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THE INDEPENDENT

B. C. PERMANENT LOAN AND
SAVINGS CO.
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Subscribed Capital - 1,000,000
Assets Over - 200,000
Head Office, 821 Cambie Street,
Vancouver, B. C.

VOL. 14

VANCOUVER, B. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1903.

NO 23.

Our Victoria Budget.

By Our Own Correspondent.

COMMENTS ON THE PROFIT SHARING SYSTEM.

An article appears in the Labor Gazette of January, 1903, under the caption, "A practical experiment in profit sharing at Vancouver, B. C." In reply to a request for information on the subject by W. L. Mackenzie King, deputy minister of labor, Ottawa, Ont., the general manager of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, Limited, furnishes the information asked for respecting the advantages of profit sharing. While we agree with ideas advanced by Mr. Buntzen as to the justice and merits of such a system, yet we take exception to the following statements, which we know to be at variance with facts. We quote from his letter:

"Under the arrangement with our employees we pay them union wages for skilled labor, and best local wages for unskilled labor. If, in addition to getting best local wages for their work, our men receive a substantial cash bonus, it can hardly be denied that they are better off than those who receive no such bonus. And if they have really done better work than some others—with no longer working hours—is that something to reproach them for? Does it not add to the self-respect of any decent man to feel that he is doing his duty well, and that he is paid not only for the quantity of his work, but also for its quality?"

While many of the skilled mechanics receive union wages, we find trackmen acting in the capacity of skilled mechanics who do not receive the union scale. The jack-of-all-trades is much in evidence, particularly in the carpentering and blacksmithing line, and of course while their special merits entitles them to a steady job, yet they do not receive a rate of wages they would command as bona fide mechanics working at their trade in the labor market. As a matter of fact the British Columbia Electric Railway Company pays the least wages to unskilled labor in Victoria than any other concern, except the Victoria Chemical Company, the B. C. Pottery Company, and a few minor concerns of little importance. Conductors and motormen may be classified as skilled laborers, yet they receive but the same as the unskilled laborer, but after years of steady toil, and by the addition of the substantial cash bonus referred to, their wages amounts to about the same as the ordinary unskilled laborer. The standard wage in Victoria for unskilled labor is as follows:

For all laborers employed by the city, 25 cents an hour, eight hours being the working day.

For laborers, otherwise employed, 25 cents an hour, eight and nine hours being the working day.

For snap jobs, 30 cents and 35 cents an hour.

B. C. Electric Railway Company—For motormen, conductors and trackmen, minimum wage, 20 cents an hour, and ten hours constitute the working day.

With the exception of the city and the B. C. Electric Railway Company most employees of labor pay weekly, or twice a month. Monthly payment is the rule for the city and railway company, and while it may be advantageous to the employer from an economic point of view, especially when the pay roll is a heavy one, yet it works a great hardship on the laboring man, and certainly is not conducive to the business interests of the city where such system is in force.

"The profit sharing idea is, of course, not a new one. It has been tried many times before, sometimes successfully, sometimes otherwise."

Exactly, and in most cases where it has proven to be a failure we notice that it has been administered in the form of a sugar-coated pill, and though easily swallowed in that shape, the desired results have not always materialized, leastways not to the entire satisfaction of the workman. It is a remarkable fact that in most instances when the employer of labor is overcome by generous impulses in the matter of sharing profits with the employee, we notice that conditions are imposed on the employee that he is unable to fulfill, not through lack of will or desire, but through lack of opportunity, and while the display of philanthropy entitles the donor to unlimited fame and notoriety, yet he certainly runs no risks, for invariably he has a string attached to his proposition, and can withdraw or render it in-

operative at will without detracting from its face value. The conditions enumerated by Mr. Buntzen in his report are certainly no exception to many such similar cases of which we have knowledge. To quote Mr. Buntzen's words, the arrangement in short, is as follows:

"After the ordinary shareholders have received a four per cent. dividend the balance of the profits available for dividends yearly will be divided as follows: two-thirds to the shareholders, and one-third to the employees. Every employee who has worked regularly for the company during the twelve months ending June 30 each year, will participate in the division, and the proportion of the profits will be divided equally among them."

After such a division what would be left? How many employees work regularly for one year? How many are permitted to work regularly for even six months? Truly the proposition, philanthropic and alluring as it appears, is exceedingly one-sided. Its face value covers a multitude of sins, namely, low wages, long hours and monthly payments. While we are of opinion that the laborer is entitled to a fair share of what he produces, while we admire the sentiments that prompted the B. C. Electric Railway Company to adopt the profit sharing system, yet we are of opinion that a prompt and substantial raise in wages and a reduction in the hours of labor will give greater satisfaction.

LABORERS OF VICTORIA.

VICTORIA TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY.

Some time ago the Victoria Terminal Railway Company made application for an extension of time to complete contracts entered into with the city of Victoria. The Trades and Labor council of Victoria, taking advantage of the opportunity offered, passed a resolution requesting the said company to incorporate in its application for extension of time the minimum wage clause for \$2, and a working day of not more than nine hours. This modest request was flatly refused by the promoters of the company, not for the monetary consideration, as he asserted, but simply as a matter of principle. Later on a committee of the Trades and Labor council, in conjunction with a committee from the Shipbuilders' union, interviewed the gentleman with the result that a promise was made that in making application for an extension of time a clause would be inserted guaranteeing the building of ships to the amount of \$200,000 or thereabouts. We presume this promise was made purely on principle. We are now at sea as to what constitutes principle. If the old Victorian, or one other old barge that has entered the port of Victoria, is a reflection of principle, then we must say, "From all evil, good Lord deliver us." And now this company makes demand on the city council for the city market place by the 1st March. It will stand the provincial government in hand to keep a good look out on the parliament buildings or the province may lose that also.

Rumor has it that this company is bringing over men from the United States to work at Cloverdale. It will offer a beautiful opportunity to the attorney-general to gain notoriety by enforcing the alien labor law for the benefit of B. C. working men.

LABORERS MEET.

The Laborers' Protective union held its regular meeting at Labor hall on Friday, Feb. 20th, and as usual the attendance was very large. This union is rapidly nearing the 300 mark and recruiting goes steadily on, six new members being initiated. Since its formation, which took place on the 16th of August, 1902, this union has done a great deal for the benefit of its many members, and has been the main factor in bringing to a successful issue the agitation for an eight-hour working day for all laborers employed by the city of Victoria.

The headquarters of the union is established at Jones' cigar store, 105 Douglas street. A spacious reading room, with games, periodicals and all the latest newspapers has been placed at the disposal of the union by Mr. T. Jones, the proprietor, and its comfortable surroundings and general warmth has been a god-send to great numbers

of unemployed men who, through enforced idleness during the winter, have availed themselves of its comforts.

The officers of the union are: A. Johnson, president; T. Cox, vice-president; G. Jackson, recording secretary; G. Goldstraw, financial secretary. The union is represented in the Trades and Labor council by five members, all of whom are exceptionally able men. The union holds meetings on the first and third Friday in each month, and is chartered by the Dominion Trades Congress of Canada.

A building trades council is in process of formation, and it is anticipated that much good will accrue to the unions that are represented therein.

Some of the local concerns are taking advantage of the labor market. Work being scarce and laborers numerous, wages are cut and the hours of labor increased.

THE CLERKS.

The Retail Clerks' association, in making provision for their smoking concert, which was held on Thursday evening, eclipsed anything of the kind held by labor bodies during the winter. The growth of the association has been slow but steady, till now it has a membership of sixty. Efforts are being made to induce clerks of the dry goods houses, who have held aloof, to join in with the clerks of other mercantile lines. There is no apparent reason why all the clerks in the city should not be members of the association, which has benevolent features as well as protective objects. At the smoker on Thursday night several short addresses were delivered on the objects and aims of the association, and those who were fortunate enough to receive invitations availed themselves of an instructive as well as a social evening.

ARTISTIC GENIUS AT THE P. O.

The floor of the Victoria post-office is the scene of one of the greatest displays of artistic genius seen in many years. Evidence of the master's hand is visible on the floor of that institution, and the delicate tracings on the mop-board go to prove that the artist wields a powerful brush. The coloring is true to nature, and would impress the casual observer with the idea that the janitorial artist was over-generous with scrub brush and water each day. But aside from its artistic merit, his phenomenal manifestation of artistic genius has a more practical value, namely, that of allaying dust. It is currently reported that the artist will next exhibit his talent on the roof, walls and trappings of the post-office, after which he will be in first-class shape to paint Point Ellice bridge a rainbow hue, providing, of course, the Painters' union don't get after him.

CHEAP ROCK CUTTING.

Speculation as to the sanity of the contractor who got the job of removing rock from a vacant lot on Government street, opposite the post office, Victoria, is now set at rest. Seventy-five cents a yard was the figure, and local rock scientists declared the feat impossible. A suspicious looking steam drill, alleged to be the property of the government, municipal assistance at 75 cents per yard, together with a brace of brawny Celestials from Tisdale street, are said to be the economic agencies that will bring the astute contractor out ahead. What a sight for disappointed contractors and idle laborers and what an opportunity lost for lengthy editorial comment.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY ON CIVIC WORK.

The referendum, except accompanied by another function known as the initiative, is only a farce. This view of the matter is verified by the action of the city council of Victoria in the matter of the eight-hour working day. In spite of the overwhelming majority of votes cast in favor of making eight hours the standard day for all work done by the city, the board of aldermen by a majority of two overrule the will of the people. And now as the law stands it applies only to day labor performed by the city. This gives an opening for the contract system to enter the municipal arena again, notwithstanding the fact that day labor has been proven to be better and cheaper than contract labor. If ever such a move is made it will materialize about the time the sewer business starts, and then a merry war will develop. The preliminary pulling for such a move is noticeable on the street corners, and the aspirants for straw boss honors are numerous. However, it is doubtful if

(Continued on Page Four.)

TORONTO REPLIES TO NELSON.

The Legislative Committee of the Toronto District Trades and Labor Council reported as follows at the last meeting of that body:

"Your committee met and adopted the following report:

"The letter from the Nelson Trades and Labor Council, requesting the Council to petition the Dominion government to increase the duties on lead, was considered and the following letter drafted in reply:

"Ernest Kilby, Esq., Secretary Nelson Trades and Labor Council, Nelson, B. C.:

"Dear Sir—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter asking that this council request the government at Ottawa to increase the duties on lead and the products thereof.

"You state that you make this request in order to place all sections of Canada on an equal footing, so that the people of one section shall not bear burdens not imposed on people of another section. Then you request that the duties be made as high as those imposed by the United States.

"If you could

Show This Council

that the method you propose would distribute the burdens of society with any degree of equity, then we assure you that we would only be too glad to cooperate with you with alacrity and enthusiasm. The duty on crude lead now amounts to 35 per cent. This is the form of lead that is always bought by the manufacturer of leaden articles, and never by the workmen. But the lead pipe which must go into the home that the working man would like to buy, is taxed 35 per cent. already. Suppose to government were to double the present rates, would the working classes be benefited, or would they be more burdened? With an immigration policy that does all that it can to flood the country with the cheapest possible labor, how can the increase in the duties possibly assist the laborer to secure any better wages? Did the duty on steel rails in the United States enable the workmen at Homestead to secure their rights and prevent Carnegie extorting from them his immense fortune?"

"Is it not a fact that not merely on this continent, but also in the old world, the laboring classes are

Systematically Despoiled and deprived of their just rights? Is it not true that labor at the present time produces the most ample abundance, but that it receives out of that product only a very small fraction? Whence come the fortunes of the millionaires? Are they not extorted from the product of the industrious classes? How is it that one man, without doing the first productive act, can command a fortune of a thousand dollars per day, while the average income of the industrious classes is less than two dollars per day? Who is it that pays all the taxation to-day? Is it the man who does nothing but draw his rents and dividends, or is it the man who sweats ten hours daily? Is it the man who does nothing, or the man who does everything? Are we not face to face with the great fact that somewhere there is terrible injustice, which says to one set of men—You cannot get the work without the wealth, and to another set of men, You can get the wealth without the work?"

"How does the method of taxation you propose affect this injustice? Does it mitigate it, or does it aggravate it? Which does it help, the coal miners or the coal barons? Does it help the

Hucksters in New York, or does it help the Astors? Is it a tax which falls still more heavily on industry, or does it do anything to stop the everlasting extortion?"

"To answer this question we have but to watch the process of development that is going on all over this continent. The men who get hold of the town sites, the great timber limits, the valuable mines, are growing rapidly richer generation after generation, simply by demanding from the people payment for access to the bounties furnished by the Creator for His children. Would it not be far wiser to try to get the taxes so placed on the values which come, not through the efforts of industry, but by the growth of population? In this city labor has to pay ground rents varying from ten thousand to fifty thousand dollars per acre yearly for the occupation of the land. With every addition to the population

up goes the rent of the land, so that the land owner claims more fortune, while the laborer has to submit to a greater tribute. Let this process continue, and in the course of generations the land owners

Will Revel in Fortunes

like that of Croesus, while industry will still have to struggle for a chance to exist. Freemen we will not be any more than we are to-day. The prospect of this development is the severance of society into two distinct classes, one enjoying all the advantages of civilization without bearing any of its burdens, the other bearing all the burdens and enjoying only the most niggardly share of its advantages.

"We can assure you that you have our most hearty sympathies, but we would ask you to consider these facts, and see if there is not a vastly better method of curing the industrial wrongs than by placing heavier taxes on everything that labor has to buy, and then flooding the labor market with the cheapest kind of immigration to reduce to the lowest price the only thing he has to sell, namely, his labor. Yours respectfully,

"Secretary."

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.

The business agent of the Building Trades council reports business to be brisk. Proposals from men to join the various unions affiliated with the above body to the amount of \$200 has been the record since the 16th of the month.

The new laundries and dormitories in connection with the Hotel Vancouver was started on Thursday morning, with Mr. John Crookall in charge. This is sufficient notification to the trade that Mr. Crookall is back in the Bricklayers' and Masons' International union, as is also Mr. Sweet, who is in charge of the Rogers building on the corner of Hastings and Homer streets.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters were further strengthened by the addition of 18 new members this week.

The Building Laborers' Federal union took in twelve new members at their meeting on Thursday night. This union has now outgrown its present quarters, an average attendance of 80 members being on record. They will be compelled to move into the largest hall at an early date.

A committee representing the carpenters' unions will meet a committee of the Builders' Exchange next week, when it is expected that the new schedule will be agreed to.

MACHINISTS' SMOKE UP.

Beaver lodge, No. 182, of the International Association of Machinists, held a most enjoyable smoker Friday last. The powers of chairman Downey on this occasion were fierce. In opening he said that he was a born humorist and intended to show them how to manage affairs of this kind. He then appointed R. Fowler and J. Young to act as policemen, and the president decorated them with a star as big as your hat, each and a club apiece to round up offenders and bring them before his "job lots," who would read them a lecture that would remind you of the atrocious Judge Jeffries of long ago. They were always let off with a caution and by paying a nominal fine for the first offence. In several instances there were those who pawned their rings, studs, watches, etc., and maybe Downey wouldn't do a thing in cases of this kind but nail the collateral until the fine was paid. After the chairman got through with his "welcome" remarks, President Lamrick, of the Trades and Labor council, gave a short address. Those who sang songs were P. Donaldson, G. Smart, J. Chapman, H. Dagnal, A. J. Thistle, and J. Armstrong. Mr. Moore played the guitar and sang, J. Chapman, Jr., an instrumental solo, P. R. Duncan, violin solo, and Messrs. Smith and Thompson, duet. Encores were the order of the evening. Prof. Evanson presided at the piano in a very able manner. Those who served the refreshments, including an unlimited supply of Cascade beer presented to the machinists by the Vancouver Breweries company, were Messrs. R. Hetherington, F. Yendle, J. Dodd, J. McAulay and H. Rogers. The committee, who made the arrangements for this annual celebration comprised Messrs. W. Beers, A. J. Thistle, H. Rogers, President Geo. P. Downey and Secretary J. McVety. All reluctantly dispersed at midnight, after singing Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.

U. B. OF R. E. STRIKE

We have learned that the members of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees employed on the C. P. R. have ceased work until certain alleged grievances have been satisfactorily adjusted. All parties are requested, therefore, to refuse to accept employment in the places of those who have gone out.

Papers please copy.

RAILWAYMEN IN CONFERENCE.

On the 20th December the chairman of the Order of Railway Conductors and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen's general committees for each of the 36 railway systems west of the Mississippi and great lakes filed with the proper officers of their respective companies a communication notifying them of their intention to ask for increased rate of wages within 60 days. They waited for replies till the 5th January, when the companies were formally served with the notifications. The C. P. R. officials here were accordingly notified of (1) a 20 per cent. increase for all conductors, brakemen and baggagemen over rates in effect on January 1, 1902; (2) a rule guaranteeing double pay for miles and hours made on freight trains of more than 30 cars, and hauled by more than one engine; (3) day yard foreman to receive 31 cents an hour; night foreman 33 cents an hour; day helpers, 23 cents an hour; night helpers, 30 cents an hour.

The following arrived on Thursday, and have been in session with the C. P. R. officials at this point: Conductors—J. Ward, Vancouver; J. Herchmer, Kamloops; J. A. McKay, Kamloops; and Bradshaw, Nelson; trainmen—T. Coughlin, Vancouver; R. Urquhart, Revelstoke; W. J. Wells, Nelson; Geo. Stevens, Kamloops; and D. W. Stevens, Kamloops. The foregoing will hold conference with Mr. Marpole today, Saturday.

The managements of several of the systems have already conceded the requests of its employees, and the trainmen and conductors are sanguine of a successful settlement being made with all of the companies.

LOCAL CELEBRATIONS.

The United Brotherhood of Postal Employees will hold their second annual dinner at Owen's restaurant, Tuesday evening, March 3. A good time is in store for those who are fortunate enough to get an invitation.

The B. C. Electric Employers' union will give a concert and dance on the evening of March 11th in their rooms, Sutherland hall, Westminster avenue. A committee consisting of R. Brunt, chairman, C. Tanner, secretary and treasurer, E. Watkins, George Martin and J. L. Gardner have matters in hand to arrange the programme. The concert will be more of a comedy nature than sentimental, and the dance will take place after the programme has been disposed of. Every one should attend.

Aerie, No. 6, of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, will celebrate its fourth anniversary next Wednesday, March 4th. Invitations are out for the function, which will include a dance. It goes without saying that there will be a jolly time spent.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Builders' Laborers' union will be held in Union hall on Tuesday, March 3, at 8 o'clock.

H. SELLERS, Secretary.

SEMLIN ELECTED.

Charles A. Semlin, ex-premier of British Columbia, and opposition candidate to the Prior administration, was elected on Thursday over his opponent, Dr. Sanson, at West Yale, by a majority of about 100. There were only about 400 votes polled by both candidates.

GET ON THE VOTERS' LIST.

THE INDEPENDENT.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE MASSES

BY

THE INDEPENDENT PRINTING COMPANY.

BASEMENT OF PLACK BLOCK, HASTINGS STREET, VANCOUVER, B. C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE.
A week, 5 cents; month, 15 cents; three months, 45 cents; six months, 90 cents; one year, \$1.00.

ENDORSED BY THE

TRADES & LABOR COUNCIL OF VANCOUVER,
TRADES & LABOR COUNCIL OF VICTORIA,
VANCOUVER BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.

The Independent can always be had at Galloway's book store, arcade.

SATURDAY.....FEBRUARY 28, 1903

RAISE THE MORTGAGE.

At the last meeting of the Trades and Labor Council the auditors' statement was presented, showing the financial standing of that body to be in good condition. But it also showed that there was a mortgage against the hall of \$2,500. Now we hold that to raise this mortgage is the first and one great duty of organized labor in this city at the present time. In a large number of cities on the other side labor owns its headquarters, and it is particularly noticeable that in all such places that this fact has a most salient influence over the members to make them take a deep interest in the affairs of their unions. Then, if for no other reason than an investment to harmonize labor forces, the funds should be raised without a murmur to clear off the hall debt. Once this property is secured to labor, it will not be long before it will be in a position to make it one of the best—if not the best—labor temples in the west. There are over 2,000 union men in this city, and we mistake the timber very much if they don't come forward with their cart wheels or even two or three dollars a piece and take up some shares. The investment is gilt-edged, and one that anybody should be glad to put money into. No doubt in a short time an appeal will be made to the unions for them to take up shares. Let's clear off the debt of the hall at once.

HARMONY THE WATCHWORD.

An exchange points out that the only hope of labor is its solid front. Nobody can dispute this. There can be no division if there is to be any success, and 'tis passing strange that men get so near-sighted as to advocate in any way a division in our ranks, or hold up to severe criticism any movement that has for its aim the betterment of mankind, however many errors they make. We could go on and on naming shortcomings of every local union and their leaders, national and international organizations; could oust out of his boots each one of our worthy head officials for some of their errors; could give Sir Wilfrid and Sir Charles excellent advice as to some of their blunders and point out to the governor himself the fact that he's not infallible; could precipitate more rows in town than the city court could handle, but 'twould profit us nothing and benefit the cause not one whit.

Harmony is the watchword; let's adopt it.

These are months which should be made honorable by great work for the label.

The only railway under construction in the province has not received government aid of any kind. Funny, isn't it?

Our reporter was in the butcher shop the other day and was startled by the boss addressing the delivery boy like this: "Get a move on you, be lively. Break the bones in Dad Rogers' chops; put Nige Fulton's ribs in your basket."

The biggest Sale of Silverware ever put on in Vancouver is now taking place at Troreys.

The Daily Papers are telling the story and quoting the prices from day to day.

GEO. E. TROREY,

The Jeweler and Diamond Merchant

COR. GRANVILLE AND HASTINGS STREETS.

Official Watch Inspector of the C. P. R.

and say, here is Merwin's liver that he left on the counter yesterday; and take Bucknum's feet out of pickle and deliver right off." "All right, sir," replied the boy, "just as quick as I saw Pete Blackmer's legs off."—Peterson Patriot.

To get a new subscriber to The Independent is a contribution to the cause of trades unionism and good government.

Am I not going to assist the province. Is it therefore unfair that I should ask for a slice of your fair province.—E. O. Talbot, M. P.

As Smith-Curtis puts it the nineteenth was a century of invention, and the twentieth is one of graft, and we start right in with the first year. Yes, this is a land made up of principally cranks and grafters. Any grafter disappointed, or any crank not feeling well when he wakes up, can start a new party of "pure" politics. There is plenty of room for them to start a party any old time, but to be successful a would-be premier should have not less than \$20,000 to blow in on an election. What we need most is a clear cut disabling bill to disqualify all the members of the legislature and ex-members, and enable a new list of candidates to be elected by the "intelligent" electors in accordance with the new redistribution bill. They couldn't be worse than the old gangs, and we can afford to take chances on an improvement.

CURRENT OPINION--ALL SORTS.

Public Ownership the Weapon.
Public ownership is the weapon to be used in a popular revolt against unbearable conditions.—Toronto News.

Mean Oppression.

The Crow's Nest Coal Company, which secured several hundred millions of dollars' worth of Canadian coal lands, is again meanly oppressing its employees.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Lacks Horse Sense.

British Columbia, by its mouth, cries against the Chinese, and by its votes supports the government that saddles repulsive legislation upon us. Evidently voters in this province are short on sense and long on ozone.—Ledge.

Chinese Must Go.

The Asiatic has got to go and it had better be sooner than later. Were it sooner some of that big English immigration that other portions of Canada, far less blessed than this province, is getting, would assuredly be diverted this way.—Rossland World.

No Sense in It.

What is the sense of building up the tariff wall to raise the price of lead as long as the railways have it within their power to raise freight rates and thereby take away from the mine owner all the profit of production.—Paystreak.

Wouldn't Trust 'Em.

It is a noticeable fact that the people who are wasting so much valuable time howling that British capital is afraid of B. C. are usually the kind that you wouldn't trust as far as you could throw them by the hind legs.—Paystreak.

JOHN BURTON DEAD.

Mr. John Burton, of this city, died at New Westminster on Tuesday evening last. The deceased was a well-known locomotive engineer. The funeral took place on Thursday, and in addition to a number of floral tributes, a handsome wreath from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers decorated the casket. The pallbearers were also members of that union, and consisted of Messrs. Louis King, Samuel Scott, Thos. Clouston, James Clifford, James Geddes, and Dan Calder. Short services were conducted by the Rev. R. G. MacBeth in Kemp and Simpson's undertaking parlors, at 2 o'clock, and the cortege started for Mount Pleasant cemetery at 2:30 o'clock. The late Mr. Burton leaves a widow and two brothers in this city, and was one of the best known and popular engineers on the C. P. R.

NEW LABOR CONGRESS

We understand that there are a couple of seafarers in this city who are about to affiliate with the new trades congress. The official circular of that body is herewith printed:

Fellow Workers.—At the last convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, held in Berlin, Ont., from September 15th to 19th, a resolution was introduced and carried by which practically only trades and labor organizations having their headquarters in the United States and submitting to the authority and control of such organizations, shall in future be entitled to representation in the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress.

Having succeeded in altering the constitution so as to keep out fully one-third of Canadian trades and labor organizations, the internationals were forced to alter that part of the constitution which reads—"the object shall be to unite all the labor organizations of the Dominion," etc.

This course was necessary in order to make effective their resolution, keeping Canadian labor unions out of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress.

The United States organizations having secured the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress for their own use, Canadian labor unions were thus debarred from representation, notwithstanding the many appeals to reason and fair play by many of the ablest delegates of international and national unions and Knights of Labor, among whom deserving mention are Ralph Smith, M. P., P. M. Draper, D. J. O'Donohue, C. S. O. Boudreau, W. L. Douglas, Isaac H. Sanderson, F. N. Boulton, F. W. Proderick, V. H. Annable, J. S. Fitzpatrick, A. L. Bureau, Ed. Little, etc.

Nothing was left, therefore, to the delegates who remained true to the interests of Canadian labor but to submit to election from international officials, or from a Federation of Canadian labor organizations, co-equal with the American Federation of Labor, the British Trades and Labor Congress and the National Labor Federations of other countries.

The friends of Canadian labor decided upon the latter course, and on September 18th a meeting was held in Germania Hotel, Berlin, and the National Trades and Labor Congress of Canada was formed—a constitution formulated and an Executive appointed.

The purpose of this appeal is to invite organized labor in Canada to join with us in the great object of advancing the interests of Canadian labor, by sustaining the rewards of industry, and all that is therein implied, personal dignity and worth, freedom and well-being for man, woman and child.

We are convinced we will thereby better conserve and advance the interests of the workers of Canada by having a Canadian Federation that shall be directed by labor men in our midst, who understand the needs of our labor unions and who will, therefore, be able to make adjustments between employer and employee more quickly, more satisfactorily, and more freely, more permanently.

A strong Canadian National organization will undoubtedly have greater sympathy and support from the public in time of trouble than would be the case with an outside body. The great objection to international organizations in Canada that strikes are fomented and carried on by labor officials from the United States to the disadvantage of Canadian enterprise and Canadian labor would be removed and the settlement of all disputes rendered more amenable to arbitration and satisfactory adjustment.

By adopting one label for all union goods made in Canada, the public will readily distinguish our label designating that products bearing the stamp of the National Trades and Labor Unions of Canada, is a guarantee that all such goods are made in Canada by union labor, under fair conditions.

Having given a synopsis of our aims and objects, we repeat our appeal to join with us in a great Federation of Canadian Labor, that while extending the hand of fraternity and solidarity to our fellow-workers everywhere, assert our rights to equality with the American Federation of Labor, the British Trades and Labor Congress, and all other National Federations of Labor, and we are convinced, by so doing, with the heads of our Executive living in Canada responsible to Canadian labor organizations only, and whose interests must be solely for Canada and Canadian industry, we will best take our full share with our brother workers in all lands in securing the full fruits of our labor and our rightful place in the van of progress.

OMER BRUNET.

President.

ISAAC H. SANDERSON.

Vice-President.

THOS. J. GRIFFITHS.

Secretary.

FUNERAL OF A. R. LOVE.

The funeral of the late Archie R. Love, who was killed in the Le Roi mine, was well attended last Friday. Rev. C. W. Hedley officiated, and the pallbearers were W. D. Stinson, B. Duke, K. Matthews, R. Morrison, A. McLeod, and Charles Williams, numbering among them some of the most prominent members of the union.

Hubbard, the publisher of the Phyllis, East Aurora county, New York, will lecture in Vancouver on April 21st next.

Mr. Woodman, of the Nanaimo Miners' union, was a visitor to The Independent on Wednesday.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE LATE ELECTION.

To the Editor of THE INDEPENDENT.

Sir,—In your paper of February 14th I notice a letter from Mr. Watson, and as I happened to be in Vancouver on election day, and saw the machine at work, I must say it was one of the most rotten and degrading combinations I have ever heard of to split up the labor vote. Mr. Watson says he will stump Vancouver if the labor men do not do as he wants them to. Did he do it on the 4th of February and what did he find? He found 1671 votes for the labor candidate. Poor boy! After all your talk, and all the money you had at your disposal, you could only carry the city by 31 votes. Was it on account of Mr. Watson being on the rampage that this enormous majority was given Mr. McPherson in Vancouver? If so he must be a holy terror. Mr. Watson says that 1,300 conservative votes saved the labor candidate from losing his deposit, and that the labor party had to sell their independence to gain the support of the conservatives in the late election. Was it not the liberal party in the Theatre Royal on the eve of the election that appealed to the conservatives to stand by Mr. McPherson to defeat the labor candidate? Did I not hear Mr. Russell in the committee room, after the election, thank the conservatives who stood by Mr. Macpherson? Now, Mr. Watson, did I not hear the liberals admit that they could not carry Vancouver city again, unless they split up the labor party? Are you the man to do this work? Is that what they keep you for? Now, Mr. Editor, I am taking up too much space, but may I ask who is this man Watson that wants to dictate to the labor party of Vancouver and what position does he occupy? And I might say that if there are any more like him in the labor party I hope they will go over to the liberals, where they will have lots of friends.

JOHN T. KELLY.

Ruby Creek, Feb. 21, 1903.

NOT UNIONISM.

To the Editor of THE INDEPENDENT.

Sir,—Can you inform me how it is that our so-called socialist friends always pick out the most prominent and influential workers in the unions and attack them so viciously, impugning all sorts of motives to them and their work? There are one or two such socialists who are at work now in our midst poisoning the minds of many unthinking but honest union men. This is not in the best interests of good unionism, but it may be in the best interests of socialism. UNIONIST.

Vancouver, Feb. 25, 1903.

FIREMEN'S BALL.

To the Editor of THE INDEPENDENT.

Sir,—The firemen desire to express their warmest thanks to their friends for the liberal patronage accorded them on the occasion of holding their fifth annual ball. We desire to thank the business men of the city not only for their financial aid, but also for many other courtesies received in assisting us in making preparation for the event. We are also much indebted to Mr. W. R. Rickson, the well known window dresser of the establishment of Stevenson's dry goods store, Hastings street, who so ably superintended the decoration of the ball room. Mr. Wm. Findley, as master of ceremonies, assisted by Mr. Martin, gave excellent satisfaction. The music furnished by Haymer's orchestra was all that could be desired. Barnwell Brothers, of 642 Granville street, served supper in their usual good style, but were handicapped in not being prepared to handle so many guests. Thanking you all, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to be yours respectfully, JAS. DAVIDSON, Secretary Firemen's Benefit Assn. Vancouver, Feb. 21, 1903.

...A GREAT PROBLEM...

From our experience of dealing with the public we know what it means to a mother to get her boys clothed well and decently without too much expense. For years past a great deal of shoddy goods have been offered at low prices, but it fell short of filling the bill. THE LION BRAND SOLVES THE PROBLEM. When you buy this make you get the best goods on the market for hard, solid wear. The knickers are made with double knees and double seats, taped seams, double sewn with linen thread, and will outwear three pairs of ordinary goods; then look at the make and cut and you will find that they cannot be approached. Once a customer always a customer. We are sole agents for this famous brand. Mail orders receive careful attention.

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STRIKE AT FERNIE.

To the Editor of THE INDEPENDENT:

Sir,—Owing to the labor trouble which culminated in the strike by which all the employees of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. laid down their tools on Wednesday morning at 7 a. m., February 11th, we send you the following for publication. The grievances have been accumulating since the settlement of the last strike at Fernie. After the great and awful explosion in which over 130 men and boys met their death, a new management began to operate the mines for the C. N. P. C. Co., and his policy seems to the western people to be totally at variance to the best interests of the people of the C. N. P. and the smelters to the west of the pass. For since his first coming, the camps, which before were in a state of prosperity and cheerfulness, have since that time been in a state of discontent and unrest, owing to his autocratic attitude and the acts of petty tyranny he has allowed and would not redress. It has been conceded that no more dangerous mines are in operation than the properties of the C. N. P. C. Co., and the late disaster clearly proves this to be the case. Now the first aggression was to lengthen the hours of labor for all underground laborers half an hour, making them work 8-12 hours, despite the fact that it is the custom all through B. C. for coal miners to work eight hours from bank to bank. The men, not liking to forsake the old custom, and give up the short hours that they had to struggle for and work so hard to have incorporated in their laws, came out on strike, which terminated at the end of six weeks by an agreement signed by J. H. Tonkin, manager of the C. N. P. C. Co. and the Executive Board of the Miners' Union, Fernie. The substance of the agreement was to try the new system for two months, and if at the end of that time the men showed by ballot that they wished to return to the old system, he would be perfectly willing for them to do so, providing that notice of the same, in writing, was given to him as representative of the company. The result of the ballot was 129 in favor of 8 hours and 33 in favor of 8-12 hours. The parties who watched the ballot were two of the miners' committee and the general manager and mine superintendent. We must say here, that only miners were allowed to vote, all underground shiftmen, drivers, trackmen, timbermen and helpers were not allowed to vote. These would certainly have voted against their hours being lengthened. Now in direct contradiction to the agreement already signed, Mr. Tonkin claimed that all men who did not vote were to be counted on his side, a most absurd and unfair argument. Rather than have further trouble, the men allowed him to violate his agreement, and resumed work under protest. Again, while the men were working this two months as agreed upon, Mr. Tonkin brought forward a wage scale which made a reduction of from 15 to 20 per cent. under which the men have also been working under protest. Another grievance is the timber question. The law says that the timber shall be taken to the working place or as near as practicable, so that the miner can keep his place in a safe condition. Now in most of the mines the men have to carry the timber or go to the landing and help to bring it in, the landing often being a considerable distance away, causing the men either to work in their place in an unsafe condition or to go home, and if they quit work they were liable to be discharged. Indeed several men have been discharged for going home because there was no timber, and all efforts to reinstate them were in vain. It is a murderous policy which places a man's life in needless danger to save the

wage of a timberman. At Morrissey the condition of affairs is even worse than at Fernie. They have been mining there, under protest, for the last three or four months. They are paid 40 cents a ton, which is a smaller price than is paid in any other part of Canada. More than this they have to shovel their coal from two to four times to get it into the car, all for the minuscule sum of 40 cents. Then they have to move a gig wheel, or as it is termed, a McGinty. Not until the car is 38 feet from the working face can they move the McGinty, and then it takes two men a whole day to move it, for which they receive the magnificent sum of nothing. Speaking of the McGinty reminds us that when a man was killed at his post of duty by one of these machines, at Morrissey, and brought to Fernie for burial, by his brother unionists, Mr. Tonkin threatened to have the leaders arrested for stopping the mines. Think of it, we are not to be allowed to interfere with the profit earning long enough to bury the dead that are killed by that same industry. At Morrissey they have to frame all timbers for nothing, and often they have to pull them up three or four hundred feet to get them to the working face. Again they are often so heavy that they have to ask their comrades in the next place to come and help them to put them up, as they are too heavy for two men to lift themselves, and for this they get \$1 per set. Then again at Morrissey, they are cursed with the company store system, and no other store has been allowed there. Any one who has worked under these conditions knows that when the store bill is deducted from the due bill that there is not much or a surplus left for the miner. They have also the company store system at Michel. The C. N. P. C. Co. own all the place with the exception of the C. P. R. track, which runs right through the valley. At Michel they are paid 55 cents per ton for digging coal. It has often to be thrown a long distance or hauled to the car on pieces of canvas. There is also the system of butting, or, to explain it more fully, a system which allows one man to take an indefinite number of places, and employ helpers or back hands, and take a rake off from each of these men's earnings. They are paid from 50 to 75 cents per set of timber, and have to fetch the timber themselves. All narrow places have to be driven without any yardage paid for them.

It has been stated by the manager to the press that he is ignorant of the cause of a strike. Well that may be true, for he has persistently refused to meet the District Board who were in session. They tried both by letter and viva voce, their messenger was received with abuse and curses, and the letter was returned. It has been an utter impossibility for the District Board to present anything to a man who would not receive them. So it seems like wilful ignorance on his part, and that he wished to remain in ignorance. There is an end even to miners' patience, and all that we can say is, that whenever Mr. Tonkin or any authorized agent of the C. N. P. C. Co. wish to enter into communication with their employees they can do so by informing the District Board. For if the Coal Co. pay Mr. Tonkin to look after their interest, so do we on our part pay a man to look after our business, and a District Board through which all business must be done. Any man with any business ability will recognize the fact that it would be for the good of all concerned to meet this Board on a business basis, rather than to have acted the autocrat, and plunged the whole country along with the employees of the Coal Co. into the horrors of a strike.

PRESS COMMITTEE.

Fernie, B. C., Feb. 16, 1903.

government colliery; but that is a circumstance over which few would have conscientious scruples. The coal company stole the coal lands from the people in the start out, and they have admitted them in a vicious and unwise manner ever since. The sooner they are taken away from them the better for the country.—Sandon Pay-streak.

KEEP AWAY FROM DAWSON.

Dawson, Y. T., Feb. 9, 1903.

To all whom it may concern: The Dawson Trades and Labor Council last season sent out a notification warning laboring men from giving credence to transportation agents who were then offering inducements to laborers to come to work on the construction of the Klondike Mines Railway. The Council had no idea that such inducements were being held out until some of the men led astray by these misrepresentations arrived in the territory. The Council then immediately sent out a circular letter to all labor organizations on the Pacific coast, warning them in the matter. The advertisements for men to work on this railway was a matter that could not possibly have been foreseen by this Council. There were at the time in the city and not engaged five times the number of men the railroad could have found work for in its construction. The unscrupulous transportation agents largely added to the hundreds of the unemployed who have had to bear as best they can the rigors of an Arctic winter.

Our circular letter, late as it was, no doubt was the means of stopping a great number from coming in. This Council had received no information from any of the coast councils and therefore was not responsible for their doings. We would say now that the Klondike Mines Railway (sixteen miles in length) did no construction work whatever last fall, and that these men induced to come here by promises are still here and are largely a part of our floating population.

We hear now that a second attempt is to be made to bring in a number of men early this spring to work upon this railway. These promises are probably not being made by the transportation companies directly, but by their unscrupulous agents who make their profits on the travelling expenses of the public. Also, there are doubtless other employers of labor here who hope by overstocking the market to bring down the rates now paid labor. In this connection the Council desires to state as widely as possible, that there is more labor in the country at present than there is a demand for.

As to the rates now paid, it is our duty to point out that while they seem high to the working man on the coast they are no better, perhaps not quite as good, as the current wages of his own town. He has to reckon the time lost, the cost of living (beef fifty cents per lb.), the cost of wood for mere warmth eight months of the year, the cost of special clothing, and other absolute necessities.

To meet the blandishments of the transportation agents this Council now declares that there are more laboring men here than there will be work for during the coming season, and that the Klondike Mines Railway, or any other large corporation, would have no difficulty in finding all the men they could possibly employ right in our midst within forty-eight hours, and at merely living wages.

By giving this official statement as wide a circulation as possible, you will oblige, on behalf of the Trades and Labor Council of Dawson, Y. T.

J. A. CARMICHAEL,

Secretary.

LABOR CANDIDATES.

At a meeting of the Winnipeg Labor Representative League, Friday evening, a committee of three was appointed for the purpose of selecting names for nomination at a mass meeting to be held next month, and on motion of C. C. Stewart and Wm. Holden it was resolved: "That we stand prepared to contest at least two of the Winnipeg seats at the next provincial elections." A delegation consisting of William Scott and Alexander Cameron was appointed to act in conjunction with a delegation from the Trades and Labor Council to visit the provincial premier with the object of urging the strict enforcement of the factory act.

The presidents and vice-presidents of the various districts were appointed as a committee on registration. Committees will visit the various unions and ask each to confirm its appointment of representatives to the league or to appoint new ones.

John Wallace and William Scott were elected vice-presidents for the centre division of Winnipeg.

It was decided to hold a mass meeting at a nearby date, when A. W. Puttee, M. P., will be asked to give an address.

When you want to hire a first-class horse and buggy, go to the Palace Livery Stables. Telephone 125.

NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD.

The tailors of Toronto are arranging a new bill of prices.

The Rochester, N. Y., Typographical union celebrates its twentieth anniversary this week.

Unionists in Columbus, Ohio, will have a ticket in the field at the coming city election.

The printers of Toronto have decided to have a business agent. The chapel days are passing.

In ten years the Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders have grown from 450 to 23,000 members.

Clothing cutters at Baltimore, Md., will receive an increase of 25 cents a day, beginning April 1st.

Building trades at Birmingham, Ala., will form an alliance and act as one body for mutual protection.

Providence (R. I.) labor unions are projecting a new labor temple to be erected and owned by union men.

The linemen of Salt Lake won their strike, which was for shorter hours and increased pay. They are now receiving \$3 for eight hours.

Chelsea (Mass.) aldermen have unanimously voted to give organized labor the preference in all matters of construction of public works.

Cheyenne (Wyo.) local Carpenters' union has gone into the building business and employed all of the striking carpenters at the union scale.

Thirty-six packing house unions in the Chicago stockyards will build a labor temple. They are paying \$8,000 per year under the present system.

The boilermakers and machinists of Herington, Kansas, who struck for 34 cents an hour, were offered 32 cents as a compromise and it was accepted.

A new scale of wages to be presented by the hoisting and pile-driving engineers of Omaha, Neb., has been approved by the Central Labor union.

All broom makers are urged to stay away from Circleville, O., and the factory of the Western Broom Co., St. Louis, Mo., as these shops are unfair.

The Cooks' and Waiters' union of Lincoln, Neb., have adopted a new scale and are meeting with trouble in getting it accepted. A strike may result.

The cigars of the tobacco trust are made by machines with girl tenders, who receive \$4 a week. Each machine batch equals the work of six cigar makers.

Employing barbers of Detroit are violating the law in keeping their places open on Sunday. The union journeymen will seek to have the law enforced.

School janitors at Toledo, Ohio, have petitioned the board of education for an increase of 25 cents a day. They now receive \$1.50 a day for fourteen hours' work.

An agreement has been reached between the master bakers and the Journeymen Bakers' union at Kansas City, Mo., that sixty hours will constitute a week's work.

It is reported that a syndicate has discovered deposits of tin sixteen miles from Cape Town, South Africa. A sample of seventeen pounds of alluvial earth was washed and produced six pounds of pure tin.

The city council of Slovan, B. C., recently passed the following resolution: "That whereas, it is provided by law that fair wages shall be paid by the city under contract, and whereas, the union label is a badge of honest workmanship and fair wages, therefore, be it resolved that this council do endorse the principle of the fair wage, and do hereby order that the union label shall be affixed to all printing, stationery and all other supplies procured by any and all departments of the city government and services."

Auburn, N. Y., common council has unanimously voted to have all municipal printing done in shops having the union label and has endorsed the local Typographical union.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

Fifteen brickmakers who were imported from Europe some months ago and who have been working for the San Francisco Brick company, have been taken to New York by officers of the immigration bureau for deportation. Proceedings have been instituted against the firm for violating the alien contract labor law.

The striking bricklayers are elated over the fact that President Gubbins, of the International Bricklayers, has warned bricklayers not to go to San Francisco to take the places of strikers. The employers sought to break the strike by invoking the aid of the International, with which the San Francisco union is not affiliated, but President Gubbins did not see it that way.

The classification committee of the Central Labor convention has completed its work of placing the different

unions in their proper department councils. The report provides for twelve departmental councils, as follows: Allied Printing Trades, Building Trades, Water Front, Iron Trades, Allied Provision Trades, City Transportation, Wood, Glass and Paper Workers, Amusement, Leathermakers, Retail Trades, Federated Gas, Electric Power and Street Railway.

W. D. Mahon, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees of America, is here in the interests of the local organization. He intends to investigate the grievance of the men in the employ of the United Railroads, and also look into the internal differences in the organization.

CIVIC EMPLOYEES WANT HIGHER WAGES.

Ben W. Bakes, secretary of the Civic Employees Union, wrote the city council last Monday night submitting the following wage schedule:

Water works department: Laborers, 25 cents an hour. Time and a half from 5 p. m. to 12 p. m. Double time from 12 p. m. to 7 a. m. and on Sundays and legal holidays.

Board of Works—Foreman, \$2.50 a day, equal to \$15 a week. Laborers, 25 cents an hour. Time and a half from 5 p. m. to 12 p. m. Double time from 12 p. m. to 7 a. m. and on Sundays and legal holidays.

It was pointed out that the city foreman at Victoria received \$2.50 for eight hours, and the men \$2 for the same time. The C. P. R. even allowed its Chinese and Japanese laborers the extra rate for work done in over time. No change was asked for in the number of hours worked a week. Preference was asked to be given to citizens and union men; that 75 per cent. of the members of the union were ratepayers in the city.

This matter was referred to committee.

FROM SEATTLE.

A committee is working on the matter of forming a building trades section of the Western Central Labor Union. There are only about half the boiler-makers at work.

Electrical workers are all busy. The strike of linemen is still on. The union has gained several men away from the company.

The machinists have called out about 45 from the Moran's shops. This firm refused to grant the nine-hour day. The sheet metal workers are fairly well employed.

The arbitration bill as approved by the State Federation of Labor has passed the senate and an appropriation of \$3,000 was made to carry out the provisions of the act. There is little doubt that the bill will be passed by the house, as it has the endorsement of both labor representatives and employers.

The Longshoremen's union has recently been successful in the settlement of its difficulties with the Pacific Coast company and all union men are now working.

Portland, Or., has received the endorsement of the Western Central Labor union, as the meeting place for the executive council of the American Federation of Labor on its trip to the Pacific coast this summer.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES IN MANTOBA.

The assuring news of the Winnipeg Tribune that the "Independents" are right in it in that province is refreshing. That paper says: "A gentleman in a position to know says there will be no fewer than thirty or thirty-five independent candidates in the field at the forthcoming provincial elections. He went over a list of the constituencies and named several in which he asserted that the Independents were practically sure of electing their men."

Organization is being perfected, he said, and the campaign would be conducted with great energy. Funds for literature, committee rooms, etc., will not be lacking, as the movement has the earnest backing of many of the well-to-do farmers, business men and others throughout the province. "So sure are we of electing many of our men," said the Tribune's informant, "that in many instances I don't think the Greenway or Roblin parties will place men in the field."

Telephone 1-2-5 for a fine livery turn-out. J. J. Sparrow, Palace Livery Stables.

J. A. Davidson, corner Cambie and Cordova Sts., is the place where you get your hair cut in an artistic manner.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS and Joiners—Meets every second and fourth Wednesday in Union hall, room 2. President, A. E. Coffin; vice-president, L. C. DeVolf; recording secretary, Geo. Dobbin; 533 Hamilton St.; financial secretary, J. McLeod; treasurer, G. Adams; conductor, H. Howes; warden, J. F. Gray; delegates to T. & L. Council, Geo. Dobbin, Geo. Adams, A. E. Coffin, L. C. DeVolf and S. O'Brien; delegates to the Building Trades Council, H. Howes and J. McLeod.

Union Directory.

THE VANCOUVER TRADES AND Labor Council meets first and third Thursday in each month, at 7.30 p. m. President, W. J. Lamrick; vice-president, Geo. Dobbin; secretary, F. J. Russell; financial secretary, J. L. Lilley; treasurer, A. N. Harrington; sergeant-at-arms, J. C. Kerr; statisticians, J. H. Perkins, trustees, Messrs. Pound, Cross and Thompson; executive committee, Messrs. George and Gohard.

TEAM DRIVERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION, No. 49—Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday in each month in Union Hall. President, J. C. Kerr; vice-president, B. Cawker; sec.-treas., D. McVey; rec. sec., B. Bridge; correspondent, F. Topham; warden, A. B. Souper; conductor, J. Little; trustees, C. B. Higginson, R. Haywood and A. Robinson; delegates to T. & L. Council, A. Gohard, B. Souper, Geo. Dunlop, J. C. Kerr and C. B. Higginson.

SHIRT WAIST AND LAUNDRY WORKERS' UNION, No. 106—Meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday in each month in Union Hall. President, Wallace Sharp, 1119 Richards St.; financial secretary, Mr. Lee; treasurer, F. Young; delegates to Trades and Labor Council, Messrs. Hargie, Coltart, Lee and Hogg.

WAITERS AND WAITRESSES' UNION Local No. 28, President, Charles Over; vice-president, A. N. Harrington; secretary-treasurer, J. H. Perkins; recording secretary, Miss A. Scuttio; Press agent, W. Ellender. Meeting every second Friday evening at 8.30 o'clock in Union Hall, corner Homer and Dunsmaith streets.

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF BLACK SMITHS, Vancouver Union, No. 151—Meets the first and third Monday in each month at 8 p. m. in Union Hall, Homer street. President, A. A. Bigg; vice-president, G. W. Smart; financial secretary, Chas. McAllister; recording secretary, D. Robinson, box 37, Vancouver, B. C.; delegates to the Trades and Labor Council, William Latham, D. Robinson, H. Howard.

TEXADA MINERS' UNION, No. 113, W. F. M., meets every Saturday at 7.30 p. m. in Foreman's Hall, Main and 4th. President, John D. Fraser; vice-president, J. W. Austin; secretary, Alfred Raper; treasurer, A. G. Deighton; conductor, Wm. A. McKay; warden, Henry Patterson.

CIGARMAKERS' UNION, No. 357—Meets the first Tuesday in each month in Union Hall. President, G. Thomas, Jr.; vice-president, J. C. Crow, secretary, J. C. Fensler, c/o Mainland Cigar Factory; treasurer, S. W. Johnson; sergeant-at-arms, D. Morrissey; delegates to Trades and Labor Council, J. Crow, G. Thomas and O. Mattison.

THE RETAIL CLERKS' INTERNATIONAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION meets in O'Brien's Hall, the first and third Tuesdays of each month. J. A. Murray, president; W. J. Lamrick, secretary, 248 Princess street.

BROTHERHOOD OF PAINTERS AND DECORATORS, Local Union No. 193, Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday in Labor Hall. President, B. Holland; vice-president, W. Halliday; recording secretary, E. Crush, 761 Eighth avenue, west; financial secretary, A. Gohard, 82 Howe street; treasurer, H. McSorley.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF Electrical Workers, Vancouver Local, No. 243—Meets second and fourth Wednesday in each month in O'Brien's Hall. President, A. McDonald; vice-president, J. D. Burberry; recording secretary, S. W. Huston; financial secretary, H. V. Rankin.

AUXILIARY, NO. 1, LOCAL 213, I. B. E. W., Telephone Operators—President, Miss J. Hunter, 812 Homer Street; vice-president, Miss F. Livingstone, 660 Granville Street; recording secretary, Miss J. Browne, 827 Richards Street; treasurer, Miss E. Bentley, 1121 Seymour Street.

JOURNEYMEN BAKERS' AND CONFECTIONERS' International Union of America, Local No. 46, Vancouver, B. C., meets first and third Thursday in each month. President, C. A. Barker; vice-president, S. Walker; treasurer, J. Green; secretary, M. MacLean, 210 Westminister Avenue.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Machinists—Beaver Lodge, No. 182—Meets second and fourth Monday in each month in Union Hall. President, Geo. P. Downey; past president, J. R. Edwards; vice-president, H. J. Little; recording secretary, J. H. McVety; financial secretary, J. Anderson.

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS' UNION OF America, No. 134, Meets 1st and 3rd Monday in room No. 1 Union Hall. President, C. L. Whalen; vice-president, J. T. Mortimer; recording secretary, F. Williams, 184 7th avenue, west; secretary-treasurer, J. Savage; sergeant-at-arms, H. Brazeau; delegates to Trades & Labor Council, F. Williams and J. T. Mortimer.

BUILDERS' LABORERS' FEDERAL UNION, No. 23, Vancouver—Meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday evening at 6 o'clock in room No. 1 Union Hall. President, J. Sully; vice-president, W. Lyons; secretary, H. Sellers; treasurer, J. Cosgrove; warden, H. Chapman; conductor, R. Harrison; delegates to Trades & Labor Council, J. Sully, G. Payne, J. Cosgrove and R. Harrison; delegates to Building Trades Council, J. Sully and J. Cosgrove.

VANCOUVER TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, No. 28, meets the 4th Monday in each month at Union Hall. President, W. J. MacKay; vice-president, G. B. Pierrot; secretary, W. H. Hunt, P. O. box 60; treasurer, John Watkins; sergeant-at-arms, Jas. Webster; executive committee, H. W. King, Robt. Todd, Ralph Wilson, A. W. Fimbow; delegates to Trades & Labor Council, Robt. Todd, Geo. Farley, Harry Cowan.

STREET RAILWAY MEN'S UNION—Meets second and fourth Wednesday of each month in Sutherland Hall, corner Westminster Avenue and Hastings Street at 8 p. m. President, Jas. McGulgan; vice-president, A. G. Elliott; secretary, M. A. Beach; treasurer, W. H. Vanderwerker; conductor, H. Howes; warden, G. Martin; sentinel, D. Smith; delegates to Trades and Labor Council, B. Marshall, F. C. O'Brien, Geo. Lenfesty, A. J. Wilson and Jas. McGulgan.

JOURNEYMEN BARBERS' INTERNATIONAL Union, No. 120—President, E. Harpur; vice-president, J. Gilman; corresponding financial secretary, J. A. Stewart, 443 Hastings St. E.; recorder, W. L. Aylesworth; treasurer, G. Bower; guide, W. Bushman; guardian, O. E. Jacques; delegates to T. & L. Council, E. Harpur and J. A. Didden. Meets first and third Wednesdays of each month in Union Hall.

ALL UNION MINERS SHOULD WEAR THE



Special "Miners" Overalls, Jumpers and Smocks.

made of fullweight denim, double stitched and riveted, high waisted, roomy seated, iron wear.

Made by

—THE—
HOOVER MANUFACTURING CO.
(LIMITED.)

The oldest Union Overall Factory in the West.

HAW'S BLOCK, WINNIPEG, MAN.

The Crow's Nest coal strike promises to be the biggest industrial war in the history of British Columbia. Not less than ten thousand men, all told, will be thrown out of work until it is settled, and the whole country will be practically closed down. This is too much power to leave in the hands of one mine manager or one union. It is no fault of the Boundary or Rossland miners that the Crow's Nest Coal company is trying to cut wages, and they should not be made to suffer. It is up to the government to do something, and the circumstances demand that it shall be done without delay. The most practical thing possible under the circumstances is for the dominion government to invest a million or two in opening up the reserved coal lands at Morrissey, put in coke ovens and supply the smelters at cost, paying the men the standard wages of the Keotenay. It would take some little time to open the properties up, but by so doing the labor difficulty in the Crow would be settled for all time to come and a standard of wages established throughout the entire province of British Columbia. Incidentally, it would amount to confiscation of the coal company's property, as the corporation would be unable to compete with the

The Gurney Foundry Co., of Toronto, Makers of Oxford Stoves and Ranges Are Unfair to Organized Labor.

We expect the workmen of the west to help us win this fight. Tell your friends.

IRON MOLDERS' UNION, NO. 28.
METAL POLISHERS' UNION, NO. 21.
STOVE MOUNTERS' UNION, NO. 14.

OUR VICTORIA BUDGET.

(Continued from Page One.)

sufficient gaul can be generated to make an effort to inaugurate the contract system again in Victoria.

The advertising pages of The Independent will reveal to trades unionists in Victoria the tradesmen who are in practical touch with them, and they will naturally govern themselves accordingly in making their purchases.

The local branch of the Federated Association of Letter Carriers announce their first annual entertainment to be held in the A. O. U. W. hall tonight, under the auspices of His Honor Sir Henri Joly, the Lord Bishop of Columbia, and His Worship, Mayor McClelland. An excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music has been arranged, and everything points to a successful entertainment. Tickets may be had from any of the letter carriers.

It is generally conceded that for bribing a judge, packing a jury, or carrying an election the almighty dollar is the real thing. So far as judge and jury are concerned it is unquestionably a potent argument, but in the matter of carrying an election—well we doubt if the adorable creature is entitled to first place. Our doubt has been engendered by developments at the recent municipal elections held in Victoria. This new force is a hummer and carried everything with a whoop. Due consideration, however, must be given to the fact that the dollar seldom or ever enters a municipal contest, and for that reason opinion is divided as to how the new force would act if it ran up against the real thing, particularly if it was well re-enforced with overwhelming numbers of the same denomination and accompanied by its administering angels in the shape of half dollars, quarters and dimes. Scientists are now investigating this new force with a view to controlling it. A test of its efficacy will again be made in the coming contest for "cook at the poor house," or rather "manager for the old man's home." Its effect on the board of aldermen will be watched with keen interest, and if the results are, as anticipated, we can notify all aspirants for political preferment that if they ever hope to reach the summit of their ambitions, it will stand them in hand to pay somewhat more attention to their spiritual needs in the future than they have in the past.

THE ISLAND RAILWAY.

Sir,—If those interesting themselves in bringing about the construction of an Island railway are working in the interest of the public they will duly consider every way and means put forth with that end in view. It will be admitted that the natural resources sought to be developed exist for use by the people. In the past we have handed over the resources and largely the funds necessary to construct lines of railway to permit of development, but instead of developing anything, they sell back to the people under conditions that mean enslavement that which they must have in order to exist. Surely it is unwise for the people to give into the hands of any corporation the power to own and to gain a corner on that which the said people are forced to buy back from said corporation? What do we say of farmers who draw hay to town ten miles to sell for \$10 per ton, when at the

The Salt of Life

is business. We want more of it. We'll get it if an out and out bargain will fetch it.

How is This

A two-quart
Hot Water Bottle
or
Fountain Syringe
75c.

The McDowell, Atkins,
Watson Co., Ltd. Liability
UP TO DATE, DRUGGISTS.

NEW ARBITRATION BILL.

Sir Wm. Mulock's minister of labor, new arbitration bill, containing 20 clauses, has been drafted and sent out to the railway organizations. The preamble reads:

"Whereas—From time to time differences arise between railway companies and their employees which the parties thereto failing to adjust, result or may result in lockouts and strikes, and

"Whereas—Railway lockouts and strikes interfere with the proper and efficient transportation of mails, passengers and freight, interrupt the trade and commerce of the country, cause railways to fall into disrepair to the danger of the lives of passengers and employees, and in various other ways occasion serious injury both public and private, and

"Whereas—It is desirable to aid in the settlement of such differences,"

The senate and house of commons enact as follows:

Section 3 provides that whenever a difference exists between any railway employers and railway employees, the minister may either on the application of any party to the difference, or on the application of the corporation of any municipality directly affected by the difference, or of his own motion, cause enquiry to be made into the same and the cause thereof. For that purpose the minister of labor may establish a board of arbitration to be composed of three persons to be named, one by the railway employers, and one by the railway employees (parties to the difference), and the third by the two so named. The minister shall in writing notify each party to name an arbitrator stating in such notice a reasonable time to do this. If either party within such time or any extension thereof fail to name an arbitrator the minister may appoint one in the place of the party so refusing or in default. And if the two arbitrators so chosen fail to select a third arbitrator the minister may make such selection.

Section 4 says that before the minister shall name any arbitrator he shall submit the name of the person proposed to both parties to the difference, it being intended to appoint only such person as shall not be reasonably objected to by either party.

It is provided in sections 5-9 that the third arbitrator shall be chairman. That the findings and recommendations of the majority shall be those of the board. In the absence of one arbitrator from a meeting of the board the other two shall not proceed unless the absentee has been notified in time to attend. Forthwith after appointment the chairman shall promptly convene the board and proceed with its investigations and report same to the minister of labor, who shall publish same in the Labor Gazette for the information of parliament and the public.

According to section 10 the board shall have all the power of summoning witnesses and to compel them to give evidence as is vested in any court of record in civil cases. No witness will be compelled, however, to answer a question which might render him liable to a criminal prosecution.

In sections 12 and 13 the summons may require any person to produce books, papers or other documents in his possession or under his control, in any way relating to the proceedings; but the information thus obtained shall not be made public.

16. No counsel or solicitor shall be entitled to appear before the board except by unanimous consent of all parties to the differences. Notwithstanding this the board may decline to allow counsel or solicitors to appear before them. The parties to the difference may appear in person or by agents.

17. Where the difference affects a class of employees, they may be represented by some of their number or by agents other than counsel or solicitor.

18. It shall be in the discretion of the board to conduct its proceedings in public or in private.

Mr. C. J. South, secretary of the Children's Aid Society, has just issued his very interesting report in pamphlet form. All interested may get a copy by applying for same. The society is in good condition, but money is needed to keep the work going.

D. W. Stevens, the popular C. P. R. conductor, of Revelstoke, paid his respects to The Independent on Thursday. He is in the city in connection with the affairs of his union.

They are talking of introducing Chinese into the Transvaal. A commissioner has left Johannesburg for California to enquire into the methods of working the Chinese in that state.

Dr. McAlpine, the city doctor, has asked the city council for an increase in salary on account of the increase of population, particularly the Chinese.

LABOR RECOGNIZED.

The Liberal Association on Thursday night requested that the crew of the Kestrel, the new government boat, be nominated jointly by the British Columbia Steamshipmen's Society and the Marine Engineers' Union.

GET ON THE VOTERS' LIST.

WANTED TO EXCHANGE—Gentleman's open-face silver English lever watch, jeweled, good condition for second-hand sewing machine in good running order. K. B., this office.

Wall Papers



It is a little early yet to talk about Wall Paper, but I want the people to know that I am now opening up the finest stock of Wall Paper that ever came into this province. Of course we have not received our full line, but have enough to please most anyone, and we are going to continue to sell these beautiful 1903 coloring and patterns at the reduced rate until the busy season opens. Anyone wanting Wall Paper or work of that kind it will pay them to buy now, even if you hold it over for a month or so. Ours is a Union Shop, always has been and always will be. Room moulding to match all papers. Agents for the province for white enamel letters for signs. Kalsomining, painting, etc., and all work guaranteed.

TO OUT OF TOWN CUSTOMERS it is always a pleasure to send samples. Drop a postal card stating price, color, which room or rooms, size, whether 9 or 18 inch border, required. We will do the rest.

F. P. BISHOP,
728 Pender Street.

UNION MADE CIGARETTES

We, the undersigned, handle the only UNION MADE CIGARETTES made in Canada, KARNAC, V. C. and T. & B.

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PAINTING, PAPERHANGING, KALSOINING, ETC., ETC.
All branches of the trade done in a satisfactory and workmanlike manner. Estimates given.
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516-518 Seymour St.

Between Pender and Dunsinuir Sts.

All kinds of work in this line promptly attended to.

Patronize the Blue Label



B. C. Cigar Factory
NEW WESTMINSTER.

THE WHEELER & WILSON High-Speed Sewing Machine

We have just installed one of these wonderful machines in our store, fitted with a small electric motor. We invite anyone interested to come and inspect the machine, and the extraordinary speed it can attain—as high as 4,000 stitches a minute. Everyone is welcome.

Wm. RALPH, 126 Hastings St.
SOLE AGENT

Loggers' Supplies

SPECIAL ALL-STEEL WIRE ROPE SNATCH BLOCK.
ALLAN WHYTE & CO.'S SPECIAL WIRE CORE LOGGING WIRE.
PLOW and CRUCIBLE STEEL WIRE ROPE in all sizes and grades.
All kinds of loggers' tools and supplies, Camp Utensils, Etc.

McLennan, McFeely & Co.

Phone 44. 122 Cordova Street., Vancouver, B.C. Phone 1063.

DRINK THE BEST

Ceylon **NABOB** Tea

Put up in 1 lb. and ½ lb. lead packets.
For Sale by all first-class Grocers.

Locks and Latches

We especially call your attention to the fact that our stock and assortment of locks and latches, Butts, Screws, Cupboard Latches, in fact all

Hardware for House or Block

We have a complete line of the leading American and Canadian goods and we will put you next to quality, price and variety. Nothing adds more to the appearance and value of a house than good, tasty modern trimmings. We have them and believe you want them.

Vancouver Hardware Co.,
339 Hastings Street.

Gentlemen

Our new spring clothing is now coming in, and we really want you to see what Dame Fashion has done for the "sterner sex" in her fashioning of Men's and Boys' Clothing.

Nothing smarter has ever left the cutter's board.

JOHNSTON, KERFOOT & CO.

104 and 106 Cordova Street.
Trunk Store 127 Hastings St., Opp. Wm. Ralph's.

...CASCADE...

"The Beer Without a Peer."

Brewed right here in Vancouver by men of years and years experience and in a brewery whose plant is the most perfect known to the art of brewing, is it any wonder that it has taken a place in the hearts of the people which no other beer can supplant?

\$1.00 Dozen Pints

\$2.00 " Quarts

Brewed by

Vancouver Breweries, Ltd.

Vancouver, B. C.

and for sale at all first-class Saloons, Liquor Stores and Hotels.

In Justice to Yourself

—we would advise you to get in your order for having your LACE CURTAINS LAUNDERED as quickly as possible.

You know how everybody gets busy all at once later on and the danger of delay. Now is your opportunity. We will send your curtains home perfectly square, starched just right and beautifully clean and sweet smelling.

PIONEER Steam Laundry

910-914 Richards Street. Tel. 346
Branch office in Arcade
Tel. 1176.

Advertise in The Independent.



Beginning Young

When eyes are found to have any defect, however slight, there is but one thing to do. Provide glasses early. Have them examined by our doctor of optics, Mr. Allan, and get a pair to fit you properly. All work guaranteed.

DAVIDSON BROS.,
The Jewelers and Opticians,
146 Cordova St.