

B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR DISSOLVED AT VICTORIA CONVENTION

Delegates at the Tenth Annual Convention Decide It Can No Longer Assist—Officers Actions Are Approved—Balance of Funds to Be Returned to Unions Paying 1920 Per Capita

THE TENTH ANNUAL convention of the British Columbia Federation of Labor, which was held in the city of Victoria on Monday and Tuesday, came to an end at 6 p.m. Tuesday, and with the conclusion of the sessions, the federation was dissolved, the delegates taking the stand that as the federation had fulfilled its mission—which was to bring the workers together—by the formation of an organization that all workers could join without any craft divisions, that a federation was no longer necessary when the one organization could cover all workers in the province and country. The office equipment is to be sold and all available cash after all bills have been paid, will be returned pro ratio to the organizations that have paid per capita tax for the first half of the present year. While it had been expected that there would be strong opposition to the policy pursued by the executive during the past year, the most notable feature of the convention was that the executive did not have to defend itself, and at no previous convention did the members of the executive take the floor in their own defense less than they did at the final gathering of the provincial organization, the rank and file on all occasions defending the actions of the executive, when opposition developed. Naturally the opposition was from the members of International Unions, but even the representatives of these organizations were not by any means unanimous, members of International Unions being in many cases the stoutest defenders of the policy pursued by the executive officers, which was laid down for their guidance by the 1919 convention.

Sharp at 10 o'clock Monday morning. Secretary Wells called the convention to order. He stated that owing to the absence of President Kavanagh, who was in the Old Land in connection with the appeal in the Russell case, it would be necessary to appoint a chairman. W. H. Cottrell, of the Street and Electric Railway Employees being the only nominee, he was elected by acclamation.

Vice-president Cottrell, in taking the gavel, thanked the delegates for the confidence expressed by electing him as chairman, and at once got the convention down to business.

The executive then recommended the appointment of the following delegates as a committee on credentials: A. McInnis, E. W. Ellis, Geo. Padgett, E. Meek, J. W. Little, W. E. Burt. The recommendation of the executive was concurred in, and the committee retired to compile its report. During the recess, while the convention was awaiting the report of the credential committee, Tom Richardson, who was in the hall, was asked to address the convention.

Tom Richardson Speaks

In opening, he stated that during the time he had been in Canada, he had endeavored to study the industrial and political movement in British Columbia and Canada generally, but was most interested in the Socialist and International movement. He stated that he had spent some time in visiting parts of Vancouver Island, and he considered it simply appalling to find that on the island there is so little sentiment amongst the miners for trades unionism. To have to recognize the fact that the employees recognized no union of any kind, he stated, was appalling.

Referring to the political movement, he stated that if there is to be any effective political work of any kind, that the experience of the Old Land should be considered. He took the position that the most effective industrial organization could not solve the political problem, and stated that any working class political party must be dominated by the economics of Socialism. Referring to the fact that at the outbreak of the war, the British Labor Party had fallen down, he stated that it was due to the fact that that party was not dominated by this school of thought. He contended that the chaos now prevailing in Europe was largely due to the failure of the British Labor Party in a crisis. He urged the workers of this country, at all costs, to build their political party on the Socialist basis, with allegiance to the proletariat alone.

Del. McInnis, chairman of the credential committee was then called upon to report. The following delegates were recommended as duly executed and qualified representatives, and the committee recommended that they be seated. The recommendation of the committee was adopted unanimously.

Vancouver

General Workers Unit of the O. B. U.—A. S. Wells, V. R. Midgley,

- J. C. Wood, R. Edmonds, E. Meek, J. Marshall.
- Laundry Workers Unit of the O. B. U.—J. W. Little.
- Vancouver Trades and Labor Council—G. Campbell, J. Shaw.
- Street Railwaymen—W. H. Cottrell, F. E. Griffin, F. A. Hoover, J. Sidaway, E. S. Cleveland, H. Blazler, A. McInnis, R. Anderson.
- Marine Firemen & Oilers Unit of the O. B. U.—Earl King, Chas. McLaughlin.
- Loggers—J. W. Holliday, C. E. Hastings, J. R. Flynn, J. A. Brunet, J. N. Clarke, W. A. Alexander, W. Moore, E. Winch, E. Waterson.
- Bakers—Arthur Myers, James W. Hogg.
- Civic Employees—David Cuttle.
- Plumbers and Steam Fitters—F. W. Welsh, G. Coghill.
- Painters—H. Grand, J. Emery.

Victoria

- Shipbuilders Unit of the O. B. U.—W. E. Peirce, E. Litchfield, M. Allen, T. Moir, E. W. Ellis, J. L. Martin, A. Mackie.
- International Longshoremen—George Padgett.
- Amalgamated Carpenters—N. Nicholson, J. Ley.

Nanaimo

- Coal Miners Unit of the O. B. U.—James Hodgkinson, M. Christer.

Cumberland

- Cumberland Miners—J. Naylor, David Somerville.

Silverton

- Metal Miners—T. B. Roberts.

Powell River

- Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers—John Farquharson, F. Soules.

Prince Rupert

- Trades and Labor Council—D. S. Cameron, George Casey.

Sandon

- Sandon Miners Union—P. F. Bomfield, W. E. Burt.

The following committees were then appointed on recommendation of the executive:

- Committee on Officers Reports**
D. S. Cameron, J. Sidaway, J. Hogg, W. E. Pierce, J. Marshall, F. Hoover, E. Winch, G. Campbell, W. A. Alexander, H. Grand.
- Committee on Resolutions**
J. Clarke, J. C. Wood, G. Coghill, J. Ley, J. L. Martin, M. Christer, J. R. Flynn, Earl King, J. Farquharson.
- Committee on Audit**
J. Shaw, E. W. Ellis, W. Burt.
- Committee on Ways and Means**
R. Anderson, E. Meek, E. Waterson.

It was decided that the sessions should be from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1:30 to 5 p.m. No speaker to have more than ten minutes, the movers of resolutions to have the right of reply to the debate. It was also decided that all resolutions be in the hands of the secretary by 9:30 on Tuesday morning. After the appointment of committees, and the introduction of the resolutions, the following wire from the miners of Fernie was read and ordered spread on the minutes.

A. S. Wells, Sec.-Treas. B. C. Federation of Labor.

Fernie miners solid for the O. B. U. Regret being unable to send representatives, and hope that the convention will continue the present policy of The B. C. Federationist.

(Signed) G. SAWYER.

The convention then adjourned until 2:30 p.m. to allow the committee on officers reports to get to work. The delegates taking the position, that until the officers' reports had been dealt with, that it would be impossible for any line of action to be determined upon.

Report Favorably

At the opening of the afternoon session, the committee on officers' reports, through Chairman Cameron, reported favorably on the various sections of the executive committee report. That section of the report dealing with the taking of the referendum vote on the formation of the One Big Union, was the first to raise any protest. To this Del. Hoover took exception, stating that he would not vote for the report if it would keep the two factions apart. He also questioned the report as to the number of members voting for the new form of organization.

Secretary Wells went into the vote recorded at length, and stated

(Continued on page 4)

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THE PARIS COMMUNE
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March 18th
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01 Pender Street East

B. C. Federation of Labor Is Dissolved at Victoria Convention

(Continued from page 1)

that every one of the organizations affiliated with the Federation had been supplied with sufficient ballots for all members. He gave examples as to how the vote was taken by many organizations, where every member had been mailed a ballot. Dealing with the return of the charter to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the executive reported as follows:

Charter Returned

When it was seen that Congress had taken more power over provincial federations of labor, and which power gives the executive of Congress power to remove officers of provincial organizations, and in view of the fact that the Federation had been denied a seat at the Congress convention, Secretary Wells phoned President Kavanagh and suggested that in order to safeguard the property of the Federation, it would be necessary to cease affiliation with Congress. This met with the approval of the president and the other members of the executive resident here, and the opinion of the others was obtained by wire. The following wire was sent to P. M. Draper, and the charter returned:

Sept. 29th, 1919.

P. M. Draper,

Box 515, Ottawa, Ont.

Owing to the action of the Congress executive refusing the B. C. Federation of Labor representation at the convention, and the amendments passed at that convention to the constitution, giving the Congress' executive mandatory powers over the officers of provincial federations, I am instructed by the executive of the B. C. Federation to notify you of the withdrawal of that organization from Congress. The executive takes the stand that they could never submit the Federation to such autocratic methods without the membership being consulted. The matter of affiliation will have to be dealt with at the next convention. I have this day by registered mail, returned the charter.

A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

The action was at once communicated to the affiliated organizations and a number of letters were received endorsing the action of the executive, and one or two protesting. In view of the fact that The Federationist is partly owned by the Federation, we had no other alternative, or if the officers had have been removed and the Federation taken over by a commission, as can be done, with organizations retaining their affiliation under the amended constitution, we might have found ourselves in the position of having our own paper working against us, and the direct instructions of the convention the cause of the removal of the officers and the defeat of the wishes of the members. No men with any sense of what democracy in an organization means, could submit to such autocratic methods. Congress, however, in amending the charter, gave us the clue as to the intentions, but, they were defeated by quick action on the part of your executive, who had no intention of doing other than that which they were instructed to do at the last convention.

Internationals Protest

This section of the report brought the supporters of the International unions to their feet. Del. Coghill wished to know why the rank and file had not had the matter of return of the charter to Congress referred to them for a referendum vote?

Secretary Wells stated that if this had have been done, the executive of Congress could have taken action under its amended constitution, and have deposed the officers and taken charge of the property, while the referendum was being taken. He stated that he as one of the executive, was not going to wait, but took instant action as soon as it was known that the Congress had the power granted under the amended constitution, to take over the property of the organization, and by returning the charter safeguarding the property of the organization.

Del. Cleveland took the position that while the action might have been diplomatic, that it was not democratic.

Del. Wood stated that if the executive had not returned the charter, and the property of the Federation had been seized, the executive would have been more open to criticism.

Farmilo Appears

Mr. A. Farmilo, who was in the room, was on motion of Del. Casey, given the opportunity of explaining the matter so far as Congress was concerned. He stated that the amendment to the constitution of Congress was for the purpose of

protecting the Congress against the loss of its property. He also stated that the executive had decided to return the charter, and he could not say what the executive of Congress had done since its return.

Connived with Employers'

Del. Sidaway then denounced the men "who had openly connived with employers of labor to debar O. B. U. members from jobs." He said these men had chosen the psychological moment to do their work. There were some people whose minds were "wobbly," who would change their opinions for a few dollars and help spread propaganda against the radical element. These people, he alleged, were backed by funds, by the government, the Trades and Labor Congress and by employers. It was a condition that could not be tolerated.

"We have got to show Mr. Farmilo and others that they can't get away with this any longer," pursued the delegate. He said that these men should be taken by the scruff of the neck, if necessary, and shown where they belonged.

Mr. Farmilo took exception to the statements made by Del. Sidaway, but the chairman pointed out that they were not specifically aimed at Mr. Farmilo, but were general statements.

Del. Coghill also took exception to the statements of Del. Sidaway, the chairman pointing out that the statements of an individual were not necessarily the opinions of the convention.

Del. Hoover took the position that the return of the charter could not save the property of the Federation, and that there must have been other reasons.

Secretary Wells pointed out that the amendment to the constitution of Congress, which gave the executive of that body power to take the property of the Federation, had been passed after the Federation had been refused a seat at the convention.

Germany Outdone

Del. Martin stated that this was more autocratic than anything even Germany could boast of. When the vote was taken, the action of the executive was endorsed by a large majority, Dels. Cleveland and Coghill wishing to be recorded as voting nay.

J. S. Woodsworth Speaks

Before the convention closed, Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, one of the men arrested in Winnipeg, and

(Continued on page 8)

Drug Specials

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

50c Fruitatives	34c
35c Freezone for	24c
50c Chase's Nerve Food	33c
60c Palm Olive Cold Cream	43c
25c Nature's Remedy Tablets	17c
40c Saniflush for	26c
25c Mecca Ointment	17c
50c Pebecco Tooth Paste	30c
25c Baby's Own Tablets	19c
50c Mennen's Cream	31c
\$1.00 Bitro Phosphates	70c
50c Formamin	34c
25c Mennen's Talcum	14c
\$1.00 Dorina Face Powder	63c
75c Michaud's Lillac	46c
50c Reid's Brillantine	25c
25c Dentone Tooth Paste	18c
50c Reid's Carrh Balm	28c
25c Kkovah Health Salts	19c
50c Reid's Eczema Ointment	29c
25c Carter's Liver Pills	18c
25c Reid's Cascara Tablets	18c
50c Reid's After-Shave	33c

Above Prices Include War Tax

Vancouver Drug Co.

LIMITED

THE ORIGINAL CUT RATE DRUGGISTS OF VANCOUVER

—Seven Stores—

35 Hastings W.	Sey. 1965
7 Hastings W.	Sey. 2592
163 Hastings E.	Sey. 2032
782 Granville St.	Sey. 7019
1700 Commercial Drive ..	High. 238
Granville and Broadway ..	Bay. 2314
Broadway and Main	Fair. 4088

ORPHEUM THEATRE

THE HOME OF GOOD VAUDEVILLE

Matinee 2.30
Evenings 3.20

PANTAGES

NEXT WEEK

OH! MIKE!

GORGEOUS GIRLS—JOYOUS MUSIC
Other Big Features

now awaiting trial, addressed the delegates. He referred to the part taken by British Columbia in the raising of funds, and stated that this Province had done better than any other part of the country. He denied that any part of the money raised was being used for O. B. U. propaganda, and stated that he had steered clear of the rival factions in his endeavors on behalf of the defense committee. He paid an eloquent tribute to the effort put forward before the court by W. A. Pritchard, in the cross-examination of witnesses.

Tuesday Morning

The Tuesday morning session saw the introduction of many resolutions. The officers' reports committee continued their report, after these had been read.

The chairman of the committee stated that the reference of the executive to the alliance between the Internationals and the employers was too sweeping, and that the committee recommended an amendment to make it clear that it was only certain of these organizations, and not all.

Proof Enough

Del. Midgley stated that he would not oppose the amendment, but pointed out that there was collusion between the government and the employers and the Internationals, and that there would appear to be collusion between some representatives of the Internationals and the secret police.

Del. Hoover supported the amendment, but suggested that the whole of that portion of the report should be deleted, and the mud-slinging cut out.

Del. Naylor stated that there was proof enough of the inefficiency of the Internationals, and cited the case of the Shipyard Laborers, who had been divided between several craft organizations.

Del. Hogg took the position that there was room for the Federation for another year, and disputed the statement in the executive's report to the effect that the Federation had been superseded by a more powerful organization.

Del. Alexander took the position that there was no doubt as to the collusion between the Internationals and the employers. The previous question was then called for.

Del. Coghill asked if the matter was to be railroaded, but raised a laugh when he voted for the previous question being put. The call for the previous question was defeated, and the debate continued.

Del. Coghill asked if he could obtain the votes of the various locals on the question of the O. B. U. The secretary replied he could.

Del. Casey stated that he had failed to get a single note from the International supporters, as to why the policy of the new organization should be changed. He took the position that that it was the duty of the convention to reaffirm its position as decided on at the 1919 convention, or cease to progress.

Del. Midgley asked Del. Hoover if he would like another referendum vote taken, and if he did, would he support the taking of the vote in the Street Railwaymen's Union? To this Del. Hoover replied that he did not think that he would oppose it.

Definite Instructions

Del. Cameron stated that he had come to the with definite instructions to dissolve the Federation, and as that was the recommendation of the executive, he would support the recommendation. He stated that in Prince Rupert, they had been trying to find common ground, and that the workers in realizing that it was only in the O. B. U. that they could find it.

On the motion to support the recommendation of the executive being put, and which carried with it the decision to dissolve the Federation, it was carried by a vote of 40 to 5. An amendment by Del. Hogg to delete that part of the report being defeated.

The president's report caused some little discussion, but the report was adopted with one minor amendment. No amendments were offered to the trustees' report.

A recommendation of the executive as to the disposal of the shares held by the Federation in The B. C. Federationist, was adopted with some little amendment, proposed by the committee on officers' reports, the recommendations as amended and adopted are as follows:

"Your executive committee recommends that the shares now held

I remember On Me

Unexpectedly forced
smaller quarters we are
prices.

These specials for Sat
buying—we must reduce
you can't afford to miss.

COME IN

Big Special in Men's Work

Work shoes for men that will
and comfortable wear—of
tan and in such well-known
Leckie's, Skookum and W
Sterling; have calf bellows to
good heavy soles. Sold reg
\$8.00

Cornet 56--HAST

in The B. C. Federationist, Ltd., by the Federation, be turned over in trust to a representative of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, the Prince Rupert Central Labor Council, the General Shipyard Workers Unit of Victoria, the Metalliferous Miners, the Coal Miners, and two trustees to be elected by the convention.

The representatives of the organizations mentioned above to be elected by the various organizations.

The shares to be sold subject to the approval of the representatives so selected, along with the trustees, sale of shares to be in blocks of 100 to any unit at par value. All money received in payment for said shares is to be turned over to The B. C. Federationist, Ltd., to be used for the purchasing of permanent machinery or equipment, and for no other purpose, except by the approval of a general meeting of the shareholders.

The next committee to report was the audit committee, which reported as follows:

Audit Committee's Report

Your committee has examined the books, vouchers, receipt books and cancelled cheques, and found everything in good order, with the exception of two items—one a slight error in addition, and the other an item of \$4.20, which had not been entered up in the cash book. These slight errors were corrected, and the financial statement now reads as follows:

Receipts

January	\$1124.71
February	515.47
March	363.10
April	149.82
May	207.55
June	833.35
July	259.97
August	72.96
September	40.84
October	57.48
December	12.80
	\$3638.05

Expenditures

January	\$ 386.32
February	174.79
March	1057.70
April	523.77
May	452.90
June	641.09
July	396.37
August	220.80
September	72.44
October	22.59
November	58.65
December	55.00
	\$4062.42

Recapitulation

Receipts	\$3638.05
Bal. from 1919	465.57
Total receipts	\$4103.62
Expenditure	4062.42

Balance

Your committee also reports that the books were in very good shape, and had been kept in most satisfactory manner.

J. SHAW.
E. W. ELLIS.
W. E. BURT.

Support the Defense

Del. Midgley, by the consent of the convention, introduced the following resolution which was adopted unanimously:

"Resolved, that this convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor, send its greetings to R. B. Russell in Stony Mountain penitentiary, and pledge ourselves to continue to agitate for his unconditional release, and the release of the others who are still on trial. We further pledge ourselves to continue the collection of funds for the purpose of providing adequate defense for all the accused, and for the maintenance of their dependents.

"Further, this conference of representatives of both International and O. B. U. representatives, resent the unfounded and untrue statements that have been made by certain persons, relating to the defense fund, and we again call upon all workers to continue their support of the defense fund."

Common Ground

A resolution, introduced by Del. Hogg, instructing the executive to endeavor to find common ground to bring the workers together on, was non-concurred in, it being pointed out that the O. B. U. provided a common ground for the workers to get together on.

The following resolution, dealing with the activities of the minister of Labor, was adopted as a substitute for one introduced by the representatives of the Sandon miners.

Minister of Labor

"Resolved, that while condemning the numerous anti-working class acts of Senator Robertson, minister of Labor, we would point

BIG MONTANA MINERS STRIKE IN FULL SWING

Over 4000 Men Involved Over Disagreement with the Management

Butte, Mont.—Starting with a walkout of a few hundred men on Feb. 10, the strike of the miners at Bingham Canyon, Utah, has completely tied up the camp, involving between 4000 and 5000 men.

The strike began when a committee chosen by the miners went to the company office to lay their grievances before the management, and were refused a hearing.

A number of the striking miners have been arrested and one of their committeemen, Albert Wills, a Welshman, is held for deportation.

New York—An Italian Labor paper is to be established here as the first free working class organ to represent the 4,000,000 Italian workers of the country. The paper will be called *Avanti!* (Forward), after the famous Socialist paper in Italy, which now has editions in Milan, Rome and Turin. The enterprise is being backed by organized labor in New York, especially by those in the textile industry, of which 75 per cent. in the country are Italians.

Glasgow—J. Ramsay Macdonald, prominent leader of the Independent Labor Party, has been nominated for parliament from the Aberdeen division. There are five parishes of the party in this district.

Be sure to notify the post office as soon as you change your address.

d., out to the workers that the senator has faithfully served the interests of those who appointed him, namely the Coalition government, and that the government, in appointing Robertson, acted in the interests of those whom they represent, the property owning class, and we would urge the workers to vote only for working class candidates for elective offices, and to organize in order that they may be able to enforce their demands.

A resolution protesting against the taxation of incomes less than \$2000 was endorsed after several delegates had pointed out that the workers did not pay taxes, and that slaves had nothing to pay taxes with. The convention reaffirmed the position taken in 1919 as to the 8-hour day, and as a substitute for a resolution introduced on the Russian form of government, reaffirmed the resolution passed at the Calgary convention on this question. Another resolution from the miners, protesting against miners being paid workmen's compensation on the short basis, was adopted.

Disposal of Property

The question of the disposal of the property other than the shares

in The Federationist, was then raised by the secretary, who moved that a committee of three be appointed to audit the books after all bills had been met, and to dispose of the office equipment; all monies on hand, and received from the sale of effects, to be sent back to the organizations paying per capita tax for the first half of 1920 on a pro rata basis. An amendment was moved that the money be given to the defense committee. This was defeated, and the following committee appointed to carry out the motion: Dels. Shaw, McInnis and Woods. The trustees elected to act with the representatives of the different units in the disposal of the shares of The Federationist, are Dels. Cottrell and Wells, Dels. Hoover, Hogan and Winch declining. It was moved that any organization purchasing shares, should be informed that no resale or transfer of shares could be made without the consent of the directorate, and that this would be part of the contract of sale. This was adopted. A resolution to dissolve the Federation was then introduced and adopted and the convention adjourned.