While we have patience enough to wait and see what the Bennett plan is to be, the present appearances are not promising. When the Attorney-General of Ontario comes into British Columbia and directs the arrest of residents of this province for being members of an unlawful organization, it suggests that the Bennett scheme is going to be so confoundedly rotten that it is considered necessary to remove the more "strongly vocal persons" before the scheme is brought into the daylight. In this connection we would like to focus attention on the fact that we have an Attorney-General of our own in British Columbia. This honorable gentleman has never been accused of lacking courage, and in any kind of a showdown will assay up 25 per cent. higher than Mr. Price of Ontario. On this point we are in the same position as the Billingsgate fish wife: if any gent has a right to hand us a black eye it is our own 'usband.

Returning to Mr. Bennett and his "strongly vocal persons," the Communist is the product of the industrial and financial conditions that Mr. Bennett himself is one of the best possible samples. If every last Communist and Socialist were removed from Canada tomorrow, and Messrs. Beattie, Holt, Flavelle, Aird, Walker, etc., were allowed to remain, in a month there would be a new crop of radicals. If Mr. Bennett wishes to save us from the numerous shades of "reds" he will accomplish more by deporting the titled gentlemen that cleaned up millions and wrecked the Canada Power and Paper Corporation than by arresting Communists.

* * *

The Briton has much in his war record to boast of—Balaclava, and the "thin red line." The Old Contemptibles wove a halo around a term of scorn; Ypres and the Somme help us to be proud of the stock of which we come. But for real bravery that will scintillate down the corridors of time, we have nothing just like the battle of Hamilton street, when, according to the Daily Province "sixty-five police officers routed 1500 demonstrators." About the only event that we can think of that is in any way comparable was when ten thousand black men attacked McPherson "ant McPherson kilt them all."

* * *

After watching a derrick truck up-end a telephone pole, the editor of The Province wrote half a column to show that the machine creates more labor than it displaces. As evidence of how long a man may last, with "rats in his garret" we would say that "Overseer" Volla has for twenty years argued that the earth is flat.

* * *

The battle of Hamilton street must also have been quite a social affair, for we read that "Chief Bingham, clad in plus fours, and his head adorned with a natty panama, lustily wielded a baton." Possibly the Chief thought that in this also, women and children came first.

* * *

We can cordially agree with the scheme to "Buy in British Columbia." We have for many years argued in favor of buying British Columbia labor instead of importing it from Europe. —M.

UNION INSURANCE COMPANY

Washington.—The appointment of Morris Pike, actuary of the Unity Life and Accident Insurance Association, Syracuse, N. Y., to the position of vice-president and actuary of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, is announced by Matthew Woll, president of the company. The announcement states that Mr. Pike "has had an extensive experience in the life insurance field both in the New York State Insurance Department and in the home offices of life insurance companies." Mr. Pike succeeds Rainard B. Robbins, who resigned.

Levelled Eyes On the Five-year Plan

First laughing, then sober, the world outside Russia has gone from one extreme to the other in looking at the Soviet Five-year Plan.

So it is time, some editors think, that the non-Soviet world of onlookers give the Five-year Plan a level and judicial eye.

The usual attitude toward the plan, remarks the London New Statesman and Nation, is one of incomprehension mingled with hysteria. For two years, it contends, British business men have comforted themselves with the conviction that the plan would be a farcical failure.

Just as unreasonable, this weekly thinks, is the change in a few months from this "ignorant optimism" to "equally comic panic." Trembling in their boots, it would seem, hard-headed men of affairs have been throwing up their hands with the ejaculation that not only is the plan likely to succeed, but its success is certain to involve the ruin of British trade.

Recalling Stalin's recent speech—noted in The Literary Digest for July 18—which inspired many non-Bolshevik journals to allege that he had "junked" Communism, this London weekly observes:

"Now, because Stalin has made a remarkable speech and has had the courage to point out that industry can not be run efficiently by political committees, the Conservative press jumps rashly to the conclusion that the plan has failed.

"There seems to be a general tendency to regard the plan as a limited operation which at the end of five years will either have ruined all the rest of the world or else have collapsed in disaster. Both views are nonsense.

"Payments by' results has long been a feature of the Five-year Plan. Stalin's speech does, of course, involve admission that at this stage, at least, Communism needs capitalist incentives.

"It is fair enough to call the system in Russia today 'State Capitalism,' not Communism.

"A welcome sign in Stalin's speech was a change to a more friendly attitude toward the middle class experts. The immediate result of the speech on the plan should be an increase of efficiency.

"Of course the plan is bound to have a long 'hang-over,' and years must elapse before Russia is in a position to flood the world with manufactured goods.

"But to deny all progress in Russia, because Stalin has called for new methods and greater efficiency, is a conclusion for which there is neither justification nor reward."—Literary Digest.

Brother, Fall In!

Does it make you mad when you read about
Some poor, starved devil who flickered out,
Because he had never a decent chance
In the tangled meshes of circumstance?
If it makes you burn like the fires of sin,
Brother, you're fit for the ranks—fall in!
Does it make you rage when you come to learn,
Of a clean-souled woman who could not earn
Enough to live, and who fought, but fell
In the cruel struggle and went to hell;
Does it make you seethe with anger hot.
Brother, we welcome you—share our lot!
Whoever has blood that will flood his face
At the sight of the beast in the holy place,
Whoever has rage for the tyrant's might,
For the powers that prey in the day and night;
Whoever has hate for the ravening brute
That strips the tree of its goodly fruit,
Whoever knows wrath at the sight of pain,
Of nedless sorrow and heedless gain;
Whoever knows bitterness, shame and gall
At the thought of the trampled ones doomed to fall;
He is a brother-in-blood, we know,
With brain afire and with heart aglow;
By the light in his eyes we sense our kin—
Brother, you battle with us—fall in!

—Berton Braley.

Tire Company Chief Scores Pay Slashing

Pittsburgh, Pa.—"Wage cutting will never end the depression," in the opinion of C. W. Seiberling, vice-president of the Seiberling Tire and Rubber Company.

"I do not believe in lessening the purchasing power of labor by cutting wages, for it creates a lack of confidence which soon makes itself felt in many ways," he said here recently.

Seiberling stated that in his plant near Akron, 1200 men working in 8-hour shifts are producing 5000 tires daily.

In 1898 Seiberling assisted in organizing the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, which recently put into effect a drastic slash of wages, as did also the Goodrich company, another big tire manufacturer. Ten years ago Seiberling left the Goodyear concern, because it was "not progressive," and launched his own company.

A small boy was watching a bright glow in the sky with the utmost delight.

"I am glad you admire the beauties of nature, my son," said an old gentleman. "Isn't it a lovely sunset?"

"That's not a sunset," replied the boy, with a grin. "That's our school on fire."

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Correspondence

OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Labor Statesman:

Sir,—The carpenters who are engaged in a fight to maintain conditions established by an agreement between Locals No. 452 and No. 1251 and the General Contractors' Association are meeting unexpected opposition and are now satisfied that certain prominent citizens who have professed to be the friends of organized labor on public platforms are not always sincere. Walter Leek, a prominent heating man, and a member of the Building and Construction Industries Exchange, when he decided to build a home, gave the contract to a man outside his own organization, a man who has openly boasted that he does not employ union men of any craft and has not for several years; further, he will not recognize established wage rates, and pays from one to three dollars per day below union scales to men employed on his work.

It is only fair to mention that Mr. B. T. Lea, the contractor in question, did at one time employ union men on his operations, although we must admit he did not do this voluntarily. During 1927 the Vancouver Elks gave as prizes at their Annual Carnival two houses and lots near the University gates. They inadvertently gave the contract for these houses to Mr. B. T. Lea, who, to save money, subbed out as much as possible to firms unfair to the building trades. When this was pointed out to the Elks' officials, it is only fair to state, they promptly ordered this contractor to employ union men of all crafts, as their policy has always been in favor of supporting the conditions established in any industry. Mr. B. T. Lea, much against his wishes, complied with this request. No doubt it was to his financial gain, as the Elks agreed to pay to him any extra amount this change in his avowed policy would cost, and on this account, for a short time, Mr. B. T. Lea posed as a friend of organized labor. Now, however, Mr. B. T. Lea has openly declared himself as opposed to organized labor, and has attempted to build Mr. Walter Leek's house with non-union labor. Members of the Carpenters' Union are incensed at the action taken by this jitney contractor on this job and have picketed this house for the past three weeks. They have endeavored to persuade the mechanics employed there to be men and assist on the established conditions for their respective crafts.

Mr. B. T. Lea, with the knowledge of the owner, Mr. Walter Leek, applied for and apparently received police protection, and the non-union carpenters were escorted to the job by policemen whose salaries are paid by Vancouver taxpayers.

Surely Vancouver citizens are not paying salaries of police to assist jitney contractors to break down wage conditions established by agreement between the contractors' association and the Carpenters' unions, and since recognized by the Dominion and Provincial governments, also all municipal bodies in this district. Our opinion is that the police force would be better employed in suppression of crime, which appears to be rampant in the city of Vancouver, rather than they should be used to help break down conditions established by trade unions.

ED. SMALL,
Recording Secretary,
Carpenters' Local 452.

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At a dinner one of the speakers was exceptionally long-winded. At the end of half an hour the irascible chairman could stand the flow no longer. He clanged his bell violently and the orator was so surprised that he sat down without completing his last sentence.

A guest sitting next to the chairman whispered with a sigh: "I wish I had a bell like that at home."

Some African natives fish in a prone position, we are told. In this country most anglers lie standing up with the arms outstretched.

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Your taxes are 31 TIMES your electric bills

STATISTICS issued by the Citizens Research Institute, Toronto, applied to reliable population figures, show the average Vancouver household in twelve months in 1928-29, the latest period for which figures are available, paid out in municipal, provincial and Dominion taxes, visible and invisible, no less than $627.86.

For the same period, the average electric service bill in Vancouver homes was $20.40.

In other words, taxes cost 31 times the cost of electric service in Vancouver.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

TAKE NOTICE that the Alphabetical Voters' List, or Lists, of all persons being of the full age of twenty-one years appearing by the Assessment Roll for the year 1931 to be entitled to vote in the City of Vancouver at the Municipal Elections, has been completed and may be seen in the City Clerk's Office and examined by all concerned.

Any person who shall claim to be added to the said list, or any elector who shall desire to have any name erased therefrom, shall prefer his or her request in writing, verified by affidavit signed with his or her name, stating the Ward and Polling District to which he or she belongs, and shall deliver or cause the same to be delivered to the City Clerk **before the 15th day of September, 1931.**

Forms of Affidavits or Statutory Declarations as to qualifications may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office.

CHARLES JONES,
City Clerk.

Dated at Vancouver, B. C.,
July 31st, 1931.

TO SEEK SHORT WEEK FOR FEDERAL WORKERS

A campaign for the five-day week and six-hour day for all government employees will be launched at the convention of the Federal Employees Union, at Seattle in September, their officers declared last week.

THE OPEN ROAD

AFOOT WITH JACK LOGIE

Well, all I know these days is just what I read on the bulletin boards in front of churches as I ramble around this capital city looking for work. The mottoes on the stained glass windows in the Parliament Buildings also contribute to my education and furnish food for meditation as I pound the pavements. I like to hang around the Parliament Buildings, as I enjoy the atmosphere of opulence which they convey and the aura around the Finance Department is most satisfying to anyone who is flat broke. You cannot hear the clink of the gold or anything like that, but you know that, shortly, millions will pour from those vaults, down the marble corridors and out into the mountain passes and remote canyons of British Columbia, to bring solace and relief to the unemployed and destitute. All one can do at present is to stand in the doorway and wait until the golden stream is released, and when that becomes wearisome and the stomach begins to sag, there is always the library, where the daily papers once more reassure us that the ministers are toiling day and night on our behalf. Possibly they are, but it requires a very slight amount of clairvoyance to get the feeling that all is not well. There may be a certain amount of action and a great deal of discussion and planning, but there is also doubt, uncertainty and bewilderment. The job is too big for the present Cabinet at Victoria, and the task of saving capitalism and making it function a while longer is bringing grey hairs and wrinkled foreheads to our statesmen.

* * *

As I came down the stairs from the library I was confronted by three stained glass windows, each with its appropriate epigram. The first one said "Industry hath annexed thereto the fairest fruits and highest rewards." I rubbed my eyes to make sure that I saw aright and read it again. Surely the far-seeing statesmen who erected this palatial pile would not deliberately deceive a confiding public, and yet here was a statement which was obviously incorrect. There is no doubt that the fruit grower has plenty of industry and annexes the fairest fruits, samples of which are proudly displayed in the immense jars in the rotunda, but unless you call the glass cases of medals his "highest rewards" you could not accuse him of getting anything else. If, on the other hand, you mean the industrious worker, he is at present engaged in claiming the reward which he has earned: charity cloaked in the guise of a slave camp and the privilege of being soaked by the club of a policeman if he objects too strenuously. No, I am afraid this pearl of wisdom is slightly out of date, so let us turn to the next window.

* * *

This one informs us that "Without economy none can be rich; with it none can be poor." Now we know why the rich get richer and the poor poorer. The millionaires of Victoria have been practicing economy. They must have been, because this epigram says that if they hadn't they couldn't possibly have become rich. On the other hand, if you are unable to pay the rent, if the grocery bill is overdue, and food is getting scarce, just economize and tell the Government to lay aside part of that dollar a day which you are going to earn, and some day you will be a millionaire, too. The epigram forgets to mention that the millionaire became rich by robbing the poor and making them do all the economizing. I hope that some future legislature may look into these epigrams which decorate these stately halls and have them brought up to date. However, here is the third window and let us see what it says. "The virtue of adversity is fortitude." At last here is real wisdom and the highest lesson which our legislative hall can teach us. There is no doubt at all that, whatever lessons our capitalistic and political system may teach us, we will require stoicism, endurance and all those other qualities which may be summed up in the word fortitude. A Welsh miner once said to me: "Lloyd George said he would make this country a 'ome fit for 'eroes to live in. He was quite right as it would take a bloody 'ero to stand it." What we need right now is not so much fortitude but a little more of the spirit of intelligent revolt. Adversity may be a great educator and fortitude a good quality to cultivate, but why suffer when there is no need to do so? This is not an act of Providence under which we must bow our heads and endure in silence, but a condition which we understand and whose remedy lies in our own hands. We are poor and suffering because we have been robbed of our heritage and it is our task to get it back. We have been doped long enough with the pseudo truths and lying aphorisms of the capitalist class and need to paint them out and replace them with a few of our own. We might suggest "Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains." "Fortitude ceases to be a virtue; stand up and kick." "We have been robbed of the fruits of our industry and the rewards of our toil; now let's get them back." "To hell with economy; we want social justice."

There are many others which I might mention and I leave them for the consideration of the Farmer and Labor Government which will some day control the legislative halls at Victoria.

* * *

Just at present I must confess that I am not quite satisfied with the efforts which are being made in that direction. Dissatisfaction and discontent are rife, but little is being done in the way of educating the public or organizing the workers for the task which lies ahead. It is all very well to say that economic conditions are doing all the educating, but that is only partially so. You only need to read the letters published in the daily papers to see that there is a great deal of confusion in the minds of the people as to the causes of the crisis and the correct remedy. The politicians who control the press take good care that this confusion exists and foster it in every way by harping on their own particular nostrums, such as high tariff, trade within the empire, etc. It is also foolish to say that starvation will drive the workers into action. My own experience has shown me that when a man reaches that point he is much more likely to sit down in apathy and despair than to initiate and organize any effort for the betterment of himself and his class.

* * *

The recent election of the Labor candidate in Hamilton should give the movement an impetus all over Canada. We can see that the tide is turning in our direction, but popular opinion must be educated and organized in order to get the best results. A responsibility rests on every individual to take his part in this work, and everyone must help. Here in Victoria the unemployed are well organized in the Workers' Alliance, and efforts will shortly be made to extend the movement to every town on Vancouver Island. Public meetings are held every Sunday night in Central Park, and arrangements are being planned for an Open Forum to be conducted all winter. The Independent Labor Party seems to be still in a comatose condition, but will likely spring into new activity with the coming of the winter months. We are no longer confronted by a theory, but by a very serious crisis. The remedy rests with the working class, and it is time we roused to the opportunity with all the zeal and fervor at our command.

Farm Workers Favor Jobless Insurance

London, Eng.—The alleged identity of interest between workers and employers received a strong jolt in the session of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance, devoted to the question of bringing farm workers under unemployment insurance benefits.

Joseph Duncan, general secretary of the Scottish Farm Servants' Union, urged that farm workers should be brought in. He said the large surplus of workers in industry and decreasing opportunities for emigration make it difficult for displaced farm workers to shift from farm labor. Moreover, the practice of farmers to discharge experienced older workers and fill their places with inexperienced younger workers, including many girls, was adding materially to the number of unemployed. Consequently, jobless farm workers have become a social question.

Alexander Manson, representing the National Farmers' Union of Scotland, opposed extending unemployment insurance to farm workers. In the long run, he said, it would injure the workers, because the employer's contribution to the insurance fund would take that much from his wages fund and thus limit his ability to hire workers. Mr. Duncan countered with the observation that it was absurd to claim the addition of perhaps 24 cents an acre for the farmers' contribution to the insurance fund would decrease the number of workers hired. The commission seemed to agree with Mr. Duncan.

Praise For Unions' Wage Cut Fight

New York.—"Anyone advocating a reduction of wages in the building trades is but aiding and abetting a movement for wage reductions in all trades and occupations," said Matthew Woll, third vice-president of the American Federation of Labor in a protest against wage cuts in the building industry before a luncheon of the Investing and Contracting Builders' Association here.

Mr. Woll warned that wage reductions in the basic building trades would bring about a general letdown of wage standards in industry as a whole, which would lessen the buying power of the people and thus prolong the economic depression.

Glory To Them!

(By Anderson M. Scruggs)

Glory to them, the toilers of the earth
Who wrought with knotted hands, in wood and stone,
Dreams their unlettered minds could not give birth
And symmetries their souls had never known.

Glory to them, the artisans, who spread
Cathedrals like brown lace before the sun,
Who could not build a rhyme, but reared instead
The Doric grandeur of the Parthenon!

I never cross a marble portico,
Or lift my eyes where stained glass windows steal
From virgin sunlight moods of deeper glow,
Or walk dream-peopled streets, except to feel
A hush of reverence for that vast dead
Who gave us beauty for a crust of bread.

Average family pays doctor $140 a year, announces a statistian. What he probably meant was that the average family gets bills for that amount.

Carl: Listen Helen, what would you do if I tried to steal a kiss?

Helen: Why Carl, I'd press the burglar alarm.

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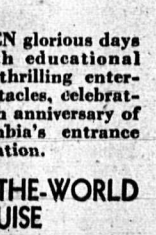

WE have a letter from Mrs. Henrietta James of Victoria, in which she says her family have used Pacific Milk for 12 years. For the last three years they spent six weeks each summer in seaside camping, and each time Pacific Milk has been taken along with the provisions.

Pacific Milk

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Oh, square thyself for use; a stone that may fit in the wall is not left by the way.—Persian proverb.

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LABOR UNIONS TO TRIUMPH

(Continued from page 1)

Organization the Rule

But discussion of the desirability of trade unionism is academic. Trade unions are here and are destined to grow. Of vastly greater practical consequence is the question of what policy should wise industrial statesmanship adopt toward the trade union movement? Up to this time, the attitude of many enterprises has been that of uncompromising refusal to deal with labor organizations. Is this a wise policy in an age when organization is the general rule? There are today over one thousand trade associations in the United States. As these words are being written, the United States Chamber of Commerce is discussing the problem of obtaining a modification of the Sherman Act so that organizations of business enterprises may broaden their activities. The government, through the Federal Farm Board, is actively promoting the organization of farmers. In fact, the Farm Board reports that in several instances it has assisted bargaining associations among the fluid milk producers "by making available to them the services of experienced marketing specialists of its Division of Co-operative Marketing. Is it likely that manual workers alone will be content to remain unorganized? The day is rapidly approaching when a majority of the manual workers in industry will have had at least two years of a high school education. It is not probable that they will consent to be mere obeyers of orders. They are bound to insist upon participating in making the rules of the shop just as they participate in making the laws of the nation. The democratic principle will not suddenly stop at the shop door.

Unionism an Asset

Although the employers of the country do not have the power to prevent the spread of trade unionism, they do have the power to determine, within broad limits, the kind of trade unionism which develops. By resisting every effort of workers to organize, by compelling unions to fight long and hard merely for recognition, employers can create a trade unionism which is narrow, bitter, irresponsible, which does not understand the problems of the employer and which is not interested in understanding them. On the other hand, by meeting trade unions half way, by permitting employees to organize, and by seeking the goodwill and the co-operation of their organizations, employers can help build a labor movement which has a broad social vision, which appreciates the fact that wage earners as much as employers are interested in the prosperity of the industry, and which is ready to help employers in solving problems of production. Mr. Daniel Willard, Sir Henry Thornton, Mr. F. D. Sargent, Mr. H. A. Scandrett, and many other executives have shown that good management can make trade unionism an asset for the employer as well as for the wage earner. A large number of labor unions—the machinists' union, the electricians', the sheet metal workers', the boilermakers', the blacksmiths', the carmen's, the maintenance-of-way men's, the printing pressmen's, the photo-engravers', the textile workers', and the clothing workers'—have demonstrated not only their willingness to co-operate with managements in solving problems of plant operation, but their ability to make an important contribution. Needless to say, these organizations are not willing to co-operate on any terms and conditions. Naturally and properly they put the interests of their members ahead of the interests of the stockholders for whom they work. The fact remains, however, that ingenious and far-sighted leaders on both sides who possess the will to co-operate have succeeded in discovering a basis on which management and labor can join to promote the interests which they have in common. Whether or not the dominant note in American industrial relations during the next generation will be union-management co-operation or bitter class struggle depends upon whether the leaders in the industries which are now unorganized—iron and steel, automobile, electrical equipment, meat packing, rubber, telephone, petroleum, agricultural implements, and others—persist in their uncompromising opposition to the efforts of wage earners to join the other organized groups in the community. My prediction is that the policy of union-management co-operation will prevail, because I am confident that there is enough industrial statesmanship among American business men for them to realize that the policy of suppressing organization is the policy of sitting on the safety valve.—Electrical Workers' Journal.

Standardised Production Nets Employers $250 Million a year

Washington. — Manufacturers in the United States have saved $250,000,000a year on their costs of production for the last ten years by following the simplification or standardization practices recommended by the division of simplified practice of the Department of Commerce, according to Edwin B. Ely, chief of the bureau.

An investigation of the results of the competitive system in the paving brick industry revealed that manufacturers in their attempts to get each others customers by devising something new had made 66 sizes of brick. Mr. Ely's simplificationers decided that four sizes would pave streets just as well as 66. The paving brick manufacturers agreed to scrap 62 sizes. Now they are making brick with much less capital per unit of output and much less direct factory expense.

Of course the "savings" are pocketed by the stockholders who own the concerns who apply the simplifying.

Simplified practice is just another term for labor-displacing machinery.

In the last analysis it will be found that the reduced number of patterns or sizes enables the employers to secure as large or larger output from fewer employees, and to make the "savings" tangible the employers land the discarded workers on the streets to pound the pavements as the unemployed and live on charity from the community chests.

There is no data to show that the savings made by the employers are passed on to the consumers in reduced prices. In fact, the so-called trade associations are set up largely to prevent price reduction from simplified practices or other economies.

The division of simplified practice is now engaged in a scheme to benefit the owners of the banks by standardizing checks and drafts and other documents used in handling money. According to the theory advanced by the simplificationers, the bankers will cut interest rates so as to absorb the savings rather than absorb them by raising dividends.

Gravity of Unemployment in Canada Is Driven Home Hard

Ottawa, Ont.—The gravity of the unemployment situation in Canada was driven home in most dramatic manner by a number of significant incidents during the past week.

The most important was the announcement that the Federal Government was prepared to bear a generous share of the cost of caring for the unemployed, under an entirely new relief scheme which is being worked out between the Dominion, the provinces and the municipalities.

Even though the government is going farther in assisting the provinces and municipalities than ever before, its relief plan was condemned as insufficient at a conference of mayors and reeves of British Columbia municipalities held at Vancouver. They adopted resolutions declaring the present situation is a national emergency with which local communities are wholly unable to deal. The provincial government was advised that, even if the municipalities desired, they are financially unable to accept the proportional scheme.

Ask Quick Action

Civic heads of 30 of the most populous centres of Ontario focussed attention on the seriousness of unemployment in that province by adopting resolutions urging the two governments to "effect relief before a dangerous situation develops."

Leopold MacAuley, Ontario provincial secretary, who has been trying to quiet spreading discontent, was greeted by hisses and boos when he stated at a meeting of York township citizens that "all the resources of the government" will be brought to bear on the problem.

Asserting that the job was too large for the municipalities, Mr. MacAuley declared that it required joint action by cities, provinces and nation.

Some of the reports of discontent and rioting are doubtless exaggerated, but government officials admit that they portend trouble unless steps are taken to remove the cause.

At Windsor police using their night sticks and reinforced by a detachment of the Essex Scottish regiment broke up rioting outside the auditorium of Patterson Collegiate, where A. A. Heaps, Labor member of Parliament, was addressing a meeting of workers.

Claims Idle Are Arming

Fourteen policemen and a number of rioters were taken to hospitals as an aftermath of that demonstration.

Toronto newspapers report that a "battalion of unemployed" is drilling with rifles and print alarming statements "that armed unemployed will plunder Toronto stores to secure food and clothing."

These stories are ridiculed by other papers but they are accepted as accurate by many public officials.

Deputy Reeve E. Meighan of East York warned York county council that he had seen more than 1000 men drilling with rifles and carrying Mills bombs and other weapons, and added:

"There are many unemployed who are members of militia units. Do you know what these men do with their guns. They take them home. With agitation at such a pitch as it is now, you can never tell what they will do."

Reeve W. E. McDonald of New Toronto stated "that we can no longer afford to blink at the issue—if some action is not taken we will be face to face with a revolution."

Farmers Add to Problem

Added to the acute problem of jobless workers is increasing distress among farmers, many of whom "do not know where their next meal is coming from," according to Rev. J. W. Wright, evangelist minister of Rimbley, Alta. He declared that the condition of hundreds of farmers is so bad that they are unable to take in farm hands even when the latter are willing to work for their board.

Senator Robertson confirmed this distressing information. He reported that 150,000 farmers in central and southern Saskatchewan are in danger of starvation, being actually without bread. Conditions are so bad there that the Labor Minister sobbed when he related them to a Winnipeg conference.

The Border Cities Star, known for its political independence, is demanding that "politics be adjourned" and that all parties join in facing the situation.

Says Crisis Is Near

"The country," says The Star, "faces a crisis. Thousands of men and women are out of work. The farmers cannot sell their products. People are losing their homes and finding themselves unable to pay taxes and other public service charges, to say nothing of their private bills. The skies have not brightened to any extent.

"In the meantime, we are looking forward to another winter, and there is little in the situation to indicate that it will be a particularly happy one."

The Toronto Mail and Empire, one of the leading Conservative newspapers, declares "the situation today is just as grave as it was in the days of the World War" and that "no one can be blind to the fact that we face a hard winter."

Hon. Peter Heenan, former Minister of Labor, made an unsuccessful attempt to have the situation discussed in the House of Commons, being ruled out of order by the Speaker.—Labor.

I. L. P. Notes

A mass convention of members of the Independent Labor Party of Vancouver and district will be held on Sunday, August 23rd, commencing at 10 a.m. in Labor Headquarters, 529 Beatty street, for the purpose of selecting candidates for the next provincial election. Members are specially urged to attend this important gathering.

* * *

On Thursday evening, August 6th, there met at the hall at Nineteenth and Main street, an enthusiastic group of men and women who launched the "Hillcrest" branch of the Independent Labor Party. Officers were elected and much of the work necessary at the organizing of a new branch was suitably performed. It is hoped that those readers of The Labor Statesman who live in this district will join us in the great work in which we have a small but active part. An invitation is extended to all to attend the next meeting, to be held Thursday, August 27th.

* * *

INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY

Vancouver Branch

The last Educational Propaganda Meeting of the branch was held on August 5th, the subject being "The International Language"; the opening speaker being Comrade Mrs. Wicks, who gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the advantages and accomplishments resulting from a knowledge of this language. The next Educational Propaganda Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19th, at 8 p.m., Williams building; subject "Money"; speaker, Comrade Creer. Public is invited.

George: I hear you and your wife had some words.

Samuel: I still have mine. I did not get a chance to us them.

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.40 and .75	Houbigant's Face Powder	.27 and .49	
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Providence, R. I.—Officials of the American Woollen Co., owner of the Weybossett Mill, 600 of whose unorganized employees recently went on strike, threaten to dismantle the plant and transfer the work to the company's other mills unless the strikers disavow their radical leaders and return to work. R. A. Brown of the U. S. Department of Labor Conciliation Board, visited the mill and deputized Alderman Frank J. Duffy, a member of the Wool Sorters' Union, United Textile Workers of America, to keep him in touch with developments.

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The Wisdom of Folly

It fell upon a day that a certain erudite philosopher held discourse with an unquestionable fool, in the presence of a shorthand reporter, who used the same phonetic symbol for "F" and "Ph."

In transcribing his notes of the dialogue he attributed to the philosopher what had been said by the fool, and credited the fool with the utterance of the philosopher. Nobody noticed the difference.

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