

LABOR TO GO AFTER REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL HOUSE

Council Will Run Candidate At the Vancouver Bye-election

Proposal That B. C. Federation Enter Politics Is Also Favored

VANCOUVER Trades and Labor council last night decided that it would place a Labor candidate in the field at the coming Vancouver bye-election, and also gave a strongly affirmative vote on the referendum proposal of the B. C. Federation of Labor, as to that organization entering the political field.

The debate on the council placing a candidate in the field at the Vancouver bye-election was keen and interesting. Many of the delegates came prepared to vote as instructed by their unions, but the delegates gave free expression to their personal views, although the debate, as a whole, was not as exciting as it was supposed would be the case. The proposal that the question be submitted to a referendum vote of the unions had many supporters, losing out by a vote of 28 to 24, while the main question as to the nomination of the candidate was approved by a vote of 32 to 16.

The council decided that the affiliated unions should be asked to submit nominations for the candidate, the names to be sent to the secretary by April 19, the date of the last council meeting for that month.

Del. Kavanagh Starts Debate.

Del. Kavanagh opened the debate by declaring his opposition to the council placing a candidate in the field. He said that the proper sort of political work to be done among workers was of the educational character. It was not a question of merely putting a man in office. The aim of the worker in entering politics was revolutionary, and the mere election of a man to the legislature would mean nothing in the face of the presence of a majority of the master class. Such a man could only act as an obstructionist. It was ridiculous to think that the election of a candidate would lead to concessions being wrung from the master class. Why, even when strikes were declared, the masters only yielded where they were compelled to by the general trend of affairs. As to a platform, if the socialist party was declared to be no longer a factor in the province, the only plank on which the worker could stand was that of the abolition of the existing system. In closing Del. Kavanagh said he would not object to the council entering upon a campaign of education, which had political action at a proper time in view.

Question of Finance Raised.

Del. Benson asked how the proposed campaign would be financed, claiming that the council's recollection of the Labor ticket in the last provincial campaign should show the need of having this matter settled.

President McVety replied that ways and means could be easily arranged, but Del. Benson pressed his point that financial arrangements should be considered before action was taken by the council. He said that Mr. McVety had once told him that the campaign funds usually came in during the last few weeks, but he considered this a very poor method. He did not feel like running a campaign which would cost from \$1500 to \$2000 on a shoestring until the closing days of the contest. Who was to foot the bill? Was the council, the unions or individuals to be responsible? Some answer should be given this question.

Del. McDonald said that the Brotherhood of Carpenters had discussed the question, and favored the formation of an electoral committee from all affiliated unions. If this course was adopted, the question of finances and methods could be taken up there.

Del. Kermode did not think that half the trades unionists understood the principles of socialism, and thought money could be better spent on the distribution of working class literature among the workers than on a political campaign.

Educational Work Needed.

...mode did not think that half the trades unionists understood the principles of socialism, and thought money could be better spent on the distribution of working class literature among the workers than on a political campaign.

Educational Work Needed.

Del. Ellsworth said that he did not think trades unionists should enter the political field until they were economically united, which was certainly not now the case. Speaking for the Tailors' union, the proposal had been voted down at a meeting by a vote of 28 to 19.

Del. Hubble said the question was not the entrance of the council in the political field, but merely for the coming bye-election. He agreed with Del. Ker-mode that it was better to spend money on educational work.

Del. Welsh thought the whole question rested on whether the finances could be arranged and the votes controlled. This could best be shown by taking a referendum vote of the members of the unions on the question.

Del. Pipes said the matter had already been postponed to allow the delegates to interview their locals. The bricklayers had discussed the question, and almost unanimously approved the plan. As far as educational work was concerned, he had been attending socialist meetings for seven years, and had not seen that much progress was being made with the masses.

Del. Harrison reported that the civic employees favored the proposal, with only one dissenting vote. Del. Brooks said the machinists voted 26 for and 4 against. The cigarmakers were reported by Del. Kirbiltz, and the movie operators by Del. Hansen as unanimously in favor of the plan.

Views of President McVety.

Pres. McVety said that Dels. Kavanagh and Hubble had favored education rather than political action at present, but this was not their view when the socialist party appeared to have a chance. If there was no use in entering political campaigns, why had this party spent thousands of dollars in election deposits? Could it be said that the seat-

(Continued on page 6)

LABOR TO GO AFTER REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL HOUSE

(Continued from page 1)

ing of two members in the house by that party and the registering of 22 per cent. of the vote of the province did not do more good than propaganda meetings? If the socialist party was no longer a factor in the province, it was a question as to whether this was due to its doctrine or its methods. There were workingmen in the province, both within and without the socialist party, who were perfectly capable of doing good work in the legislature and it was up to Labor to try and put them there. As to finances, the socialist party often did not have the money for its deposits before election day. During the last provincial election, Mr. Trotter was driven to the wall at the last moment for his deposit, and the speaker had assisted him to get the money, which was later repaid. Mr. Trotter's expenses in that campaign was only \$385, and from this the council could see that a campaign fund for a Labor candidate could be raised in a few nights. The question for the council to decide was as to whether this was the psychological time to enter the field. Even if the man was not elected, good work would be done, and campaign meetings were good places for propaganda work. Personally, the speaker believed the political conditions were such as made possible a good showing for the candidate. The record made would show the wisdom of similar action in the future.

Referendum Vote Proposed.

Dels. Benson and Copping moved that the matter be referred to a referendum vote of the Vancouver unions, the organizations to also state their position as to financial support for the campaign. Mr. Benson said that while the socialists could raise campaign funds as Pres. McVety had said, this was due to the fact that they maintained a political organization, while the council did not.

Del. Miss Gutteridge referred to the probability of the bye-elections being put off until women could vote. She believed that with a real campaign, appealing to both men and women, the candidate would have a good chance.

Del. Kavanagh said he welcomed the referendum proposal as it would give a chance for propaganda work in the unions. Del. McVety said it was useless to delay action. The sooner the matter was settled and, if a candidate was to be run, his campaign was started, the better for his success.

Del. Reed thought the referendum vote a wise move. Labor had in the past often jumped too quickly and suffered afterward as a result.

The vote was then taken with the referendum proposal being defeated, and the main proposal carried as noted in the opening paragraphs of this article.

The decision as to the submission of names for candidates by the unions was made on a resolution of Del. Reed, the limit of April 19 being suggested by Secretary Midgley.

Vote on Federation Referendum.

The referendum question as to the D. C.

Vote on Federation Referendum.

The referendum query as to the B. C. Federation entering the political field was settled in short order. Del. Kavanagh said that as the council had decided to go part way, it might as well make the entire jump and, after a very brief discussion, the ballot was taken with a showing of 29 for and 4 against.

Applications for affiliation with the council were made by the Amalgamated Carpenters, the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers, and the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

Credentials were received and the delegates obligated as follows: Lathers A. Surges; Amalgamated Carpenters, R. Jackson, J. Smith, R. Edwards and R. McCormack. Steam Engineers, J. P. O'Neil in place of J. Winterbottom. Civic Employees, J. McFarlane in place of J. C. Wood.

Announcement was made of the annual meeting of the B. C. Federationist, Ltd., for March 24, and the council concurred in the recommendation that the executive be instructed to vote the shares of the council at the meeting.

The statement of the B. C. Federation on the subject of conscription (given in full in last week's issue of The Federationist), was endorsed and a copy ordered to be sent to the Ottawa authorities.

Del. Watson stated that the Civic Firemen's union had engaged Del. Midgley as business agent in connection with his work for the civic employees.

President McVety reported that after interviews in which he showed that the council's work with the immigration authorities fully covered the necessary entrance of labor from across the line, a recommendation that the present order-in-council covering this field be continued had been sent to Ottawa by Dominion members from the province. He also reported having taken up with the cigarmakers the question of employing returned soldiers, the commission in charge having proposed the establishment of a cigar factory for them. He had also made representation to the civic authorities as to the Canadian Northern paying only 40 cents per hour on bridge and structural work and pile driving on False Creek, as compared with the standard wage of 45 cents.

On the discussion as to the work of the Globe Contracting Co. on the public market at Main and Hastings streets, the bricklayers reported they had decided to keep away from the job.

The council approved the revision of the constitution and bylaws as submitted by the executive. The chief alterations from the old rules is the raising of the per capita tax to 5 cents per month, payable monthly, providing for the appointment of a business agent at the discretion of the council and covering the proposal for unions of any line of industry acting as a council committee as the building trades are now proposing to do.

Roll Call of Delegates.

Statistician Cottrell reports that 60 delegates were present, as follows:

Machinists, J. Brooks, J. H. McVety, A. R. Towler and W. M. Hawthorn; civic employees, V. R. Midgley and G. Harrison; letter carriers, F. Knowles, N. Barlow, J. Cass and R. Wight; sailors' union, W. S. Burns; brotherhood of carpenters, G. Thom, J. H. Copping D. Lyons, A. McDonald, and J. Campbell; tailors, Helena Gutteridge, J. T. Ellsworth, C. S. Gren and A. R. Gatenby; milk wagon drivers, T. Errington; city firemen, A. Betts and A. Watson; garment workers, J. A. McMaster; electrical workers, F. Woodside and E. H. Morrison; steam engineers, J. O'Neill; deep sea fishermen, R. Kearley; bricklayers, W. S. Dagnall, W. J. Pipes and E. Wilde; painters, W. Knight; press assistants, F. W. Jure; typos, H. C. Benson; cooks and waiters, A. Graham; street railwaymen, E. G. Kermode, W. H. Cottrell, F. A. Hoover, J. Hubble, A. McInnes and R. E. Rigby; longshoremen, J. Kavanagh; movie operators, W. Tenney and A. C. Hansen; barbers, J. P. Ferris and S. H. Grant; printing pressmen, E. B. Stephenson; pile drivers, W. Eastman and J. Harrison; brewery workers, A. Sykes; retail clerks, C. D. Bruce and A. P. Glen; plasterers, H. Reed and S. Rush; cigarmakers, A.

as the building trades are now proposing to do.

Roll Call of Delegates.

Statistician Cottrell reports that 60 delegates were present, as follows:

Machinists, J. Brooks, J. H. McVety, A. R. Towler and W. M. Hawthorn; civic employees, V. R. Midgley and G. Harrison; letter carriers, F. Knowles, N. Barlow, J. Cass and R. Wight; sailors' union, W. S. Burns; brotherhood of carpenters, G. Thom, J. H. Copping D. Lyons, A. McDonald, and J. Campbell; tailors, Helena Gutteridge, J. T. Ellsworth, C. S. Gren and A. R. Gatenby; milk wagon drivers, T. Errington; city firemen, A. Betts and A. Watson; garment workers, J. A. McMaster; electrical workers, F. Woodside and E. H. Morrison; steam engineers, J. O'Neill; deep sea fishermen, R. Kearley; bricklayers, W. S. Dagnall, W. J. Pipes and E. Wilde; painters, W. Knight; press assistants, F. W. Jure; typos, H. C. Benson; cooks and waiters, A. Graham; street railwaymen, E. G. Kermode, W. H. Cottrell, F. A. Hoover, J. Hubble, A. McInnes and R. E. Rigby; longshoremen, J. Kavanagh; movie operators, W. Tenney and A. C. Hansen; barbers, J. P. Ferris and S. H. Grant; printing pressmen, E. B. Stephenson; pile drivers, W. Eastman and J. Harrison; brewery workers, A. Sykes; retail clerks, C. D. Bruce and A. P. Glen; plasterers, H. Reed and S. Rush; cigarmakers, A.

week to consider the demands of the men, but on Tuesday conferences were resumed and are still in progress.

Dr. Robert Telford will speak on "Proportional Representation," at the meeting of the Open Forum on Sunday afternoon at 2.30, in the O'Brien hall. W. J. Curry will be chairman.

St. Louis Labor says:—"There have always been two classes of labor leaders: the one class fighting bravely and fearlessly the battles of the working class, the other lickspittling with the capitalist employing class to the detriment of a healthy, clean labor movement." Sure thing. The first mentioned is a danger and a threat to the slave masters and robbers of our time. The latter is one of the chief bulwarks of the capitalist regime of robbery and rapine, for it always steers the labor movement away from all action that in any manner threatens the property rights of masters in the souls and bodies of slaves. It represents the most sinister and reactionary influence in the labor world of this profit hungry age. It is the chief obstacle in the pathway of a real and virile labor movement.

Kochel and H. G. Kirbitz; moulders, A. H. Donaldson; amal. carpenters, J. G. Smith; plumbers, F. W. Welsh; boot and shoe workers, T. Corey. Sixty members present.