

# CENTRAL LABOR BODY HOLDS ROUSING MEETING

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 15, 1912.  
Regular meeting Vancouver Trades Labor Council convened this evening 8 p. m.  
Pres. Wilkinson and Executive Member McVety having been called to Victoria during the afternoon in reference to the presentation of legislative proposals by the B. C. Federation of Labor.  
Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed.

## Credentials.

**Builders' Laborers**—Frank Phillips, vice George Nichol, serving a three months' sentence for exercising his "right" to free speech and assembly.  
**Bricklayers**—William McBiede, vice H. Haskeil.

**Pressmen**—J. Maley.

## Reports of Committees.

**Executive Committee**—Present: Dela. Campbell, Gardner, Kavanagh, McVety, Midgley, Hoover, McMillan and the secretary.

Communication from W. J. Bowser, attorney-general, Victoria, in reply to Council's letter anent "free speech" in Vancouver, refusing to interfere with the edict of the police commissioners.

**Freckleton-Beattie**—That the letter be read at every meeting until a provincial election takes place. Carried.

## Council to Bowser.

Hon. W. J. Bowser,  
Attorney-General,  
Victoria, B. C.:

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by Vancouver Trades and Labor Council to advise you to immediately instigate an investigation into the methods of the police commission in this city in connection with their attempt to throttle the right to maintain free speech upon the public squares of this city.

Will advise you that a strong resolution, passed by Vancouver Building Trades Council and several other unions of this city, including the Bricklayers, was unanimously endorsed by Vancouver central labor body at its last meeting, copies of which have appeared in the daily press.

The unionists and other wage workers of this city have no notion to relinquish their right to maintain free speech, and the continuance of the present policy of the police commissioners will only mean further trouble for all concerned.

Up to this time, be it said to the credit of peaceable working class, there has not been a solitary case of retaliation in response to the brutality of the police.

If, however, the present methods are further pursued, I am not in a position to give you this guarantee, for I know something of the bitter feeling ranking in the minds of innocent men who have been clubbed half to death in no other cause than appearing upon the public squares or highways.

I trust that you will give this matter your immediate attention.

Kindly wire me what action you are prepared to take, so that I may use it to pacify numberless inquirers.

Yours truly,

R. P. PETTIPiece,  
General Secretary.

Bowser to Council.

Attorney General's Office,  
Victoria, 8th February, 1912.

R. P. Pettipiece, Esq.,  
Secretary Vancouver Trades and Labor Council,  
Vancouver, B. C.:

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., as well as a communication signed by your president of even date, in

connection with an investigation into the methods adopted by the police in the City of Vancouver in connection with certain demonstrations lately carried on in that city.

I may say that the control of police matters in the City of Vancouver is absolutely vested in the Board of Police Commissioners, and I can see no reason why the government should interfere with the work which they are carrying on. If we attempt to do this in the City of Vancouver, it could be equally argued that we should interfere with the works of all the appointees of the government on hospital boards and other boards to which they might be appointed throughout the province.

Yours truly,

W. J. BOWSER,  
Attorney General.

From Chas. S. Hall, secretary Bellingham Central Labor Council, advising Vancouver unionists of the unfairness of the Bay City Manufacturing Co. and the Burpee & Letson Machine Co. Referred to Building Trades Council. Concurrence.

Accounts read and passed.

## Industrial School Brutality.

In re maltreatment of two boys at Industrial School: Owing to the helplessness of securing anything from the attorney-general's department in this province, and in view of Mr. Bowser's refusal to grant the request of Solicitor Farris for an investigation by two medical men, we see no good purpose in a further waste of energy. Concurrence.

## Suit for Damages.

Your committee recommends that an action for unstated damages against the City of Vancouver be entered by this Council, through its solicitor, Mr. J. W. deB. Farris, on behalf of Delegate Fred Blumberg, brutally assaulted by three police officers on Sunday, Feb. 11. Referred to Executive with full power to act.

## Organization Committee.

Chairman Manson said there was no report, as he was unable to assume the duties of the office. Resignation accepted; successor to be named by the Executive.

## Parliamentary Committee.

Secretary Haddon reported a fairly good meeting the previous Friday evening; but there was still much room for improvement in attendance of local union representatives.

Chairman Palmer reported that arrangements were made by the committee to have one of their number attend all meetings of the City Council for the purpose of securing firsthand information of the proceedings for the use of the Council.

The committee recommends that the Council be asked to send speakers to various locals at intervals to address them along political lines, and impress the affiliated membership with the necessity of paying more attention to their duties as electors. Concurred in.

Committee recommends that steps be taken to have a complete card and index directory system of the entire union membership of the city established and maintained by the Council, for the use of the Parliamentary Committee. Referred to Executive Committee to inquire into expense and apportionment of the duties involved.

## Audit Committee.

Chairman Mowat reported that the Audit Committee—Dels. Beasley, Graham and himself—had examined the books and half-yearly statement of the manager of The B. C. Federationist, and found them correct and in order.

## PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTIONS SET FOR EARLY DATE IN APRIL

What can we do about it? There is only one thing we can do just now:

Educate and organize the working class to the end that they may seize the powers of the State and get behind the guns instead of in front of them.

To meet the violence of the police with violence would be the most foolish and suicidal policy possible.

## Reports of Unions.

**Cigarmakers**—Del. Craig reported the passing of resolutions protesting against the methods employed by civic officials; urged all union men to get their names on the voters' list; had decided to insert label advt. in B. C. Federationist; urged unionists to ask for their label.

**Musicians**—Del. Evans reported that the Musicians were ready to keep their members from working in theatres unfair to any portion of organized labor just as soon as other unions were prepared to do likewise.

**Building Trades Council**—Del. Kavanagh reported that a clause had been inserted in the constitution of the Building Trades Council providing for the discussion of economic questions affecting the interests of wage-workers, as an order of business. Affiliated unions were increasing in membership and the prospects were improving.

**Builders' Laborers**—Del. Butterly reported a membership of 280, not 93 as stated by the secretary in The Federationist and World wage-workers' page, and asked that the correction be made.

**Street Railway Employees**—Del. Hoover reported that one of their members, an old man, had been clubbed into insensibility by the city police, while on his way home from work on Jan. 28; they had waited on the police commissioners, but could get no satisfaction; Executive would probably enter action against the city for damages.

**Brotherhood of Carpenters**—Del. Sistrion reported that his union had endorsed the resolutions and action of the Trades and Labor Council in reference to the maltreating of peaceable citizens by uniformed thugs employed by the city, and hoped to see

# KRZUS VS. C. C.

The correspondence which follows will enable the membership of organized labor to secure a line on the present status of the Krzus vs. C. P. R. Coal Co. case:

(Copy.)

Fernie, B. C., Jan. 5, 1912.  
Sec. Dist. No. 6, W. F. M.

Krzus vs. C. N. P. Coal Co.

Dear Sir:—I received last night the following cable from my London agents:

"Sudden change in judicial committee's arrangements makes it impossible to force hearing in February."