

The Western Wage-earner

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In the Interests of Organized Labor

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Vancouver Trades and Labor Council Proceedings

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 7th, 1909.

The regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council was held this evening in Labor Hall, President Pettipiece in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Credentials were received as follows: Civic Employes, Jas. Raleigh and F. Swinerton; Cigarmakers, A. Heuft, W. Jardine and H. Lipson; Brotherhood of Carpenters, P. W. Dowler, Jas. Campbell, S. Kernighan, Geo. Williams and S. O'Brien; Street Railway Employes, J. Fletcher, F. A. Hoover, S. Thompson, C. Goering and G. Baldwin; Pattern Makers, R. C. Samson and J. G. Beatty; Machinists, J. H. McVety, E. Chapman, A. Beasley, J. Sutherland and A. Fenton.

A letter was received from the Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, withdrawing from the Council. Filed.

A circular from the International Brotherhood of Operative Potters was referred to the Plumbers' Union.

A letter was received from J. H. Robertson complaining of the infringement of the Allen Labor Law in the matter of manning ships. Filed.

Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the following accounts were ordered paid: secretary and statistician's sundries, \$1.40; Cascade Wood Yard, ton of coal, \$7.50; London Grocery, 65c; telephone rent, \$4.00.

Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee it was decided to send a delegate to the Legislature at Victoria to assist the Provincial Executive of the Dominion Trades in urging beneficial legislation. At a later period Secretary Cowan was appointed to act, Delegate Kernighan as alternate.

President Pettipiece reported re Trades Unionist. New business.

Delegate McVety made an extended report in re the B. C. Anti-Tuberculous Society. Received and filed.

Treasurer Burns made report on financial standing, which was referred to members.

Secretary of Labor Day Committee presented a balance sheet which was referred to the auditors of the Council.

Hospital Committee made progress report. Received.

Delegates from the Machinists' Union reported that the notices which had been posted in local shops in this line in the city, abrogating all contracts then existing, had since been withdrawn.

The following were nominated for officers for the ensuing term:

President — Delegates Kernighan and McVety.

Vice-president — Delegates Dowler and Sayer.

General Secretary—Delegate Cowan.

Secretary-Treasurer—Delegates Sayer and Thompson.

Statistician—Sellers.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Delegates Kernighan, Stalker and Dowler.

Board of Trustees—Delegates Ley, Williams, Curnock, Smith, James.

President Pettipiece having called Delegate Kernighan to the chair, presented an extended report in writing in reference to the Trades Unionist and also the advisability of starting a new paper.

On motion the report was taken up *seriatim*.

After an exhaustive discussion and on motion of Delegates Pettipiece and Dowler, the report was adopted in full. This in effect was that the agreement between this Council and Mr. Gothard was at an end and that a new paper to be known as the Western Wage-earner be started by this Council. Further, that a manager be appointed at a salary of at least \$100 per month and that the Council grant \$50 to advertise the dissolution of the Trades Unionist agreement.

Moved by Delegates Cowan and Thompson that Delegate McVety have charge of the new paper for the first month and that he choose such assistants as he desires.

It is also understood that the first

month's production be done gratis.

On motion of Delegates Thompson and Sayer, a committee composed of Delegates Smith, Kernighan and Payne was appointed to settle the controversy over the cup presented by the Labor Day committees for the best football team.

Moved by Delegates McVety and Cameron, that this Council do what it can to get out the vote in favor of the eight-hour day for civic employes. Receipts, \$156.80; disbursements, \$138.55.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 21st, 1909.

The regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council was held this evening in Labor Hall. President Pettipiece in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The following credentials were presented: Painters, Bros. Mabbett, White and Cross; Building Trades Council, J. G. Smith and F. Little; Electrical Workers, E. C. Knight, G. Rule and A. C. Parker; Plumbers, Jas. McWhinnie, and E. J. Havill; Bartenders, Geo. Morency and Chas. Leer; Builders' Laborers, H. Sellers, G. Payne, F. Bridge, R. A. Stalker, J. Lacer; Bricklayers, Geo. Rothenay, Fred. Waddicor and R. Hemphill; Barbers, J. Bruce, J. E. Cameron, and G. W. Isaacs; Cooks and Waiters, Minnie Scimmell, D. Bell and J. H. Perkins.

The following accounts were order-

IF YOU ARE RUPTURED

YOU SHOULD WEAR A COMFORTABLE TRUSS

We Have Them At

\$2 to \$10
Each

Knowlton's Drug Store

Phone 655

Always Open

1 HASTINGS ST. E., COR. CARRALL

VANCOUVER, B. C.

ed paid: Trades Unionist, \$3.00; J. A. Flett, lining stoves, \$4.00; Province, \$5.60; Walter Kealey, 75c; B. C. Electric, light, \$18.17.

A communication from the editor of the B. C. Building News was referred to the Building Trades Council.

On motion of Delegates Curnock and Knight, the secretary was instructed to write the Trades Unionist withdrawing the card therein.

The Hospital Committee reported in writing. Referred to new business.

The Audit Committee submitted its report, which was accepted with the exception of that portion in reference to the loose-leaf system, which was referred to the incoming executive.

The committee to draft a letter to the Salvation Army reported, which was laid over for two weeks.

The Football Committee reported progress.

The Press Committee reported progress.

The statistician made an exhaustive report of attendance at Council, which was received with thanks.

Reports of Unions.

Bartenders—Dougall House still on the unfair list. Will publish a list of fair houses in the Wage-earner.

Carpenters—Will hold a ball on Easter Monday evening in Dominion Hall.

Stage Handlers—Trying to take precautions for safety of employes of theaters. Delegates McVety, Kernighan and Williams were appointed a committee to assist.

Cooks and Waiters—Are dwindling away to nothing through lack of co-operation on the part of other unions in the city.

Tailors—What with Japs, Chinks and Hindoes this organization is up against a hard proposition. There is no demand for the label.

Cigarmakers—Trade has fallen off greatly. Demand the label.

Machinists—Will send a delegate to Victoria.

Street Railway Men—Mr. Wilson will represent this organization at Victoria.

Building Trades Council—Asked that Bartenders and Cooks and Waiters see that men engaged in making repairs where they are working have a card. More of the building trades are affiliating with that Council.

The following is the result of the election of officers:

President—McVety.
Vice-president—Sayer.
General Secretary—Cowan.
Secretary-Treasurer—Knight.
Statistician—Sellers.
Sergeant-at-Arms—Fenton.
Trustees—Kernighan, Williams and Curnock.

The new officers were then installed.

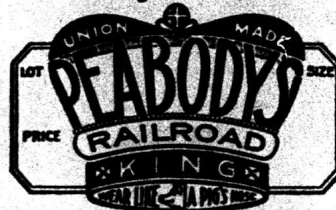
President Pettipiece made a few remarks in retiring, thanking the delegates for the assistance they had given him during his term of office.

Incoming President McVety thanked the members for the honor conferred and hoped all would pull together for the good of the Council.

The report of the Hospital Committee was then taken up, and on mo-

CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, MEN'S FURNISHINGS, TRUNKS, SATCHELS AND VALISES

We are Agents for the Celebrated
"Peabody's Overalls"



Guarantee: "10c a Button, 25c a Rip." on all Overalls bearing the above Ticket.

SPECIAL — Peabody
Union-Made Overalls

Sargent
Gloves

Johnson, Kerfoot & Co.

127 Hastings St. West

Phone 2311

tion of Delegates Sayer and Swinerton it was adopted. Delegates Sayer and Payne were appointed to represent this Council on the Board of Governors of the General Hospital.

Delegate Heuft drew attention to the great strike amongst the Hatters. This matter will be dealt with at the next meeting.

The secretary made explanation re certain remarks of his at a previous meeting and civic employes having reference to those who would not come into the Civic Employes' Union.

Receipts, \$167.00; disbursements, \$37.70.

NON-UNION—LOW WAGES.

The following advertisement appeared in a recent issue of a New York morning newspaper:

"Wanted, by experienced clothing cutter, a position on stock or special orders; am willing to sign agreement; non-union; willing to work for low wages."

The Bulletin gives the party who inserted the above advertisement credit for realizing that non-unionism and low wages are synonymous and go hand in hand. He was, however, by no means a wise financier or he would have saved two cents by leaving out the word, "non-union." He had no need to fear that any clothing manufacturer would have mistaken the ad. of that of a "union man" with the appendage "willing to work for low wages."

This little ad. is in itself a lecture on non-union conditions and should be an inducement to every clothing cutter to join the union and obviate the necessity of inserting an ad. in a newspaper, begging for "low wages."—Labor Review.

UNION MEN ASKED TO "BUCK" NON-UNION STOVES.

To All Wage-earners, Greetings:

On May 1st the Moffat Stove Company of Weston, Ontario, made a demand on their moulders for a twenty-five per cent. reduction, and that in future the shop would be run as

an open shop, and that in future the firm would deal individually with the men.

The matters were taken up by the officers of the union and everything possible was done to effect an honorable settlement, but the firm refused to meet the officers, stating that they were going to run the shop to suit themselves.

Our organization having an agreement with the stove manufacturers that there would be no change in the wage rate, during 1907 and 1908, it became necessary to "strike" these shops: The Wm. Buck Stove Company of Brantford and Moffat Stove Company of Weston, Ont., to protect our members in the other shops, also to protect these manufacturers who were willing to be fair and fulfill their agreement.

Since the strike started, these firms have brought our members into court for assault and intimidation and in every way tried to discredit our members without success.

Now, brothers, when you are purchasing an article, it is with your own hard-earned money, and you have the right to say what article it will be, so that matter rests with yourselves. Hoping that you will assist us all you can in this matter—it don't cost any more for the fair article.

Thanking you for past assistance rendered.

J. H. BARNETT,
Business Agent.

P. S.—Will notify you of any change in situation.

HORSESHOERS' UNION.

The annual convention of the International Union of Horseshoers recently held at Washington, D. C., elected the following officers: President, Hulbert S. Marshall of Cincinnati; first vice-president, Michael Roach of Boston; second vice-president, Albert Miller of Indianapolis; third vice-president, John J. Hooney of St. Louis, and secretary-treasurer, R. Kennehan of Denver. Reports of officers showed substantial gains in membership since the convention of last year.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA.

Vancouver Union No. 617, U. B. of C. & J. of A. will hold their third annual ball in Dominion Hall on Easter Monday, April 11th, 1909, and those who have attended previously know that this is the event of the year in trades union circles, and the committee in charge this year are experienced and are promising to eclipse all former affairs.

Brother Kernighan, our jovial business agent, is considering the advisability of preferring charges against the weather man for the brand of elements furnished during the late cold spell, as he holds the weather man responsible for the slackness of trade, and the matter of placing the responsibility can best be obtained by a regular procedure.

The membership of Local Union No. 617 are hereby cautioned regarding the insecurity of the fastening provided on the U. B. official emblem, and that one of the members had a very narrow escape from the "gum shoe fraternity" over the loss of his shield, rule, compass and jack plane. After investigating the matter, it was the unanimous opinion that it was purely the misfortune of the brother and not his fault, and this is brought to the attention of the membership that they may take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

We were honored by a visit from Bro. James Grimes, general organizer, early in January, and we very much regret that he was unable to prolong his stay in Vancouver, but while he was with us we absorbed as much wisdom as our capacity would permit, and we are endeavoring to make good use of his instructions for the betterment of Local Union No. 617 in particular and the craft in general in the city and vicinity, by our concerted action. The membership knows where the laxes are, and it largely up to them to apply the remedy. The organizer can suggest the ways of reaching the affected parts, but the cure is very largely the responsibility

Tools *PLASTERERS, BRICKLAYERS and MASONS*

Mashalltown Brick Trowel

SPECIAL WIDE HEEL. LEATHER HANDLE

Marshalltown Plasterers' Trowel are the best. We also carry all other first-class makes.

McGaggart & Moscrop

Phone 634

HARDWARE MERCHANTS

7 Hastings St. W.

of the membership as a whole. Each and all must do their whole duty. If this precept is lived up to, it becomes easy to arrive at a satisfactory state, the finesse of the organization, which, when once attained makes all other things easy of accomplishment.

No better, surer, or certain way to accomplish these things can be found than in a loyal support of the Western Wage-earner, which is OUR paper, and its success depends on the efforts of the affiliated organizations, through their membership, which resolves the success of the paper to the individual, and let us keep this well in mind,—if Vancouver is to maintain its reputation as being the best organized city in the Dominion, it will be brought about by the efforts of every trades unionist in Vancouver, and the officers of the local unions and of the Trades and Labor Council may do their utmost, but without the hearty co-operation of the membership at large we will not obtain the success that will be felt in the pay envelope and around the home circle.

It is a long time since Jesus Christ

plied the trade of a carpenter in Nazareth. Suppose one of his fellow-workmen at that time had been endowed with immortality on earth. Suppose he had worked at his trade every week in the year, every year from that time to the present. Suppose he had saved ten dollars out of his wages every week. He would have been as rich as Rockefeller long before this, wouldn't he? Well, if you think so, just sit down and figure it out. You would find that he would not be quite a millionaire—that Rockefeller would be able to buy him out a hundred times over, and have plenty to spare. And yet you are expected to believe that our capitalists have accumulated their wealth by simple industry and economy, and that any workingman could do the same if he would.

TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA.

The following local unions are affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and have paid per capita to date:

- Vancouver Lodge No. 194, Boiler-makers and Shipbuilders.
- Vancouver Pioneer Division No. 101, A. A. of S. and E. R. E. of A.
- Vancouver Builders' Laborers' Union No. 32.
- The following organizations are affiliated, but are delinquent:
- Vancouver Trades and Labor Council.
- Vancouver Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' Union.
- Vancouver Federal Labor Union, No. 23.
- Vancouver Journeymen's Union, No. 120.
- Vancouver Commercial Telegraphers' Union, No. 63.
- Vancouver Bartenders' League, No. 676.
- Vancouver Bricklayers and Masons, No. 1.

Secretaries of above should see that motion for payment is put through at next meeting.

You May Supply Your Own Material

If you require a
First-Class Suit
AT A REASONABLE PRICE

GO TO

834 Pender Street

Peterson's Op. Orpheum Theatre
THE UNION TAILORS

Where Dollars Travel

We can make a dollar go farther than most stores, because it travels along the line of excellence.

J. McTaggart

Dealer in C. C. C.

Corner Granville and Robson Sts.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

At the request of the Provincial Executive of the Dominion Trades Congress, the Provincial Government of British Columbia in July last inaugurated a system whereby school children in the elementary grades were to be supplied with books free of charge. While the idea was undertaken as an experiment, it has proven a phenomenal success, whether considered from a monetary standpoint, or with the idea of giving school children of rich or poor an equal opportunity to secure knowledge as far as books are concerned.

The report of the officer in charge of the branch reads, in part:

"Seven hundred and twenty-nine requisitions called for the distribution of the following: 30,979 primers and readers; 19,465 arithmetics; 36,668 copy-books; 108,486 scribblers; 410 union jacks; 303 teacher's records; 100 principal's records. The items are: 5,530 first primers; 4,610 supplementary primers; 4,339 second primers; 4,006 first readers; 4,051 second readers; 4,284 third readers; 4,177

fourth readers; 8,687 arithmetics (first book); 7,237 arithmetics (second book); 3,541 arithmetics (third book); 6,117 copy-books (No. 1); 5,995 copy-books (No. 2); 5,559 copy-books (No. 4); 4,557 copy-books (No. 5); 4,247 copy-books (No. 6); 5,817 copy-books (No. 8); 4,376 copy-books (No. 9); 19,327 scribblers (No. 1); 52,888 scribblers (No. 2); 21,305 scribblers (No. 3); 14,966 scribblers (No. 4). If the parents of the thirty-three thousand school children throughout the Province had purchased the text-books called for by the 726 school requisitions at the prevailing retail prices, it would have meant an outlay for them of \$27,347.25. The stock of books on hand, December 31st, 1908, would at similar prices retail for \$5,026.25.

The total expenditure of the free text-book branch of the Education Department to December 31st, 1908, was \$23,794.68, made up as follows:

Books, labels, etc.....	\$17,327.01
Union Jacks	1,783.00
Freight, labor, drayage, etc..	1,919.82
Distribution (freight, boxes, cartage, etc.)	1,076.80
Salaries of staff of three (3) ..	1,688.05

\$23,794.68

On the books received to December 31st, 1908, the branch, however, still owes \$1,231.67. The cost, therefore, to December 31st, 1908, is \$25,026.35. From this amount the sum of \$1,783, paid for Union Jacks, must be deducted in order to get the true cost of free text-books to December 31st, 1908, viz., \$23,243.35. As nearly one-half the second term's requisitions were filled before the close of the past calendar year, it is probable that the outlay for the succeeding six months will not exceed \$7,000 in addition to what has already been spent and guaranteed. Nor does it seem likely that during the next school-year the demand for bound books will be so great, since the supply at present in use should, with the exception of the primers, last for several years. Of course, additional shipments will require as in the past to be sent out frequently, as books are filled (as in the case of copy-books and scribblers), are destroyed, lost, worn out, or burned by order of the medical health officer, and as the number of schools and school children increases. All this only proves again that it is the initial step which costs; the succeeding stages usually prove less expensive.

As the people of the province collectively are the principals in the purchase and distribution of these free text-books for the use of their children, it is proper that they should learn whether or not this experiment has been of advantage to them financially. It has already been stated that the free text-book branch of the Education Department distributed during the past six months text-books and supplies which would have cost the parents, at prevailing retail prices, the sum of \$27,347.25. To place these books in the hands of the public school children through the medium of the free text-book branch required an outlay of \$20,064.19, made up as follows:

Text-books (laid-down cost) \$17,319.34
Distribution—Freight, etc... 1,676.89
Distribution—Salaries of staff 1,688.05

\$20,684.19

The net profit on the half-year's business is therefore \$7,263.06, and the percentage of profit, 36.1.

The net profit on the half-year's business is therefore \$7,263.06, and the percentage of profit, 36.1."

We are unable to understand what the expenditure for "Union Jacks" has to do with the education of the children, or why it should be charged to the "free text-book branch," but aside from that feature, the report shows that the Executive of the Congress knew what they were talking about when they requested that the scheme be given a trial.

The report states, "The people of the Province collectively are the principals in the purchase and distribution of these free text-books for the use of their children," and nothing now remains for the Government but to carry out the principle in its entirety by supplying free books to all students, instead of confining it to elementary subjects and by printing them in British Columbia.



Campbell's Clothing

It took us years to find out who makes the best clothes for men. We had to buy a limited number of suits from each one of the reputable tailoring houses. We observed closely the ones that pleased men best and gave them the best service for the money.

There are a score of good wholesale tailoring houses in Canada. There are perhaps half a dozen who excel, and we found that for beauty of design, perfect fit and shape retaining qualities, the Campbell tailors were in the front rank.

We accepted the agency for Vancouver, and the new Spring Suits are now here. We would like you to see them—18, 20, 22, 25, 28 and 30.

A. E. LEES & CO.

The Cash Clothiers Fleck Block

COOKS AND WAITERS.

Local No. 28.

As a preliminary, Local No. 28 wishes the new labor paper and its enterprising manager every success. We hope it will bind more firmly the bonds of unionism, and awaken the erring delinquents to the cause, who are many. Coax them with mild persuasion; if that fails, resort to the caustic phrase. Impress upon the public the necessity of a good labor journal, and every true unionist should support you. The Trades and Labor Council has taken a step in the right direction; it should conduce to the welfare of all organized labor and assist all unions in making proselytes out of the mass of non-unionists who are flocking steadily into our city.

Our installation of officers took place on Thursday, January 30th. Bro. D. Bell, president-elect, is in every way fitted to occupy the position of knight of the gavel. He is a firm stickler to duty, and under his management our local should prosper.

Bro. J. E. Bramley, the newly-elected secretary and business agent, is also a man of sterling worth, adapted to his new position. Business agent is an onerous post to fill, but if we are not mistaken Bro. Joe is capable of filling it. What is now required is the support of all members who have the cause at heart. We need their assistance and demand it as a duty. The heavy pressure of hard times and no work has caused many otherwise good members to fall in arrears. No union can maintain itself upon a firm footing when funds are not forthcoming, so it behooves the worthy members, now in a position to meet the demand, to be prepared with the requisite when the worthy business agent calls on them with his pleasant smile. Failure to respond will be followed by measures strictly in accord with true union principles. Of course, we cannot wring water from a stone. The unfortunate member who falls in arrears when in the ranks of the unemployed is deserving of sympathy; but the member with the steady job has no excuse for falling behind.

Very often disgruntled unionists, when approached for dues, will exclaim, "I don't see any good in the union. What has it ever done for me?" Sometimes one man acts as the mouthpiece for a number of discontented spirits, who, if they cannot run matters to suit themselves, will do their best to prevent others from working in harmony. They pretend that the unions are of no benefit to them simply because they secured employment through their own exertions without the union's aid. Chronic discontent on the part of the unionist often leads to exultation on the part of the employer, who is generally anxious to stimulate the strife which might act as a check-rein on the militant union or subsequently help to overthrow it. Those people must remember that only a few years ago the wages of the craft, from Vancouver to San Diego, were not must more than half what they are now, besides most of them had to work twelve hours a

day, seven days a week. Then came the unions, and with them, in the course of time, higher wages and shorter hours. Yet these people say the union does no good! They but re-echo the secret desire of many employers. If the union fell to pieces tomorrow, the return to the old system would be a matter of a few weeks, which might prove satisfactory to the discontented.

Japanese restaurants still continue to increase and flourish and union men still patronize them. If the other locals of this town doubt the veracity of the above statements, let them place a picket on every Oriental and non-union house in this town. They will be astonished with results. Something must be done or unionism in this town will soon become a farce. There are some good white labor restaurants, union houses, deserving of patronage, but the Jap restaurants are five cents cheaper, and five cents buys one long beer. Only the other day the writer was discussing union matters with the proprietor of a union restaurant, who stated emphatically that he gained nothing by having a union card in his house, for he said that he didn't feed twenty union men in the twenty-four hours. In fact, he said he lost more than he gained, because if he discharged his three or four men, he could hire plenty of cheap girls at half the wage, but he prefers to keep the card. Just so long as men patronize the Japs, the latter will flourish. We see what they have done to the tailors; they will soon have all the shops owned by them, and restaurants, too. Let us hope they will get the churches also, which are partly responsible for their presence.

Bros. Forshee and Perkins, though retiring from office, still intend to be as active as ever in our behalf. Bro. Perkins will still be heard as one of our delegates to the Council, where he can work to great advantage. We hope with the assistance of the Trades and Labor Council to recover much of our lost ground and gain a firmer foothold than ever. Dull times cannot last forever. Already there is a bright speck upon the horizon—the herald of a few years of prosperity—which cannot come too quick. If the individual prospers, so must the union. If a man works eight months in a year, he is doing well, but a good many of our craft only worked about four months last year, so you can see the wave of prosperity cannot strike this town any too quick. We are anxiously awaiting its arrival. Next month we intend to publish a list of all the union hotels and restaurants in the town. We shall also have a few suggestions to make in regard to certain proprietors who have been trying to hoodwink the unions with their plausibility and insidious methods of procrastination to gain time. One man in particular deserves special attention, as he was once a member of our local. Now he runs a non-union house and refuses point blank to enter into negotiations with us, although his house is patronized by more union men than any union house in the city.

WE have the largest, cleanest and most complete stock in Mount Pleasant. We buy and sell for cash, and our prices are the lowest; while the quality of our goods is the highest. Our store is full of bargains, every day is bargain day. Come and see us; we can save you money on groceries.



**Andrews
& Nunn**

Mount Pleasant's Leading
Grocers

2333 Westminister Ave. Phone 938

Probably the question will be dealt with ere this appears in print; if not, he will receive his much merited attention in these columns in March.

WM. ELLENDER,
Press Secretary, Local No. 28.

"TEN CENTS GOOD DAY'S WAGE!"

"Ten cents a day! Why, that is good wages for the work she does!"

"The proprietor of the sweatshop at 902 South Second street, where Mrs. Sarah Arbotman has been receiving this munificent sum in return for work which has nearly worn her life away, shrugged his shoulders, and explained that if a woman works steadily, day in and day out, 'finishing pants,' she can make as much as \$1.50 a week.

"To make this sum a sweatshop worker must ply her needle and thread ceaselessly from morning until night. She must 'finish' 150 pairs of 'pants' a week—that is, she must sew on the buttons and overcast the rough edges of 150 pairs of trousers in seven days if she expects to get full pay."

Patronize Our Advertisers and Tell Them Why.

Dan Stewart & Co.

Vancouver's Leading Tailors

118 Hastings Street West

TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. MORTIMER.

By George Bartley.

The cause of humanity and industrial freedom has lost a lover; the working class has lost a friend; organized labor and Socialism has lost an aggressive champion and staunch advocate.

John T. Mortimer died in manhood's morning, while yet in love with life and the world.

Perhaps the highest and noblest tribute to his memory is the sincere and quiet sadness and sorrow that emanate from the hearts of his hosts of friends, who realized and knew that this man was a man among men.

This brave, whole-souled and tender man in every struggle of life's battle was true as steel, strong as oak, and solid as a rock; he always sided with the poor, the weak and wronged. He scaled the heights in his eagerness to promulgate and spread his principles.

While we bow to that which cannot or may not be avoided, we must bear up against the shock which was so unexpected. Yes, tragical, for John T. Mortimer was accidentally drowned at the age of 34 years. It seems astounding that our friend will forever be absent from the meetings and gatherings in which he took so active and prominent a part. But there will be many who will speak his name and tell of his rallying influences that thrilled and encouraged those who earned their bread by the sweat of their brow to be nobler men. Stand by their class and you'll remember the voice that now is stilled, and the inspiring words he so vigorously penned.

Though John T. Mortimer was a staunch Socialist and hailed as a foremost comrade by his followers, yet the trades union movement is especially indebted to him for his bold and straightforward advocacy for better wages and trade conditions at a time when to raise one's voice was to incur the enmity of the employer and capitalist class. It was, however, the privilege of "Jack," as he was affectionately called, to say that the labor problem only needs to be solved once, that organized labor, both here and in other parts of the enlightened world has reached a point from which it holds an influence over the rulers of private and public affairs at once deep and wide.

Those who ask men to ask ques-

tions, to inquire and help men and women to think freely for themselves, do the people of the state, as well as the age, good and everlasting service. John T. Mortimer aimed to do all these. He has been the means more than once to induce employer and employed to carefully and diligently study their interests, with the result—not always, but mostly always—that the wage-earners were the gainers for their anxiety and worry in the ever waging war between capitalists and laborites, but poor "Jack" generally suffered dearly for his willing and kind services.

As a public speaker and debater he was in the front rank, and always spoke logically, fluently and forcefully his honest convictions. In season and out of season he encouraged the labor press to wage a vigorous campaign against commercialism—he himself was a contributor of no mean ability.

John T. Mortimer was of the new school of unionism, and as such was far ahead of his time, but then it has always been due to young and active minds that the great and everlasting movement made any progress. Had he been spared, his life was destined to have been one of great usefulness to mankind.

Life is labor and death is rest;
May the lust lie lightly on his breast.

A. A. OF S & E. R. OF A.

The following is a list of officers for the ensuing term ending June 30th:

- President—J. Fletcher.
- Vice-President—H. Wiles.
- Treasurer—A. Taylor.
- Recording Secretary—W. W. Burrough.
- Financial Secretary—F. A. Hooper.
- Conductor—F. Jones.
- Warden—H. Leaney.
- Sentinel—J. A. Gibson.
- Executive Committee—J. Briggs, G. T. More, H. W. Harris, P. Bates; Stevenson branch, S. Thompson, D. W. Mawdersley; North Vancouver, R. Fawcett, J. T. Device; painters, J. Hargreaves; carpenters, G. Elliott; trackmen, H. W. Robison; machinists, J. E. Watkins; barnmen, T. Tokeley; armature room, C. Green.
- Delegates to Trades and Labor Council—J. Fletcher, G. Baldwin, F. H. Hoover, S. Thompson, C. Goering.
- Delegate to Juvenile Courts Association—J. A. Alkens.

WHY IS IT?

A lot of men organize to control the output of a product and thereby increase its price. That is called business.

Other men organize to protect their labor. That is called restraint of trade.

A lot of men secure the enactment of a law that will give them a premium on what they make and sell at a profit. That is called protection of industry.

Other men organize and demand that they be not discriminated against. That is called an attack upon the judiciary.

The "400" holds a function and spends \$30,000 for dainties, \$50,000 for flowers and display \$2,000,000 worth of diamonds. That is called an evidence of prosperity.

The others ask for an opportunity to work for a living wage. That is called an evidence of shiftlessness.

A body of men scheme until they get a franchise. That is called a vested right.

Another body of men asks for an equal chance before the law. That is called interference with vested rights.

One body of men organizes a big manufacturing company and exploits the labor of children. That is called business enterprise.

Another body of men insists upon abolishing child labor. They are charged with interfering with the rights of employers.

One body of men limits production. This is called business enterprise.

Another body of men forces strict apprenticeship rules. They are charged with preventing American youth from learning useful trades.

A corporation threatens to close down unless its preferred candidate is elected. That is called good business judgment.

Another organization advises its membership to vote in a certain way. That is called an effort to deliver the labor vote.

One corporation forces another corporation out of business by threats, bribery and intimidation. That is called competition.

An organization of another kind seeks by argument to prevent unfair competition. That is called labor tyranny.

Will somebody please explain why there should be this distinction without a difference in the matter of definitions—and always in favor of the corporations, the "400" and the vested rights?—The Commoner.

STREET RAILWAYMEN'S UNION.

Officers for 1909:

- President—J. Fletcher.
- Vice-president—H. Wiles.
- Recording Secretary—W. W. Burrough.
- Financial Secretary—F. Hoover.
- Treasurer—C. Taylor.
- Conductor—F. Jones.
- Warden—J. Leany.
- Sentinel—C. Flak.
- Delegates to Trades and Labor Council—F. Hoover, S. Thompson, J. Fletcher, G. Baldwin, G. Goering.

Why Not

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OWN HOME?**

WE make it easy for you. \$150 Cash, and \$20 per month will buy you a modern residence with every convenience.

\$50 Cash

and 4 half-yearly payments of \$50 each, will buy a 33 foot lot at Collingwood East, one block from car line.

You cannot afford to miss this splendid opportunity of investing in A.I. property.

SEE US ABOUT IT

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**International
Brokerage Co.**

517 PENDER ST.

JOHN SAVAGE FRANK WILCOX

TROTTER'S MISSION.

W. R. Trotter's mission in the old country should result in a closer relationship and understanding between the organized labor forces of Canada and the old land. That the same problems are presented for solution to the workers of Canada as elsewhere is being emphasized; and that the swindles of unscrupulous labor-skinning agencies is being exposed by Organizer Trotter, seems evident, if one can judge by the publicity aroused in the old country press. It ought soon to be patent, even to wage-earners, that neither emigration or immigration will solve the problem of unemployment. To shift the unemployed from one country to another merely transfers the scene of men and women starving in the midst of nature's plenty. The cause of unemployment is international. The natural resources of the earth, and the machinery of production and distribution, are in the hands of a comparatively few men. These few become, as a consequence of that ownership, the employing class. To the employing class accrues all the benefits of the genius of the past in the highly-developed machinery of wealth production. The more modern and productive the machine, the less labor required. The less labor needed, the more job-seekers. The more out-of-work, the lower the wage. The lower the wage, the more profit—for the man who owns the product of the labor he buys, when the whistle blows. The less wage, the less purchasing power. The less purchasing power, the less market. The less markets, the less profit. Less profit, less employment, for wage-earners. And all this because industry today is only operated—wealth can only be produced—when the owning class can command profit. If, some day, the propertyless wage-workers of the world take a notion to acquire the OWNERSHIP of their means of life, it would only be in obedience to the mandate of self-preservation. It must either result in such a social change or self-destruction of the only useful class in society, the working class. To know and understand just what is now going on in the proletarian world is a privilege; but to be a member of an organized working class intelligently and diligently seeking to bring about such a change is one of the loftiest ambitions man could fall heir to. Once the wage-earners of the world can rise superior to their sordid environment of uncertain drudgery for a mere animal existence, and take advantage of the many lessons now being taught them, there will soon be a change in their vote. The workers gave; the workers can take away. This accomplished, the bread and butter question will mean no more to the world than does today the acquisition of water and air. Then, for the first time in human history, man will be industrially free. Free, because things will be produced for use, not for profit. There will be a "dividing up"—of the hours of labor, and it will be the privilege of every man to contribute to society; each to receive in return according to deed. The pres-

ent day problem confronting the workers of the world will then have been solved. On with that day!

R. P. P.

Profit-sharing frame-ups on the part of corporations are calculated to inculcate the "we" idea in the minds of employees. Once get the wage-earner to believe that it is "our" plant or system; and the tendency will be to alienate attention from the aims and objects of organization. Then, too, when the question of enforcing demands for the removal of certain abuses or a betterment of conditions arises, the "property instinct" will most assuredly assert itself. All of which goes to prove that any program on the part of Labor which does not include the participation of ALL the workers, is at least of a questionable quantity. The growing conviction in favor of municipal, provincial or federal ownership is assuming proportions almost threatening to "vested interests," and any move on the part of corporations to thwart or chloroform such progress, must be viewed with suspicion by the workers as a class.

INCORPORATED 1869

THE Royal Bank of Canada

6 Branches in Vancouver

21 Branches in British
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Saving Money
IS LIKE FINDING IT

YOU'LL SAVE MONEY
AND LOTS OF IT BY
BUYING

*"Everything
to Eat" at*

EDGETT'S

THE GREATEST
VALUE POSSIBLE
FOR YOUR MON-
EY

A Store Full of Bargains

THE
H. A. EDGETT CO.,
LTD.

"The Store of Plenty"

"REWARD OUR FRIENDS" AND—

The jail sentences passed on the officers of the American Federation of Labor have raised another storm of indignation indicative of the childlike simplicity prevailing among the workers. There is, however, no real justification for any complaint from the members of organized labor generally, and the complaints indicate a deplorable lack of knowledge of the function of government.

For years the American workingmen (Canadian as well) have been electing representative to Congress or Parliament for the alleged purpose of representing the interests of the people. Having a lack of faith in the abilities of workmen, they have from time to time filled the legislative halls with numbers of employers of labor, or their allies, the lawyers. These gentlemen have found it necessary in the interests of the public to pass certain laws, the majority of which appear to be in the interests of the representatives, instead of their constituents. Every four years these representatives come back to

give an account of their stewardship and the necessity for passing the legislation enacted into law during the preceding term. The workers being largely in the majority, are, of course, the ones to whom the explanation is made. Occasionally the explanation is found to be unsatisfactory and a change is made in the representative, the ex-member being carefully provided for by his appointment as postmaster, etc. The logical conclusion is that the workers, after a trial of employers and lawyers extending over two or three generations, would recognize the fallacy of continuing in office men who continue to make their conditions worse, and then publish elaborate books of statistics, showing in what direction and the percentage of injury to each section of the community, but no, they continue in the old beaten track, despite the fact that workers are put forward who have a full knowledge of the conditions confronting labor and the only method of securing for them the full reward of their toil.

The continued vote of approval and re-election given the representatives has led them to believe their actions and enactments are satisfactory to the people, and naturally they insist on the laws being carried out to the letter.

The injunction law that has caused all the hubbub during the past week, resulting in a considerably increased revenue for the telegraph companies by the sending of thousands of messages of condolence to President Gompers and messages of protest to President Roosevelt was passed previous to the last election in the United States, and the workers signified by their votes their approval of the law, even against the advice of their leaders. It is perfectly reasonable to suppose that the Republican government feels perfectly safe in enforcing penalties for violations thereof, on account of the overwhelming majority with which the workers elected them, and they undoubtedly use the same lines of reasoning adopted by Mr. Gompers when any part of the federation falls to comply with the laws as laid down by the majority of the membership, namely, the power to enforce.

The time for making the protests of a verbal nature has long since passed, the capitalists are too strongly entrenched to pay any attention to any protest, except it comes in the form of men, armed with a mandate, the fulfillment of which will secure to the workers the full products of their labor, and until we are in a position to take this action let us accept the punishment we so rightfully deserve with the best grace possible, and show the world we are not afraid to pay for our mistakes, and use the experience gained to make our protest effective when the occasion arises.

The Trades and Labor Congress Executive, accompanied by delegates elected by a number of local unions, will leave for Victoria on Sunday, February 14th, for the purpose of interviewing the Provincial Government in connection with labor legislation.

For a first-class meal,
first-class music and
a first-class cafe,

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Teas**

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this side of the At-
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KURTZ'S PIONEERS
SPANISH BLOSSOMS**

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Q ARE made of the highest grade Havana Tobacco by Union Workmen in Kurtz's Cigar Factory.

72 Water St. - - - Vancouver, B.C.

Ask for them and see that you get them.

"CHILDHOOD."

(By Eugene V. Debs.)

What emotions the recollection of childhood inspires, and how priceless its treasured memories in our advancing and declining years!

Laughing eyes and curly hair, little brown hands and bare feet, innocent and care-free, trusting and loving, tender and pure, what an elevating and satisfying influence these little gods have upon our maturer years!

Childhood! What a holy theme! Flowers they are, with souls in them, and if on this earth man has a sacred charge, a solemn obligation, it is to these buds and blossoms of humanity.

Yet how many of them are prematurely plucked, fade and die and are trampled in the mire. Many millions of them have been snatched from the cradle and stolen from their play to be fed to the forces that turn a working-man's blood into a capitalist's gold, and many millions of others have been crushed and perverted into filth for the slums and food for the potter's field.

Childhood is the parting of the ways which lead to success or failure, honor or disgrace, life or death. Society is, or ought to be, profoundly concerned in the nature of the environment that is to mold the character and determine the career of its children, and any remissness in such duty is rebuked by the most painful of penalties, and these are inflicted with increasing severity upon the people of the United States.

Childhood is the most precious charge of the family and the community, but our capitalist civilization sacrifices it ruthlessly to satisfy its brutal lust for pelf and power, and the march of its conquest is stained with the blood of infants and paved with the puny bones of children.

What shall the harvest be?

The millions of children crushed and slain in the conquest of capitalism have not died in vain. From their little graves all over this fair land they are springing up, as it were, against the system that murdered

them and pronouncing upon it, in the name of God and humanity, the condemnation of death.—Bricklayers and Mason's Journal.

MEMBER OF COMPANY MUST PAY WAGES.

Decision of Great Importance to the Workmen Given by an Albertan Judge.

Recently at Edmonton a judgment that is of considerable importance to laboring men in the province was handed out at the district court by His Honor Judge Taylor.

This was in the case of some 18 members of the employes of the United Collieries Company against two directors of that company for wages due them, amounting to some \$700.

Judgment was given in the case for the miners.

This was a test case and provides that laborers and wage-earners may collect the wages due them from any or all of the directors of a joint stock company in the event of that company failing.—People's Press.

AN ARMY CONTRACT.

A herculean Scots Grey, passing along Princess street, Edinburgh, one day, stopped at the Post Office and called on a shoemaker to shine his boots. The feet of the dragoon were in proportion to his height, and, looking at the tremendous boots before him, the arab knelt down on the pavement and called out to a chum near by—"Jaimie, come owre and gie's a han.' I've got an army contract.

PAID TO ADVERTISE.

A Kansas man is convinced that it pays to advertise. He advertised for a lost five dollar bill, and a friend finding one on the street, gave it to him. A few days later the original supposedly lost bill turned up in an old vest pocket. He treated the boy and says he will advertise again.

ODE TO THE KNOCKER.

Put the hammer in the locker,
Hide the sounding board likewise,
Anyone can be a knocker—
Anyone can criticize;
Cultivate a manner winning,
Though it hurts your face to smile,
And seems awkward in beginning—
Be a booster for a while.

Let the blacksmith do the pounding—
That's the way he draws his pay,
You don't get a cent for pounding
Saint and sinner night and day;
Just for solid satisfaction
Drop a kind word in the slot,
And I'll warrant you'll get action
On your efforts on the spot.

Kindness every time beats knocking—
Mirth is better than a frown,
Do not waste your time in picking
Flaws with brothers who are down;
And it isn't so distressing
If you'll give a little boost
To the man the fates are pressing
When the chicks come home to roost.

Yes, the world would be brighter
If you'd kindle friendship's flame,
And thus make troubles lighter
Of the man against the game;
Send your grouch on a vacation
Give your grumbling tones the shake
And with grim determination
Throw your hammer in the lake.
—Exchange.

BUILDERS LABORERS' UNION.

Officers elected for 1909:

President—John Sully.
Vice-president—R. J. Stalker.
Secretary—G. Payne.
Financial Secretary—H. Whitesides.
Treasurer—J. Cosgrove.
Auditors and Trustees—John Stewart, W. Walford, Jos. Lacey.
Accident Committee—J. Stewart, R. J. Stalker, W. Walford.
Guard—H. Sellers.
Conductor—Jos. Lacey.
Delegates to Trades and Labor Council—H. Sellers, R. J. Stalker, Jos. Lacey, F. Bridge, Geo. E. Payne.

An Iron Trades Council has been organized in the city and all of the more important organizations have affiliated their membership. The charter was issued by the metal trades branch of the A. F. of L.

CAMPBELL & GRIFFIN

Gents' Furnishings

UNION MADE GOODS
A SPECIALTY

144 CORDOVA ST.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

Printorial circles throughout western Canada are quiet just now, especially in the job end. The labor market is probably not glutted, but there is less than full time being worked in many towns.

Some Journal correspondent has suggested that no more new apprentices be taken on in newspaper offices for a period of, say two years. While, ostensibly, this may mean a move in the hope that apprentices would "graduate" from job offices, in reality it is an instinctive mandate from a labor market that threatens the price (wages) of our commodity, labor power. And what's more, it's the proper thing to do under the circumstances.

Winnipeg is blazing the way for better things in the future by again organizing a vigorous label campaign. President J. C. Bleaken has been placed in charge of the work, and is making a noise along correct lines.

Vancouver typos have been so busy "investigating" chapel conditions of late that the label seems to have got lost in the shuffle. However, as things assume their normal condition the allied trades council may get on the job again.

The local pressmen have also been doing some inventory taking which should result in "bringing to" a major portion of its membership. Another case of that old complaint—"those who will may do the work."

Every member of a union is co-equally responsible with any officer for the success of an organization. To attempt to shove the responsibility for lack of discipline and neglect of duty onto an officer is either a tribute to the officer's strength or the membership's weakness. That old fable about "the woman, she gave it me," should be no part of the philosophy of a union membership. If an officer fails in his duty it is up to every member to see that he is replaced by a live one. To do otherwise and then belly-ache between meetings is the quintessence of inconsistency.

Oriental printing offices are on the increase, and one Chinese shop, which uses American type, is constantly adding to its plant. This because of the patronage of patriotic bourgeois.

Fernie, B. C., has sent in a petition for a charter. Its membership previously worked under the jurisdiction of Cranbrook, B. C. The real principle underlying the International Typographical Union was manifested just after the terrible fire disaster which befell Fernie last July, in which our membership was left penniless, homeless and jobless. A prompt contribution of \$500 from the executive council certainly made some happy wives and babes. After all, there is more in the tie that binds the membership of our organization than the mere question of wages and hours of labor.

At the recent convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, held at Halifax, the typographical union was well represented, though only two eastern locals sent delegates. This congress, by the way, has now affiliated with it a Canadian member-

ship of nearly 150,000; eighteen international unions, including the printers, paying the per capita from headquarters.

Nor is the congress a trade organization; that is left to the American Federation of Labor. It is a legislative body, and seeks to secure and protect legislation in the interests of wage-earners.

Three years ago, at Victoria, B. C., this representative body of Canadian unionists declared for absolute independent political action, and has each year since reaffirmed and endorsed that position—one which the American Federation of Labor might profitably take into consideration.

The congress, in itself, is not a political party, but has relegated that function to each province, they to determine for themselves what is to be the concrete expression of their independent political action. At representative conventions held in British Columbia and Alberta the Socialist party of Canada was accepted, and every constituency contested by organized labor in western Canada last month was under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada. That the results have justified this action is beyond question. But of this more anon.

Organized labor in western Canada has heard the warning alarm; it is drowsily raising its head, now peering at the time of day; now on its elbow; now sitting up with one foot on the floor, and sort of rubbing its eyes—wondering why it had slept so long. Once on its feet, dressed and ready for the broad light of day, it will mean an end to the hideous nightmare for labor—and result in industrial freedom. This because the outcome of the present class struggle will be the social revolution. By political force the working class will wrest from the capitalist class the reins of government and will use the powers of state to legislate in its own interests. The means of wealth production, now the collective property of the capitalist class, will be made the collective property of the whole people. By that stroke classes will be abolished and all shall be workers. Wage slavery will be overthrown and labor power cease to be a commodity. Production will be for use and not for profit. Government of persons will die out and be replaced by an administration of things. The workers, being the owners of the means of production, will be the owners of the wealth produced, individually to enjoy what they collectively produce.—R. P. Pettipiece, in *Typographical Journal*.

The trades particularly interested in "label agitation" should get busy and "boost" the Label League. The Wage-earner will be pleased to publish a list of firms selling "union labor products" and the particular line each firm sells.

General satisfaction is being expressed on account of the decision of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters to affiliate with the Trades Council. The election of delegates is now in progress.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

Local No. 617.

Officers for 1909:

President—P. W. Dowler.
Vice-president—M. McKenzie.
Recording Secretary—S. W. O'Brien.
Treasurer—James Robinson.
Financial Secretary—S. Kernighan.
Warden—J. McDonald.
Conductor—Alex. Fraser.
Trustees—A. B. Murray, Geo. Worth, Alex. Conacher.

Delegates to the Trades and Labor Council—P. W. Dowler, Geo. W. Williams, S. W. O'Brien, James Campbell, S. Kernighan.

Delegates to Building Trades—A. H. Richmond, G. W. Williams, P. J. McLeod, J. Schurman, S. W. O'Brien, W. James.

Business Agent—S. Kernighan.
Executive Committee—P. W. Dowler, S. W. O'Brien, G. W. Williams, D. McKinnon, S. Kernighan.

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go to

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to our wide range of Clean Cut Tools, Stanley's Yankee Tools, a brand which is well known to all expert joiners.

Our Prices Are Right

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LTD.**

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NEW WESTMINSTER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL IN SESSION.

After hearing the report of the delegation which had just previously waited on the school board, the New Westminster Trades and Labor Council, at its regular monthly meeting, held in the I. O. O. F. Hall on Friday night, January 15th, passed a resolution approving the action of the board on the night school. Mr. T. Gifford, M.L.A., will be asked by the council to support the project. The delegates comprised Mr. Thomas Turnbull, Mr. Ralph Wilson and Mr. David Boyle.

In reporting the interview, Delegate Turnbull said that Trustee Peck had read a small list of the commercial course. The subjects were elementary. He had suggested that the High School should charge a small fee instead of turning out the teachers, for only about ten per cent. of the pupils were able to take advantage of the opportunities that were thus offered.

Delegate Wilson observed that the board was pleased to have the assistance of the Trades and Labor Council. It strengthened the hands of the board in its dealings with the provincial government.

Delegate Boyle pointed out that at present the government gave no person or board power to assist night schools.

Delegate Boyle presented the report of the deputation that waited on the city council with a request that the system of compiling the lists of voters be altered so as greatly to simplify matters.

Delegate C. Feeney read the resolu-

tion on the matter passed at the recent meeting of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities at Vernon.

On motion of Delegate R. A. Stoney, it was decided to submit a draft amendment of these resolutions to the British Columbia executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The executive of the congress will wait on the provincial government shortly after the opening of the legislature in Victoria.

Prepare Resolutions.

Mr. R. A. Stoney announced that the provincial executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada would shortly wait upon the government at Victoria. If any remedial measures were desired, the delegates should call them to the attention of the council at once.

It was determined again to write to the deputy minister of labor at Ottawa asking him to appoint the secretary of this council as correspondent to the Labor Gazette. The city unions have long been endeavoring to secure the consent of the department to have a representative labor man appointed as correspondent. At present this position is being held by a man outside of the ranks of labor and not a resident of New Westminster. So far no reply has been vouchsafed the union men by Ottawa.

Cooks and Waiters.

Arising out of correspondence Delegate R. A. Stoney stated that there had formerly been a local union of cooks and waiters in the city, and it seemed that they had surrendered or allowed their charter to fall in abeyance. He understood that an effort would be made to reorganize at an early date. A letter suggesting that this should be done was referred to the organizing committee.

The committee which is inquiring into the need of a labor hall was reminded of the number of halls shortly to be vacated, and urged that the committee should become active at once to make arrangements with the proprietors. The present K. of P. and Orange Halls were mentioned as becoming vacant shortly.

The plumbers had not much to regret in the past month in the state of their trade, and other trades showed themselves doing well, except the carpenters, who were slack as customary at this time of year. Conditions would improve, said Delegate V. Johndro, with the opening of the spring.

The parliamentary committee will draft a set of resolutions for submission to the provincial government by the British Columbia executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

The council is determined to straighten out matters at the city hall, the management of which, it is claimed, has become too much under the control of the board of trade. It is desired that the public bodies of the city should be entitled to the use of the hall on equal terms.

A resolution of condolence with the widow of the late Delegate F. H. Johnstone was passed. It was also

decided to drape the charter for 30 days in respect of his memory.

Officers Elected.

The following officers were elected: President, Charles Feeney (Street Railwaymen); vice-president, James Wood (Typographical); treasurer, H. Schofield (Bartenders); sergeant-at-arms, D. Bell (Plumbers); board of trustees, T. Turnbull (Carpenters), D. Boyle (Barbers), and J. P. McMurphy (Plumbers); executive, J. J. Randolph (Barbers shrdlu omoc—mvrndolph (Typographical), and W. J. Scott (Cigarmakers), and the other officers of the council.

The president then appointed the following standing committees: Organization and grievance, R. A. Stoney, D. Boyle and R. Wilson; municipal, T. Turnbull, W. Dodd, D. Boyle, H. Knudsen and D. Bell; parliamentary and legislation, W. Dodd, J. Wood, L. Netherby, J. Bacon, D. Rogers, E. Smith, H. Schofield, T. Turnbull, R. Wilson and V. Johndro.

The retiring president, J. J. Randolph, installed the officers.

Addresses were delivered by the retiring president, and the newly elected officers.

The Crow's Nest Lodge of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen held a most successful meeting last month at Cranbrook, at which officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Past master, C. P. Kronning; master, Fred. Bennett; vice-master, Hugh Cameron; financier, Frank Sainsbury; secretary, Hugh Fitzsimmons; delegate to the B. of R. T. convention at Cleveland, Ohio, Fred. Bennett; alternate delegate, F. Sainsbury. The lodge has concluded a most successful first year, starting in December, 1907, with a charter membership of ten and closing the year with a membership of 55. The lodge finances are in first-class shape.

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tive unions, to whom they must be
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VANCOUVER, B.C., FEBRUARY, 1909

INTRODUCTORY.

With this issue of the "Western
Wage-earner," the Vancouver Trades
and Labor Council break gently into
the limelight as the first Council in
Canada to own and publish their official
organ.

Until the present, organized labor
has relied on others to publish a paper
in which their views could be ex-
clusively expressed, and latterly this
policy has been injurious to the Coun-
cil, organized labor generally and to
the advertising public, many unauthor-
ized schemes being foisted on the
public in the name of labor.

The Council assume all the unex-
pired subscriptions of the "Trade
Unionist," which formerly had the en-
dorsement of the central labor body,
and this list, together with the prom-
ises of immediate support received
from several of the larger organiza-
tions, will enable us to reach a large
percentage of the members of organ-
ized labor in this city and throughout
the province immediately.

The policy of the paper will be of
an educational nature, and until every
worker realizes his true worth in
human society and the necessity of
securing control of the state by con-
stitutional means—the ballot box—our
mission will not be fulfilled.

Are you registered on the voters'
lists—municipal and provincial—yet?

THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY FOR CIVIC EMPLOYEES.

The action of the citizens in endors-
ing the plebiscite submitted at the
request of the Vancouver Trades &
Labor Council is to be heartily com-
mended, but in spite of the over-
whelming majority recorded in favor
of the eight-hour day, the City Coun-
cil seem disposed to shirk the respon-
sibility by stating that the men con-
cerned, or the Trades Council should
be consulted before the hours and the
pay are reduced.

If the exigencies were such as to
necessitate a reduction of the hours
on account of lack of work, we do
not think the citizens would have
been consulted, and when the Council
found it necessary to ask for the ap-
proval of the rate-payers, we are clear-
ly of the opinion that they did so with
the idea that no reduction of pay was
to take place if the plebiscite was
passed by the electorate.

Although Mayor Douglas could not
be called a shorter work-day enthusi-
ast, he did endorse the eight-hour day
during the recent campaign, and we
feel sure he did so with a full knowl-
edge that the feeling was strongly in
favor of not reducing the already small
daily wage of the men engaged on
civic work.

If the men concerned were employ-
ed as operators of machines and the
reduction of hours necessitated a
large expenditure for new machinery
to allow of extra workers being em-
ployed to maintain a given number
of work hours per day, we would un-
derstand that there should be some
hesitancy on the part of the city
authorities in reducing the hours, but
in this case the major part of the work
is hand labor, and a reduction of
hours will (during the winter months)
allow of the working hours being ar-
ranged to suit the light, resulting in
about the same amount of work be-
ing accomplished in eight hours of
daylight as was formerly done in 7½
hours daylight and 1½ hours dark-
ness.

The city authorities cannot expect
to employ workmen for longer hours
and less money than other municipali-
ties or other independent employers
and in the face of the action taken by
Burnaby recently and the fact that
a majority of men engaged in the
building trades have for years worked
only eight hours per day, we feel
that the citizens intended the hours
to be reduced and the pay maintained
at the present daily wage.

The "Vancouver World" commented

editorially on the question as follows:

"We were quite under the impres-
sion that the recent plebiscite showed
"that the people of Vancouver were
"in favor of a reduction of the hours
"of the civic employes from nine to
"eight. The view taken at the City
"Hall, however, seems to be that they
"voted for a reduction of wages. In
"other words, the mandate of the citi-
"zens of Vancouver is to be evaded
"on the ground that it was ambiguous,
"that, in fact, the rate-payers did not
"know what they were voting for.
"This contention, however, will not
"hold for a moment. If it were merely
"proposed to change the working hours
"with a corresponding reduction of
"pay, there was no need to take a
"plebiscite at all, and certainly one
"ought not to have been taken until
"the men had had an opportunity of
"stating their views on the subject.
"Surely it is self-evident that to re-
"duce the wages with the hours would
"work a hardship on many of the men.
"What with lost time owing to bad
"weather, he is a lucky laborer who
"averages fifty dollars a month the
"year round, and no one will contend
"that fifty dollars a month is an ex-
"cessive sum on which to maintain
"a wife and family. Unless the city
"is to be a parasite employer, obtain-
"ing its labor without paying the full
"cost of production and maintenance,
"however, the wages paid ought to be
"such as will permit a man to marry
"and bring up children. We do not
"think the people of Vancouver voted
"to reduce this already meagre sum,
"and if they did not, they voted in
"favor of a reduction of hours pure
"and simple without any idea of ac-
"companying it with a reduction of
"pay, recognizing the validity of the
"argument that the amount of work
"done in eight hours is equal to the
"amount of work done in nine hours.
"It seems to us, therefore, that it is
"the business of the City Council, not
"to ask the Trades and Labor Coun-
"cil and the men themselves if they
"will work eight hours a day for
"eight-ninths of their present pay, but
"to institute the eight-hour day forth-
"with and leave the pay where it is."

The Dominion Trades Congress have
again engaged Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue
as "lobbyist" during the present ses-
sion of the Dominion Parliament. The
money spent in "begging" might be
used to better advantage by placing
organizers in the field to instruct the
workers how to get results and have
the Government pay the expenses.

Patronize Our Advertisers and Tell Them Why.

LESSONS FOR THE WORKER.

The re-election of Mr. Hawthornthwaite to the Provincial Legislature by the citizens of Nanaimo recently was without doubt the finest exhibition of working-class solidarity ever seen in Canada, or, indeed, in the British Empire.

Although only a bye-election, the eyes of the workers of the Dominion watched anxiously for the result, though knowing at the same time that nothing could defeat Hawthornthwaite if his followers did not become over-confident and fail to register their choice at the ballot box.

Previous experiences have proven the fallacy of the "old parties" hoping to defeat him in a three-cornered fight, and profiting by their experiences they accordingly nominated only one candidate, he to receive the support of both parties.

Even this arrangement failed to materially affect the result, and Hawthornthwaite emerges from the contest with a majority of 283 votes.

While some may disagree with the views held by Mr. Hawthornthwaite, there will be no disagreement when we say "Jim" is the most able and willing representative of labor in the country.

Well may Premier McBride say, "Hawthornthwaite takes up half of the time of the House with his labor legislation," for during his time in the legislature he has introduced sixty-nine different acts, or amendments to legislation already on the statutes.

His services are always at the command of the needy, whether it be some poor rancher, or some labor organization desiring changes in the law, and never has he been known to introduce any legislation that would not (if passed) temporarily improve the conditions of the masses.

It may seem ridiculous, but it is nevertheless a fact, that the Vancouver unions send the major part of their troubles to him for adjustment, although they elect five representatives from their own constituency who are supposed to represent our interests in the legislative halls of the province.

Instead of busying themselves with the interests of the masses and trying to alleviate the conditions of the unemployed by spending some of the famous "surplus" in new work, they turn over a considerable amount to the Salvation Army to aid in the importation of more people to further intensify the misery of those out of employment.

A considerable portion of Mr. Haw-

thornthwaite's time has been taken up trying to minimize the harm done by Finance Minister Tatlow, but despite the exposures made, both here, in Eastern Canada and Great Britain, the genial captain returns from the old country with glowing accounts of the number of emigrants he and Col. Lamb are to bring out in the near future.

To succeed in misleading the workers of the old land it became necessary to tell a number of palpable falsehoods, and the word of the government officials apparently not bearing sufficient weight, the mayor of Vancouver is persuaded to assist in the misrepresentation of actual conditions. The following clipping from an old country publication is self-explanatory:

The Labor Outlook in B. C.

The Hon. R. G. Tatlow on the Question

The Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of finance and agriculture for British Columbia, just before he sailed, had his attention called by a representative of "Canada" to certain alarmist statements made in a London newspaper, and said:

"Last winter, as you know, things were generally bad, but not so much so in British Columbia as elsewhere, especially in the United States to the south. Consequently large numbers of unemployed flocked across the line

Gordon, Drysdale Limited

Invite the inspection of
their New Spring Suits

THE stock now represents a good collection of the season's most favored styles, including the most popular weaves and shades. Before making a selection we ask that you call and be shown our models which, although exclusive are very moderately priced.

Follow our advertisements in the daily papers and watch our window displays, both will prove interesting from now on.

575 Granville St. Vancouver, B.C.

into British Columbia, overstocking the labor market for the time being. The Canadian Pacific Railway had also given a cheap trip from the Northwest, and many of the laborers who went out for the harvest came on to us instead of returning to Ontario. It was in order to keep the people in the country when we once had them that we commenced a lot of work that would otherwise have waited until the opening of spring. Another factor was that, owing to the tightness of money, the sawmills had to suspend or curtail operations, and as lumbering is one of the great distributors of money in the coast districts this increased the difficulty by throwing a large number out of work. This, I hope, will not occur again, as with the returns from the recent large crop in the Northwest, the demand for lumber should increase greatly after the new year, and consequently I do not anticipate any such distress as the Daily News foreshadows."

To the Editor of Canada: Sir—Very misleading statements respecting the labor conditions in British Columbia have recently appeared in certain English newspapers, in the form of telegrams from Vancouver (unsigned) to the effect that there is a large body of unemployed and much distress there. In order to ascertain the truth I cabled to the British Columbia Government, and have now received the following reply from the mayor of Vancouver. I may add that the only time that there has been any distress in Vancouver was during the winter of 1907-8, when owing to the panic in

Patronize Our Advertisers and Tell Them Why.

the adjoining United States to the south, some 2,000 to 3,000 workmen, attracted by the better conditions existing in British Columbia, rushed over to Vancouver, and this sudden addition in the depth of winter to a population of some 75,000, naturally caused trouble, which, however, was speedily adjusted.

J. H. TURNER.

Agent-General for British Columbia.
London, December 10th.

(Cable from mayor of Vancouver.)

"Vancouver, December 7th.

"Report absolutely incorrect. Conditions as to unemployed are normal for this season of the year.

A. BETHUNE, Mayor."

To the uninitiated the interviews may appear as broad-minded statements of fact, but to those in close touch with conditions in this province they will appear as deliberate attempts to misrepresent the number of men actually out of work. To any one questioning the statement that there are a large number of men unemployed in this province and city, let them visit some of the places where temporary work is going on, and the number applying and waiting for work will be found at least twice as large as the number working.

How much longer are the workers of this province and city going to allow this condition of affairs to exist? Surely we have received enough lessons. Some one has said, "As you sow, so shall you reap." This logic applies equally as well to parliamentary representatives as to the fruits of the earth. Let us see to it that we sow a better class of representatives when seeding time again arrives.

"By labor power or capacity for labor is to be understood the aggregate of those mental and physical capabilities existing in a human mind, which he exercises when he produces a use value of any description."—Marx.

Red Cross Drug Store



We make a specialty of filling prescriptions.

QUALITY always the best.

PRICES always reasonable, never high.

A. J. GORDON, M.D.

Prescription Specialist

53 Cordova St. Vancouver, B. C.

PHONE 1888

SPRING SUITS

THE LATEST NOVELTIES IN NEW
SPRING SUITS ARE NOW SHOWN

Children's suits

We have the finest range in the city of Boy's Suits and Furnishings.

UNION LABEL Hats, Overalls, etc. always in Stock.

Clubb & Stewart

TELEPHONE 702

309-315 HASTINGS W.

CONDITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Every fourteenth person in the city of London, Eng., a pauper, and every sixteenth person in the British Isles receiving charity from the government, either as paupers or as old-age pensioners.

These startling figures have come to light as a result of investigations of the British government in connection with a "Pension Act" made effective on January 1st of this year. Each recurring period of depression, with the ever-increasing amount of poverty usually results in the Government grasping at a straw at the eleventh hour in an effort to popularize themselves with the electorate, but the remedial legislation does not keep pace with the rapidly changing industrial conditions, and the attempts at improvement are usually abortive.

The present measure provides that men over seventy years of age, who have never accepted public charity, never been in prison, never incurred dozens of other disabilities, or do not enjoy a revenue of more than \$1.92 per week shall be paid the magnificent sum of \$1.20 per week.

Despite the enforcement of these rigorous conditions, there are already \$500,000 people entitled to the 5 "L.S." per week, although a large number of those entitled to grants have not yet put in an appearance.

Legislation of this kind necessarily requires an increase in the rate of taxation, but strange to say, the daily press states that the "vested interests" are not opposed to the increased rate of taxation.

The objection made by them is against the parade of 2,000,000 paupers every week on their way to se-

cure the pittance on which they are to subsist during the following seven days. No particular objection is taken to the condition existing, but there must be no parade of the fact, for fear business and "vested interests" might be injured.

The real danger, however, is the fear that the unemployed workers will follow the example of those who have already confiscated the estate of one of England's largest land owners and convert a still larger amount of property to a legitimate use, the sustenance of the people.

No country in the world offers such a splendid field for the trial of these "palliatives" as Great Britain, on account of the small territory into which millions of workers are crowded. This causes the ineffectiveness of any measure to become generally known quickly, and while this last attempt may appeal to some as a measure of great importance, it has one virtue, it draws the attention of the British worker to the necessity of selecting more representatives to Parliament who understand the cause of this terrible poverty and the only remedy for it.

The signs of the times point to a complete upheaval in the old land, and if the "Pension Act" is the best the Government of Great Britain has to offer to relieve the millions of unemployed, the sooner the tacit admission of inability is accepted by the workers the better for themselves, in fact the better for everyone, for the poor cannot be expected to starve in the midst of plenty and eventually they will rise and take that which they have produced, but which they are unable to buy back.

"HANG TOGETHER, OR BE HANGED SEPARATELY."

For years past the officers and members of trade unions have failed to grasp the importance of federating their forces more closely together in the common interests of all, but the following circular, issued by one of the many branches of the hydra-headed Employers' Association, tells employers in plain language how to still further prevent the advancement of organized labor.

While the circular is issued by the "railroad department," the sentiment contained therein can be taken as universal in all branches of industry, and now that the value of discord and strife to the employer has been pointed out, the worker should readily see that the opposite policy is the only one to be pursued, if any progress is to be made against the ever-increasing combinations of capital. Wherever dual organizations exist or where jurisdictional fights are in progress, a settlement should be secured immediately, even if the officers of both sides have to be dethroned in the interests of harmony. The interests of the workers are always identical, despite the wide breaches that apparently exist between different sections, and if any real progress is to be made against the further encroachments of employers' associations and bodies of that nature, every petty difference will have to be swept away and the workers will have to unite on the political as well as the industrial field.

RAILROAD DEPARTMENT,
Cleveland, Ohio, U. S. A.

THE MANUFACTURERS INFORMATION BUREAU CO.

Mr. J. K. Turner, President.
The Railway Employees' Department,
Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 5th, 1908.

The inauguration of the Railway Employees' Department of the American Federation of Labor at Denver last month is a significant movement, which unquestionably signifies a renewal of labor agitation among the railway employes in the next six months.

The various orders interested in the new federation are the order of Railway Telegraphers, Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders, International Freight Handlers, International Association of Machinists, International Association of Car Workers, International Brotherhood of

Blacksmiths, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, International Association of Steamfitters, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and the Switchmen's Union of North America.

For a number of years past the old-line brotherhoods not affiliated with the federation have been endeavoring to establish a federation of the five grand brotherhoods. The first meeting was held in Toledo about three years ago, and the developments of that meeting indicated a live interest in the proposition, but no definite action was taken at that time. Since then these efforts have been continued, and the foremost movers in the work were Morrissey of the Trainmen and Hannahan of the Firemen. The American Federation of Labor officials for the last two years have been endeavoring to enforce an affiliation to the federation on the part of the brotherhoods without success. The two conservative brotherhoods, namely, the engineers and conductors, being the stumbling block in the way of affiliation, and developments for the past two years indicate on the part of Morrissey and Hannahan an effort to dominate the movement, Morrissey endeavoring to merge the conductors with the trainmen, and Hannahan the engineers with the firemen.

This has been a fortunate development from the standpoint of common sense, and the development for the last six months, which eliminated Hannahan from the movement for personal reasons, and the elimination of Morrissey, which will take place in January, clears the atmosphere in that direction, and leaves the control of the brotherhoods in the hands of conservative leaders. These facts, taken into consideration, makes the action at Denver doubly significant. The two organizations of carmen, headed by Ronemus and Richardson, having been brought together at Denver, and their differences in a measure healed, would indicate that but one organization of car workers may be in the field in the next year. Flannery and Braggins, of the freight handlers and clerks, respectively, who

have been at loggerheads for years, have buried the hatchet at Denver, and it behooves the railway management throughout the United States to watch this new organization and prevent their ever obtaining sufficient strength to hold the balance of power.

The most important work facing the railway management at the present time, in the estimation of the writer, should be directed to prevent the merging of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen and the International Association of Car Workers, for, in the division of power of these two organizations, has resulted comparative peace; hence it would seem desirable to prevent, as far as possible, this merger. The significance of the legislation enacted at Denver is that it has been along the lines advocated by the Socialists and Industrial Workers of the World, whose attitude and claim for recognition has been industrial unionism in place of trade autonomy.

In the formation of this Railway Employees' Department at Denver upward of half a million organized workers are pledged to the support of the rules and regulations yet to be adopted. Since the convention adjourned, the sum of \$25,000 has been provided for by special assessments levied upon the various organizations for the purpose of providing funds to establish this movement on a sound economic basis.

LOCAL UNITED FEDERAL UNION NO. 23.

United Federal Labor Union No. 23 has elected and installed the following officers for the year 1909:

- President—Bro. J. Nesbitt (re-elected 3rd term).
- Vice-president—Bro. F. Musk.
- Secretary—Bro. I. Gowler (re-elected 3rd term).
- Treasurer—Bro. R. C. Alexander (re-elected, 2nd term).
- Conductor—Bro. J. Brown.
- Warden—Bro. S. Byrnes.
- Trustees—Bros. W. Little (6th term re-elected), and Bro. V. Pugh.

YOU OWE IT

to your wife to buy her a Gas Range. You have every labor-saving device known to the trade, to assist you in your business.

WHY?

should she be expected to labor all day every day, when by installing a Gas Range her kitchen drudgery would be lessened by at least one-half.

¶ We carry a complete stock of Ranges at our Granville Street store, and it is a pleasure to show them, whether you wish to buy or not. Call in and look them over.

Vancouver Gas Company, Limited.

SMOKE
TUCKETT'S T. & B.
CIGARETTES
UNION-MADE

VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

To the Officers and Members:

I submit for your consideration the following Financial Statement of your Council and management of the Labor Hall for the past six months, ending December 31st, 1908.

Cash Account.	
June 30, 1908, Amount in Royal Bank to current account	\$ 362.65
Received from all sources since	1821.20
	<hr/>
	\$1683.85
Expenditures	1497.49
	<hr/>
Amount in Bank Dec. 31, 1908	\$ 186.36
Hall Account.	
June 30, Balance brought down	\$ 186.25
Rents received since	989.00
	<hr/>
	\$1175.25

Disbursements.	
Placed to credit of Sinking Fund	\$ 120.00
Scrip redeemed, A. J. Hancock	52.00
Scrip redeemed Wm. Eichelberger ..	2.00
Interest paid on Scrip ..	54.40
Taxes ..	231.03
Hall expenses	700.44
	<hr/>
	1159.87

Balance in favor of Hall	\$ 15.38
--------------------------------	----------

Management Account.	
June 30, Balance brought down	\$ 176.40
Receipts from per capita ..	322.20
	<hr/>
	498.60

Disbursements.	
Running expenses of T. & L. Council	327.62
Balance over expenses ..	\$ 170.98

Sinking Fund.	
June 30, amount in Savings Bank	\$ 296.08
Deposited since	120.00
Interest accrued	5.22

Amount in Bank Dec. 31st, 1908	421.30
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Labor Hall Scrip.	
June 30, Value outstanding, 1469 shares ..	\$2938.00
Since redeemed, 27 shares ..	54.00
	<hr/>
	2884.00

1442 shares still held by 143 Scrip.	
Interest on Scrip.	
Interest on Scrip outstanding to date ..	672.93

A. K. BURNS,
Secretary-Treasurer T. & L. C.
We, the undersigned, have audited all the books and vouchers of the Council and find everything in good shape and order, and recommend that the statement be printed in the Wage-Earner.

(Signed) S. THOMPSON,
Chairman Auditing Com.
W. W. HAYER.
Jan. 21, 1909.

An Extra \$7.00 Pair of Union-Made Pants Given Free With Every \$20.00 Union-Made Suit

For Union-Made Clothes
You Can't Beat the

The Scotland Woolen Mills Company

The Big Union Tailors

538 Hastings St.

THE WASTE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

By Ed. Knappe.

After every great strike or lock-out figures are regularly published showing the immense sums lost during the struggle. For over a year now this country is laboring under an industrial depression. The mills and factories, formerly the scenes of such restless activity, are to a great extent idle. Some of them have shut down entirely, others are working at reduced time and with reduced forces, none of them present the activity of two years ago. What sums are lost during times like these, however, no one seems called upon to inquire. We are often told of the wastes of competition, of duplicate plants and railroads, but the stupendous wastes of unemployment are ignored. The nation is yet to be apprised of the unparalleled losses involved when Coxey armies are being formed.

If a house be built without architect's plans, each workman being left to act according to his own notion of what is necessary and convenient, the resultant job would be a sight. Anybody doing such a thing you wouldn't hesitate to call a fool, would you? Now look and see if we as a nation are not doing the very same thing. We have a great country at our disposal upon which we live. In order to live we must work to procure food, clothing and shelter. Now, in doing this do we draw up plans as an architect would of his house? Do we figure out what is required, how much work is necessary, how many men there are to be employed? No. Everything is done on guess-work. Each individual is left to his own notion of what is necessary and good. In practical life it amounts to each individual striving his best to do society as much as possible.

When prices are good, new mines are sunk, new mills and factories erected and fresh machinery installed, no attempt is made to calculate the natural requirements of each trade. Production is carried on full blast, no one has any idea whether the product will be sold or not, everything is done on guesswork. Guesswork that

is the result must inevitably follow. Each of these periods is regularly followed by glutted markets, over-production and unemployment.

Such a state of affairs does little honor to our intelligence. It is an indictment of our ability to conduct our affairs. One year men are almost killed by over-work, the next they starve on account of lack of work. It would be ridiculous were it not so tragical. Those who have had steady employment it may move little. But those who are out of a job, on body and soul, they become aware of what it means. It means hunger and privation. It means walking the streets month after month in a vain search after work. Willing hands and the best of endeavor avail nothing. They are doomed to a living death, a hell on earth, at the sight of those whose natural protector they are and who on account of being dependent upon them must starve and suffer humiliations.

Socialism may be denounced by the hard-headed and practical as being visionary, as a mere theory incapable of being realized and unworthy of being seriously considered. But it is with us, it will stay with us, it must be reckoned with because it is itself a demand that this ruthless and senseless method of carrying on production shall cease. No one can justify the accumulation of wealth as we see it going on here while willing workers cannot earn enough to provide reasonable comforts for their dependents. It is a dangerous condition and cannot stand. The injustice of it is generally conceded, but the tendency is to ascribe it to individual wrong-doing, as over-reaching, sharp bargaining, and so forth. But a little study in economics will convince any man that it is the business system itself that is to blame, not individual men. This is the underlying tenet of Socialism and unless men recognize and act upon it all deprecation of trusts, corporations and Wall street is mere bluster and will accomplish nothing.

Now that there are so many men out of employment, the Provincial Government should pass some of those "eight-hour bills" rejected at the last session.

Patronize Our Advertisers and Tell Them Why.

THE LEMIEUX ACT.

During the latter part of December the Society of Economics of New York City debated a paper by Prof. Adam Shortt, on the Lemieux Act.

Prof. O. D. Skelton, professor of political science of Queens University, took a prominent part in the meeting, but in order that he might be possessed of the opinions of men familiar with the operation of the "Act," he requested the views of a number of Western men.

A copy of the paper by Jas. H. McVety, appearing in the January issue of the "Trade Unionist," was forwarded, and the following letter from Prof. Skelton is his comment on the article in question. The second letter is Mr. McVety's reply.

The points made by Prof. Skelton in his careful analysis of the paper are well worth the close attention of every member of organized labor.—Ed.

Kingston, Ont., Jan. 17th, 1909.

J. H. McVety, Esq.,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir,—I must apologize for not acknowledging sooner the receipt of the article on the Lemieux Act which you so very courteously sent me. While it did not arrive in time for the purpose for which I requested your opinion, it has a more than temporary interest.

Your objections to the measure are based on the contention that the cardinal principles of the competitive system should not be interfered with, and, specifically, that labor, as a commodity, should be bought and sold

under the same terms as other merchandise.

There is no doubt that this Act does depart from the old sacred precepts of "laissez faire," and shows a tendency to state regulation of industry which some, I think unwarrantably, consider must necessarily lead to Socialism. But however wedded one may be to the competitive system, one must recognize that the complexity and interdependence of modern industry makes it imperative that those in charge of the pivotal industries should stick to their posts—that the industry and comfort and even the life of the people should not be imperilled by closing down of coal mines or tying up of railways. Personally, I hope that industrial peace in these as in other lines will come from the spread of collective bargaining rather than by compulsory intervention of the state, which should be regarded as essentially a last resort; and as the right to strike, at some stage or other of the game, is essential to such bargaining, I should feel opposed to such methods of compulsory arbitration as the New Zealand one. Possibly a solution may be found in government ownership of these quasi-public utilities—though even that will by no means solve the labor problem, as witness the experience of Italy recently. So far as the general question of government interference with the competitive system goes, it is rather paradoxical to hear a labor leader object to the general principle, after a hundred years of factory acts and workmen's compensation acts and old-age pensions,

and other interferences with the free play of economic forces.

As to the special point—that government interference in this case takes the form of prohibiting the commodity labor being dealt with like other commodities: You argue that the thirty days' notice requirement gives the company time to prepare for a strike by gathering strikebreakers. This is very true, and is an injury to the men not offset by the parallel restriction imposed on the employers. Possibly the passing of the amendment now proposed—prohibiting the importation of strikebreakers into the district affected—would do something to remove this grievance. You go on to contend that this enforced delay may mean loss in yet another way—through an increase in the supply of labor or a change in other conditions which weaken the men's position. This is very possible, but there seems at least an even chance that the conditions may become more rather than less favorable.

As to the personnel of the board, it is undoubtedly true that the chairman is unlikely to be familiar with the details of the industry involved. He is usually teachable, however, and may make up in freshness of impression what he lacks in familiarity with detail. I do not think that splitting the difference is an inevitable chairman's habit; doubtless they will often compromise, when there seems much force in the arguments on both sides, but there is a world of difference between compromising in view of actual factors in the situation and splitting the difference between artificial claims. So far as I can gather from Professor Shortt, his impression was that instead of the being being at a disadvantage in presenting material, they had rather the better of it usually, both in ability of handling the facts, and in detailed grasp of points which the general officers of the roads were unfamiliar with.

I am much interested in your suggested amendments. They come rather as a surprise after reading your vigorous denunciation of the Act. To extend the scope of the measure to all industries, and to make the awards compulsory, would seem to me merely to intensify the objections you urge against the existing system. Possibly your suggestion that the boards be elected explains your attitude on the other points; but it seems to me rather Quixotic to expect, for some years to come, that organized labor will have, in Canada, either the solidarity or the voting strength necessary to secure the election of men pledged to favor the cause of labor in such disputes.

Professor Shortt's paper, I understand, will appear in the Labor Gazette for January or February. The only other discussions on the subject were contributed by Dr. Clark of Washington and myself; Dr. Clark's remarks followed the lines of his report to the United States Government (he spoke very appreciatively of you, by the way) and mine didn't add much to the general enlightenment. I shall, however, send a copy to you if they send me one.

I must thank you again very sincerely for the courtesy you showed me.

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and trust that on my first Western trip I may have the pleasure of meeting you.

Yours very sincerely,
O. D. SKELTON.

January 31st, 1909.

Professor O. D. Skelton,
Queens University,
Kingston, Ont.

Dear Professor,—Your favor of the 17th inst. to hand and I regret that the article did not reach you in time to be of service in the debate. I hope it warranted the careful analysis you have given it, although I cannot agree with all of your deductions.

Your arguments are apparently based on the supposition that the law is observed by the employers, and if such were the case the objections cited by me would of necessity be considerably reduced.

The penalties for violations on the part of the employers are such that they can disregard the law with impunity, and they do so knowing the men are compelled to institute proceedings and pay the costs, which are necessarily heavy. On the other hand, violations on the part of the men are punishable by fine, and in default of payment, imprisonment.

So flagrant have been the violations of the "Act" by mine-owners in Alberta and British Columbia that the employes have decided to disregard the legislation entirely in the future, not without first attempting prosecutions, the results in most cases being unsatisfactory and entailing a large bill of expense.

The Canadian Pacific Railway have and are at this time disregarding the decision rendered under the Act in connection with their dispute with employes, and no redress is possible, unless the men order another strike; and should they do so, they are liable to imprisonment.

Your suggestion that an amendment prohibiting the importation of strike-breakers would overcome the disadvantages of the thirty-day clause will never be seriously entertained by the men, after the importation of thousands of thugs and criminals during the recent strike on the Canadian Pacific, although the Alien Labor and Immigration Acts were flagrantly violated by so doing. If these acts are unable to keep out strike-breakers, no amendment to the "Lemieux Act" can possibly improve the situation.

The attention of the Government was called to the situation, and after the company had all the men they required, the Government admitted the Acts had been violated and turned back a few inoffensive men just previous to election day, in every case using a half-page of the party organs to give the matter the greatest publicity.

With reference to my comment on the personnel of boards, I had no intention of imputing any but the best of motives to those who have been unfortunate enough to be chosen as chairman, but having a firm belief in the influence of environment, I cannot understand how any person can properly understand the problems of the working class, unless he be a member of that class; and most certainly men

associating almost entirely with employers of labor will in time have their viewpoint changed, even if they were once imbued with the wrongs suffered by the workers.

I agree with your remarks regarding the election of the chairman, but even should the workers fail to exhibit the necessary solidarity or numerical strength, the Government would likely make the fight a party one and place in the running men who would be an improvement on the chairman appointed up to this time.

My suggestion to extend the scope of the legislation, making it applicable to all industries, was based on the idea that a principle is either right or wrong; if right, all the workers should be given the advantages obtainable; if wrong, there is no justification for forcing a wrong principle on workers who may be unfortunate enough to be compelled to work in a pivotal industry and by making it apply to all workers the endorsement of many organizations will speedily be withdrawn from the "broad principle of arbitration?"

I am at a loss to understand how anyone could connect the "Lemieux Act" and the doctrines of Karl Marx, although some people always attribute every radical departure from existing institutions as tending towards Socialism. The legislation was enacted at the request of capitalists, and is intended to protect "vested rights" rather than the interests of the people and instead of protecting the

masses, aids the capitalist in still further oppressing and degrading the only useful class in human society.

Personally I am not wedded to the competitive system and hope ultimately to see this capitalist system of society swept out of existence, to be replaced by a system that will prevent the blood and lives of one section of the community being coined into profits for the benefit of an indolent and idle class.

Thanking you again for your letter and hoping to meet you should you come West, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
JAS. H. McVETY.

Alphonse Verville, M.P., president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, says that the sentence imposed on officials of the American Federation of Labor is very regrettable, but is the best thing that could happen for the labor movement, not only in the United States, but also in Canada. "I do not believe that the same thing could happen in Canada," he said. "Not because our laws are not as stringent as the American laws, but because of the judiciary conception of equity, and especially our British sense of fair play would not permit such an extreme appliance of law. American capital," he said, "had decreed that Mr. Gompers and his companions shall go to jail, and it is my opinion that it will succeed."

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BOTH SIDES OF THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE QUESTION.

By G. Edward Lind.

The question of woman suffrage is growing in importance and commanding the attention of thinkers in every part of the civilized world. Whether we are for it or against it, we should understand it, and the only way to understand anything intelligently is to hear both sides. No one understands woman's nature, aptitude, and ability better than woman herself, and it is therefore proper in discussing the woman suffrage question to get the views of two intellectual women, each one an able and forceful representative of the men and women who entertain similar views. Each one states the reasons for and against suffrage in a way that cannot fail to interest any one who has given the subject any thought. Mrs. Elinor Glyn (author of "Three Weeks"), is opposed to suffrage for women and states her reasons as follows:

Women ought not to vote because a nation should be ruled by logical intelligence.

Where ten women out of a hundred would give their vote because of conviction based upon a thorough knowledge of the subject the other ninety would accord it because the last canvasser had been the most eloquent.

Women of the sternest morality will always stretch a point for a beloved, erring son, brother or husband or any male creature they adore, and, therefore, their vote for the right of the case could never be counted upon.

It is the few who are cultivated and able to think and give their own deduction. Masses of women, in all things beyond their small everyday affairs, in giving an opinion, are merely parrots; so that a clever man could play upon the inclinations of a prodigious number of them, stamp his view and win their votes, whether the cause were bad or good.

I do not know the statistics, but at guess-work one might say perhaps twenty per cent. of women are as clever and well educated as men—eighty out of a hundred being merely wives and mothers, Fluffy Ruffies, ornaments to society, brainless darlings and things that don't count!

Thus the majority of votes would be given for any reason the man in

possession happened to put forward and would open a vast field for the unscrupulous.

The more public interest women have the more the less well-balanced among them would be likely to neglect their homes, and until science and invention have made mechanical contrivances do the entire work of wife and mother, the home, husband and children must suffer if the woman is greatly interested in outside things. The majority have to do the domestic duties of the world. The majority will push forward, win out, influence certain men and make a career for themselves. The minority care for woman suffrage. The majority are quite indifferent, while a large section would prefer the certainty of ten new hats a year to a hundred votes!

I am told that there is an anatomical reason why girls can't throw stones like boys, because nature arranged a bone in their shoulders to enable their arms to be strong enough to carry for hours a baby without tiring. (No man can do it) So nature evidently thought it a good idea for them to be domestic creatures en masse and not public characters, fighting laws and taking chances with men.

It is a much greater triumph to obtain three votes through one's sweetness and charm than to have only one because the law, at last, allowed it one!

Women were meant to be men's helpmates—the joys, the beauties, the flowers of life; the things which make fights worth winning; the ennobling force, the tender, gentle, civilizing essence, through their emotional influence. Surely they were not intended to be the same as men in everything. They might as sensibly go about shrieking that it was unfair because they had to have the children, instead of the men, as to shriek they should be equal in the governing of nations.

Why don't the men have a society of "wrongs," as women have one of "rights?" Why don't they say: "We poor things have to work hard, use our brains and our hands, out in the cold, in hardship and worry. Why may not we sit at home and do nothing and wear fine clothes and eat candy?"

But no man would do this, because he is a more or less logical creature and feels that sense of the fitness of things!

After reading the many points made against it one may be apt to think that there is not much to be said in favor of it. Dorothy Dix, the well-known writer, advocates the extension of suffrage to women and for the following reasons:

Women ought to vote because taxation without representation is tyranny, whether the individual who pays the taxes wears trousers or petticoats, and because all just government must rest upon the consent of the governed.

Women form one-half of the population, and as long as they have no voice in the government they are held in serfdom to man. It is not just that merely by reason of sex one-half of the people of the country should rule the other half.

It is folly to say that women are

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represented by the votes of the men of their family. No man is willing to sacrifice his suffrage and let his father or brother vote for him.

Women should vote because they are unlike men, because they have different aspirations, different needs, a different point of view, a different way of reaching conclusions. Feminine talents, which are invaluable everywhere else in life, should be equally useful in politics.

Women should vote because every question of politics affects the home, and particularly affects the woman in the home. Out of the woman's house-keeping allowance, which has not increased, come the increased profits of the beef trust, and the milk trust, and the sugar trust and the canned goods trust. If women had a say-so in making the laws they would have long ago clipped the wings of the predatory combinations that have increased the cost of living so greatly.

Women should vote because their vote would supplement man's, and while he looked after the big things they would look after the little things. The man might interest himself in making his country a world power;

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the woman voter would see that the street cleaner did his duty, so that her children might not be killed by diphtheria.

Women should vote because they would look just as much at the candidate as they did the platform upon which he stood. It is practically impossible to put the party yoke on women. This has been proven in the States in which women have suffrage. When a clean man was put up on either the Democratic or the Republican ticket and a corrupt man named on the other ticket, the woman vote invariably has flopped over to the good man. It was the women of Denver, irrespective of party, who kept Judge Lindsay in office after the Democratic committee had turned him down, and thus enabled him to continue his great work of child saving.

Women should vote, if for no other reason than because women, if they had a chance, would be just as potent a factor in politics as they are in religion. They would compel men's interest in the subject.

Everybody knows that if women ceased going to church, shut up all their missionary societies and preachers' aid societies, nine-tenths of the churches would have spider webs growing across their doors inside of a month. Practically all of the men who go to church and contribute to religious causes do so at the instigation of wife, mother, sister or sweetheart.

The majority of good men are responsible for the rottenness of politics and for our plundered and misruled cities, because they are careless about voting, and often do not trouble to vote at all. Women would have a better civic conscience, and if they were given the ballot they would not only vote themselves, but see that their husbands and brothers and sons did.

It is often said that if women had suffrage it would increase the number of votes cast without affecting the result, as every woman would vote like her husband, or her brother, or her 21—Wage-Earner. cmfwyp shrdlu father. The chances are that the influence would work the other way, and men vote with their women folks. It is acknowledged to be women who decide the success or failure of a book, or a play, or a newspaper. Why, if given an equal chance, should they not determine the fate of a political measure?

In America the majority of girls are given a better education than boys. They go to school longer, and they read more after they are out of school than young men do. There are also millions of middle-aged women banded together in all sorts of study clubs all over the country, and it is folly to claim that these women are not as well qualified to understand any political question as their husbands are.

That all women would not vote wisely, that they would be swayed by eloquence, by the personal charm of the candidate; that even the ballot would not bring the millennium to women, is freely conceded. But the majority of men are Republicans or Democrats for no better reason than that their fathers were before them.

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and this is still a very badly governed world. Yet, no one would advocate that man's most precious right—the right of suffrage—should be taken away from him.

Both writers have failed to consider one important phase of the question and that is the economic phase. A wonderful change has taken place in our industrial life in the past when women worked at the spinning wheel, sewed garments for the household, etc. Then one could truly say that woman's sphere was in the home, but now the spinning wheel has developed into great factories and the making of cloth, sewing of garments and a hundred and one other things are transferred to the factory. The result is that woman must go out in the cruel, cold world and compete for a living and consequently she is forced to take interest in public questions, as she is directly concerned by the conditions that obtain. Women should not ask for the elective franchise to be extended to them, but should "demand" it as a right on the ground that they are "equals" and are entitled to a voice in determining the conditions under which they must live. The watchword of the twentieth century is, "political equality for men and women."

BORN OF NECESSITY.

The British nobility is getting scared all right. To learn how to fight the "Socialist hydra" which "threatens the safety" of Great Britain, a number of patriotic pupils in oratory ranging from lawyer to mechanic gather three times a day at 20 Victoria street, London. The school is organized by the Anti-Socialist Union, a body of eminently respectable gentry who recognize the plausibility, skill and experience of the Socialist leaders and aim at instructing a body of men so that they may be able to permeate the constituencies with the answers to their speeches. The Hon. Claude Lowther is the chairman of the organization, and among the supporters are the Duke of Rutland, the Duke of Westminster, Lord Londonderry, Lord

Plumouth, Lord Newlands, Lord Abinger, Lord Burton, Lord Claud Hamilton, Sir Thomas Wrightson, Sir Andrew Noble, Sir Ernest Flower and Capt. Jessell. Sir John Dickson Poynter, a Liberal M. P., is on the committee. "We shall pay our speakers well," said Flower, "for we want the best men we can find. In time we propose to establish provincial schools. We are bound to no political party, for our sole object is to fight Socialism. There will be a publication department manned by strong writers, a complete European library of Socialistic and anti-Socialistic literature, and an intelligence department served by correspondents throughout the constituencies."

ESSAY ON MAN.

A man's life is full of crosses and temptations. He comes into this world without his consent and goes out against his will, and the trip between the two is exceedingly rocky. The rules of contraries is one of the important features of the trip. When he is little the big girls kiss him, but when he is grown the little girls kiss him. If he raises a large family he is a chump, but if he raises a small check, he is a thief and a fraud and shunned like a Chinaman with a seven-year itch. If he is poor, he is a bad manager; if he is rich, he is dishonest; if he's in politics, it's for pie; if he is out of politics, you can't place him and he's no good to his country; if he don't give to charity, he is a stingy cuss; if he does, it's for show; if he dies young, there is a great future ahead of him; if he lives to an old age, he has missed his calling. He is introduced to this world and the next by the same process. The road is rocky, but man likes to travel it.

Looks now as though Kier Hardie would have plenty to do in England if he and Macdonald are to keep the suffering unemployed sufficiently "conservative" to perpetuate the rule of the Liberalism and "Labor leaders" in the mother realm of capitalism.

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BRITISH LABOR CONGRESS MEETS.

The Labor Congress at Portsmouth, England, on Saturday passed a resolution by a vote of 462,000 to 313,000, endorsing the Socialist platform.

A resolution to prevent Labor members from appearing in support of any measure on the same platform as members of the Capitalist party was rejected by 788,000 to 113,000 votes.

The Congress next declared for a secular solution of the education question.

Tariff reform was denounced as no cure for unemployment.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald declared that when tariff reformers said that they wanted to broaden the basis of taxation, the basis indicated was the people's backs.

Mr. R. Trotter declared that the man who would attempt to Christianize the Salvation Army headquarters would have a very difficult job. There were thousands of whites unemployed in Vancouver, and the same state of things prevailed in Montreal and Toronto, yet the Salvation Army was going to emigrate thousands. The Salvation Army had become the procurer-general of cheap labor for international capital.

The Labor Congress executive has been authorized to ascertain whether Labor and Socialist organizations throughout the empire favor holding an All-British Labor conference in 1910.

PARM'S PAGE APPRECIATED.

The Vancouver World has placed a labor page in charge of R. P. Pettipiece, who can be depended upon to see that it is up-to-date. The World always claimed to be "the paper that prints the facts" and in future one page at least can be counted on to bear out the claim. *People's Press.*

ATTENDANCE AT TRADES COUNCIL MEETINGS.

We are indebted to Statistician Sellers for the following report, showing the attendance of delegates of the different organizations at the Trades and Labor Council meetings:

	Actual Attend.	Possible
Bricklayers and Masons.....	30	60
Brotherhood of Carpenters..	44	60
Bartenders	11	60
Bookbinders	9	12
Barbers	11	48
Builders' Laborers.....	41	60
Cigarmakers	19	36
Civic Employes	22	36
Cooks and Waiters.....	22	60
Commercial Telegraphers....	2	24
Electrical Workers	13	36
Iron Moulders	6	36
Machinists	30	60
Musicians	2	30
Printing Pressmen	2	12
Plumbers	10	24
Street Railwaymen	40	60
Structural Iron Workers....	4	9
Stone Cutters	7	24
Typographical	42	60
Tailors	26	45
Unfit Garment Workers....	4	24
Blacksmiths	8	36
Building Trades Council....	16	24
Boilermakers	5	24
Theatrical Stage Employes...	3	24
United Brewery Workers....	10	12
Moving Picture Operators....	5	12
Leather Workers	2	5

A FOOLISH QUESTION.

A physiologist came upon a hard-working Irishman toiling, bareheaded, in the street.

"Don't you know," said the physiologist, "that to work in the hot sun without a hat is bad for your brain?"

"D'ye think," asked the Irishman, "that O'd be on this job if O had any brains?"

PRODUCTS OF CHILD LABOR.

"But what makes these people tired?" I asked, and I suppose I sneered when I suggested "work?"

"Yes," he answered directly, "work and vice. Vice weakens them. Work tires them very much."

"How do they know that?" I asked. "Did they ever try it?"

"Yes; most of them did, as children."

As children! Were bums the products of child labor? Was that the genesis of the good-for-nothing?

"Yes," said Bailey, simply. "A large percentage of our prisoners are exhausted human beings, devitalized by early work. They have no energy left, no spirit, no strength. Early vice explains others. The rest are born so."

"Born tired!" I almost laughed forth the well-worn phrase, but Bailey did not notice.

"Yes," he said, "born of tired or vicious parents."

"And you teach them anything they want to learn; geography, plumbing, the Bible?"

"Yes," said Bailey.

"And you don't teach them anything they don't want to learn?"

"No," said Bailey. "That's a mistake that is often made with such people."

"You mean it's wrong to try to teach them what we think they ought to know?"

"Yes," said Bailey; "they are sick people, sick of soul, and very low, and sick souls must be fed like sick stomachs, with anything they can take in and keep down."—Lincoln Steffens, in the January Everybody's.

Capitalism invented the blacklist. It came in with wage slavery. It was born of the system which placed the power of life and death in the hands of the owners of the opportunity to work and produce wealth. The boycott has always been a weapon of those who struggle for liberty. It is the announcement of the fact that those fighting against oppression do not wish to give aid and comfort to the enemy. The boycott is a passive refusal to give aid. The blacklist is active war. The boycott but withholds a portion of the plunder from a class of exploiters. The blacklist denies to labor the right to live. It is but another phase of the battle between profits and persons, and, as at every point of that battle, all the institutions of government are on the side of profits and against oppression.—The Call.

"A slave is one who is forced to yield to another a part of the product of his toil."—Vail.

UNION MEN

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BUILDERS' LABORERS.

This union is chartered as Federal No. 32 by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and was organized May 19th, 1902. Since then up to the present date it has been what is known as a "live union." Previous to its date of organization, the wages of the Builders' Laborers were far below what they are even at the present time. Mortar mixers then got from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per day of nine hours, plenty of them working ten hours for even less wages. Plasterers' laborers got from \$2.50 to \$2.75 for nine hours.

Now, although we have just come through a period of depression, we can still get the \$2.50 for wheelers, from \$3.25 to \$3.50 for mortar mixers, and plasterers' laborers have still managed to hold onto their \$4.00 per day of eight hours, which was granted in August, 1907, after some little trouble, lasting about two weeks.

Now, although we know that the prices of living have gone up considerably since 1902, yet the building laborer of today in Vancouver are slightly better off, owing to the fact that he only works eight hours and four on Saturday, and if he is lucky enough to get onto one of the big jobs, he can manage to save a little more money than he could have done previous to the organization of this union.

Nor is the wage question the only one in which this union has interested itself in. Its delegates to the Trades and Labor Council have always proved themselves progressive, inasmuch that they always take a keen interest in anything relative to the betterment of the public and laborers in particular.

Although to the non-unionist and those who are prejudiced against labor organizations, it may seem that we do no good with all our agitation, yet the facts are there that the workingman of today is becoming a more intellectual and better citizen and is also doing a little more thinking for himself and his class than he did years ago, simply because labor organizations, Socialist parties and other reform parties keep continually pushing their propaganda work and making them take some little interest in themselves.

Economic conditions to a great extent are forcing the workers together, notwithstanding that all kinds of obstacles are found in the way of pro-

gress, we are still steadily gaining ground through education and interest in ourselves. If, for instance, we will say that a General Laborers' Union was organized in Vancouver and it must be admitted that there is a field for them, there being somewhere like 8,000 or 9,000 laborers at a low estimate. Now, if those men were banded together, and with some little discipline through organization, not necessarily in one big local, but in a number of locals, each local sending two or three delegates to a governing board, think of the good that could be accomplished with five secretaries in each local. The members could be kept track of; each local could have a committee to watch and see that every man entitled to the franchise that his name was put on the voters' list, both civic and others, for after all, that is where our strength is going to tell in the long run.

Questions of interest to us could be discussed in our locals and taken to our central council, there to be acted upon; for it is agitation that counts most, and no movement for the betterment of the people has ever succeeded without it, and agitation always wants organization to back it up.

There are also a large number of Italian laborers in the city who should have an organization working in conjunction with us. Creed or nationality are not considered in the labor movement. 'Tis enough that we are all laborers, and as such should get together and help one another.

Aside from wage questions, there is the more charitable question of helping one another in sickness or accident. How many laborers can afford to join fraternal societies and keep them up at \$1.00 per month? Not very many. And the laborer, as a rule, is a happy-go-lucky kind of a cuss, generally of a healthy, robust constitution. He never thinks of sickness or trouble till he is down and out. Then is the time his union would come to the front, and with its benefit, tide him over until he was able to get into his harness again. All this could be done if the laborers would only get together and organize, and they would feel a little more satisfied with themselves, too.

Now, as regards the Builders' La-

borers, we have generally looked after ourselves. We have an accident benefit of \$5.00 per week for ten weeks. In the last three years some five hundred or six hundred dollars have gone to that benefit; and when it is borne in mind that our dues are only 50c per month, with per capita tax to headquarters at Ottawa and to the Trades and Labor Council, we do remarkably well to keep up our finances to the extent we do, without assessments, there having been only two assessments of 25c each in the last three years, and those were to bury two members.

Now that we have President Sully on as agent, watch us grow! We have been a little dormant these few months back, but having awakened, we intend further to stir the boys up with a smoker in the near future. That at least will bring a few of them up to Labor Hall.

Negotiations with the Contractors and Builders' Exchange will be opened up shortly with the view of getting back our old rate of pay for wheelers, viz., 35c per hour, or \$2.80 per day, eight hours.

The Builders' Exchange are not a bad bunch if you go after them in the right way. The Builders' laborers at least have not got much cause to regret having met the exchange some two years ago when our committee were met and matters were talked over with a very friendly and business-like spirit. It is to be hoped that such will be the case when we meet them in the near future.

Agent Sully is at the Labor Hall every morning shortly before 8 a.m. Men desirous of joining us can do so up till next meeting night, Tuesday, February 23rd, for the small sum of \$1.00. After that the initiation fee will be \$3.00.

G. P.
Correspondent.

John F. Tobin was re-elected president of the International Boot and Shoe Workers' Union by a vote of 4,356 to Edward M. Henry's 3,724.

The Trades and Labor Council delegates for the ensuing term appear to be the "liveliest" bunch seen around the hall for some considerable time.

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Vancouver, B. C.

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ADVOCATES A UNIVERSAL LABEL.

Benjamin Wood, on the Adoption of a General Label, Before the Central Labor Union of Brooklyn, November 22nd, 1908.

The Wage-earner is in receipt of a copy of an address by Benjamin Wood, strongly advocating a uniform union label.

As illustrating the adaptability of its introduction, Mr. Wood suggests the following design:



With such a label the bottom line, name of union represented, only need be changed.

"At present," says Mr. Wood, "each craft having a label expends a large sum annually for advertising, in the endeavor to make their label known, but little good is accomplished because the problem is too complex, the labels too many and too diversified for mortal mind to grasp. With a general label the design would appear as clear in the minds of the purchasing public as any other well-known commercial trade mark. A small amount could be charged in excess of the original cost to defray expenses and to create an advertising fund. An assessment of one dollar per capita levied and made payable in small instalments of ten cents, would create an advertising fund of over two million dollars. With that sum the American Federation of Labor could begin an advertising campaign second to none in the country."

The idea, while not new, is worthy of the consideration and advancement of organized labor.

The next convention of the American Federation of Labor, to be held at Toronto, in November, 1909, would be the proper place to re-introduce the subject.

Altogether too many non-union products are used by organized labor in this city. Merchants will handle "label goods" if you demand them, but cannot be expected to stock goods for which there is no demand.

Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton made an eloquent appeal for the abolition of the "poll tax" during the past week, but the appeal must have been directed to the galleries, as he voted against a motion to abolish the tax.

A STRIKE IN OLD EGYPT.

Recent investigations in Egyptian history disclose the details of a labor difficulty at Thebes in the year 1400 B.C. The strike was in the building trades and the strikers were masons. They were paid in rations, and they claimed that these were insufficient to sustain them and their families until the following pay day.

On the 10th of the month they laid down their tools and gathered behind a chapel. "We are hungry," they said, "and there are eighteen days before the next pay day." They charged the paymasters with dishonesty, saying that they gave false measure. The paymasters charged the men with want of foresight in feasting too well while the rations lasted.

After long discussion the men decided to return to work on condition that Pharaoh himself investigate the matter. Two days later Pharaoh came to the temple and decided that the masons should have their wages raised at once. For a little while all went well, but evidently the paymasters did not live up to their agreement, for on the 6th of the next month the strike was again in full force and for three whole days not a tool was lifted.

The strikers decided to go out to the public with their troubles, but they found themselves locked in the temple. Then they broke out and rushed into the streets, frightening pedestrians as they paraded the thoroughfares.

An Illinois clergyman who tried to drive a pair of mules found it necessary to give up that job or resign from the pulpit. The mules could not understand his language, which again demonstrates the wisdom of the old adage that tells us: Every man to his trade.

Officers of the Trades Council have been complimented by leading business men for taking the control of their own official organ out of the hands of outside parties.

BARTENDERS' UNION.

Business Agent Curnock reports the following list of hotels as employing Union Bartenders:

Atlantic, Arlington, Alexandria, Bodega, Boulder, Barnard Castle, Bridge, Clarence, City, Clarendon, Columbia, Crown, Delmonico, Eagle, Edward, Europe, Empire, Glasgow, Grand, Horse-shoe, Imperial, Iroquois, Kings, Klondike, Leland, Lourve, Marquam, Melbourne, New Fountain, Oxford, Palace, Pender, Queens, Quinte, Royal, Russ, Sherman, Tourist, Terminus, Waverly, Woods, Winters, Yale.

At the District Convention of the Western Federation of Miners held in Nelson recently a proposition was entertained whereby an amalgamation of the two Miners' Organizations may be effected.

The feeling of the membership of the United Mine Workers and the Western Federation is to be ascertained by referendum vote and Past President Bunting was elected as fraternal delegate to the Mine Workers convention.

The convention also decided to take steps to acquire a newspaper, to be the property of the Federation.

Before adjournment a motion was passed expressing the entire confidence of the body in Messrs. Hawthornthwaite, Williams and McInnis and asking them to make further efforts to have the election deposit abolished.

Real Valor.—"Were you frightened during the battle, Pat?" asked a sergeant of an Irishman who had received his "baptism of fire."

"Not a bit, sor," replied Pat. "O! can face most anything when O! have me back to it."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

"If Woman's place is the home," says Kier Hardie, "why is she in office, shop and factory?"

In New Westminster every hotel employs Union Bartenders exclusively.

**Macdonald, Marpole
Co., Limited**

COAL

Phones---900, 210 and 200

TRADES UNION DIRECTORY

Officers—Where the meet, when they meet.

Secretaries are requested to notify Manager of change of Officers and Addresses.

Union Cards Inserted for \$1.00 per month

VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday in Labor Hall. President, Jas. H. McVety; Vice-President, W. W. Sayer; Gen. Secretary, H. Cowan; Labor Hall; Secretary-Treasurer, E. C. Knight; Labor Hall; Statistician, H. Sellars; Sergeant-at-Arms, A. Fenton; Trustees, G. W. Williams, G. W. Curdock, S. Kernighan.

VANCOUVER COUNCIL BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT, A. F. OF L.—Meets every Monday evening in Plumbers' Hall, 313 Cambie street. President, F. Blair, 1777 Robson street; Vice-President, A. H. Richmond, 541 Robson street; Financial Secretary-Treasurer, J. T. Smith, 541 Robson street, phone 1380; Sergeant-at-Arms, R. Cross, 1356 Howe street.

VANCOUVER TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION NO. 226—Meets in Labor Hall last Sunday of each month at 2 p. m. President, H. C. Benson; vice-president, A. E. Robb; secretary-treasurer, Harry Cowan; sergeant-at-arms, H. Whittesaid; executive committee, W. A. Jeffrey, A. Brookhouse, J. Ellis and O. Shoemaker; delegates to Allied Printing Trades Council, A. Brookhouse, A. R. Hoerle and W. A. Jeffrey; delegates to Trades and Labor Council, Messrs. Pettipiece, Brookhouse, Benson, Hoerle and Cowan.

JOURNEMEN BARBERS UNION OF AMERICA VANCOUVER LOCAL NO. 120—Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in Labor Hall at 8:30 p. m. President, J. Wallace Green; Vice-President, Geo. Paine; Treasurer, W. Lechner; Recorder, G. W. Isaacs; Secretary, J. L. Bradley, 604 Georgia street.

CIGAR MAKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA, LOCAL NO. 297—Meets in Labor Hall on the first Tuesday in each month at 8 p. m. President, A. Heuff, care Mainland Cigar Factory; Vice-President, R. Craig, care urtz Cigar Factory; Secretary, J. C. Fenser, care Mainland Cigar Factory.

BARTENDERS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE NO. 676—Meets Labor Hall, every 1st and 3rd Sunday at 2 p. m. and 7:30 p. m. President, C. R. Leer; Vice-President, W. Mottishaw; Financial Secretary and Business Agent, Geo. Curdock. Phone 639; P. O. Box 424.

BEAVER LODGE NO. 122 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS—Meets in Labor Hall 2nd and 4th Mondays. J. L. Haldon, President. 222 Homer street. H. S. Watkins, Recording Secretary. 847 Seymour street. Jas. H. McVety, Financial Secretary. 1744 Ninth avenue west.

TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA, UNITED FEDERAL UNION NO. 22—Meets at 7:30 p. m. 3rd Tuesday in each month at Labor Hall. President, J. Nesbit, 1023 Harwood street; Treasurer, B. C. Alexander, 1875 1st avenue west; Secretary, I. Gowler, Box 1842.

PAINTERS, PAVERNERS AND PLUMBERS UNION LOCAL NO. 122—Meets in O'Brien's Hall every Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. President, R. Matheson; Vice-President, Geo. White; Financial Secretary, F. Harris; Recording Secretary, A. Campbell; Treasurer, W. Parvis.

AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION OF STREET AND ELECTRIC RAILWAY EMPLOYEES OF AMERICA, FLOWERS DIVISION NO. 151—Meets in K. P. Hall, Mt. Pleasant, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 8 p. m., and 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2:45 p. m. President, Jas. Fletcher; Vice-President, Hy Wiles; Treasurer, A. Taylor; Recording Secretary, W. W. Burrough, 98 Lorne street west; Financial Secretary, F. A. Hoover, 513 Westminster avenue.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA, VANCOUVER LOCAL NO. 617—Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 8 p. m., in Labor Hall. Executive meets first Saturday after regular meetings at 2 p. m. President, P. W. Dowler; Vice-President, Murdo McKenna; Recording Secretary, Sumner O'Brien; Treasurer, J. Robinson; Financial Secretary and Business Agent, S. Kernighan. Phone 1380, Labor Hall.

COOKS WAITERS AND WAITRESSES, LOCAL 22—Meets every Friday night at 8:30 o'clock Chas. Davis, Secretary and Business Agent, 155 Hastings St. E. Hall for rent suitable for socials, dances and societies.

OPERATIVE PLASTERERS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, LOCAL NO. 29—Meets in Labor Hall first and third Wednesdays at 8 p. m. President, H. Reede; Vice-President, J. Hutson; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Tyson; Financial Secretary, Geo. Montgomery; Corresponding Secretary, Alex. McDonald, Oxford Hotel.

BUILDERS LABORERS UNION, NO. 22, TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA—Meets alternate Tuesdays in Labor Hall at 8 p. m. President, John Sully; Vice-President, R. J. Stalker; Secretary, Geo. Payne, Room 7, 522 Powell street; Financial Secretary, H. Whitesides; Treasurer, I. Cosgrove; Business Agent, John Sully, phone 1380, 1835 Eighth avenue west.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL UNION NO. 213—Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Labor Hall, 8 p.m. H. W. Abercrombie, Pres., 143 Gore ave; Geo. Jenkins, Rec.-Sec., Spworth, P.O., B. C.; H. H. Free, Fin.-Sec., 2216 Westminster ave.

If present indications are any criterion, the members employed in the building trades will enjoy a busy season during the coming summer; unless some more "agriculture laborers" appear on the scene, or the Employers' Association decide to retard building operations by causing disputes.

Recent changes in the by-laws of the B. C. Anti-Tuberculosis Society place the positions of governors in the same category as labor power; sold to the highest bidder. Labor organizations are in this way shut out of any control of an institution that contains, as inmates, more members of the working class than any other.

The Typographical Union have decided to postpone their banquet for a couple of months.

BRICKLAYERS AND MASONS' UNION, NO. 1, B. C.

Officers for 1909:

President—J. Hasslett.

Deputy—J. Brown.

Secretary-Treasurer—J. T. Tommason.

Financial Secretary—G. James.

Treasurer—W. W. Sayer.

Sergeant-at-Arms—P. Rogers.

Trustees—F. Black, A. Davison, C. Lipp.

Trades and Labor Delegates—W. W. Sayer, G. Rothney, R. Hemphill, G. Scotney and F. Wataka.

Meets every first and third Wednesday in Labor Hall.

One of the most certain indications of the return of prosperity is to be found in the fact that there were only seven suicides due to lack of employment in New York City last Thanksgiving Day.

Members of the Typographical Union report trade good and only the average number out of employment.

Nearly all the Labor Organizations in B.C.

SECURE THEIR PRINTING FROM

E. T. Kingsley

(Publisher of the Western Clarion)

ALL OF IT Could Be Done Here as WE Make a Specialty of This Work

Office: *Flick Block* (Basement)

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