



LA SENTENCE ARBITRALE

Aurait-elle empêché la grève des policiers et pompiers de Québec? — Une utopie qui a fait fiasco. — Il est facile de jeter le blâme et la responsabilité sur les autres. — Mauvais bergers ou troupeau récalcitrant.

La semaine dernière, je disais que les Syndicats Catholiques et Nationaux avaient pris l'habitude de faire grève à propos de tout et à propos de rien; malgré les dénégations des promoteurs de ceux-ci, les circonstances me donneront raison de jour en jour: il y a eu cinq grèves de déclarées dans la ville de Québec la semaine dernière seulement. Je veux bien croire que celles-ci ne sont pas déclarées pour le plaisir de ruiner les affaires et que les ouvriers avaient de bonnes raisons pour avoir recours à cette mesure draconienne. Est-ce que, par hasard, les patrons, connaissant la faiblesse des Syndicats Catholiques, n'en profiteraient pas pour exploiter leurs membres plus que de raison, sachant qu'ils n'ont rien à craindre de ceux-ci, puisqu'ils font bande à part? Ils sont laissés à leurs propres forces et comme rien ne vient remplir leurs fonds de défense, les prières ne suffisent plus, paraît-il, pour remporter des victoires.

Toute chose a ses avantages et ses inconvénients et tant que les Syndicats Catholiques seront conduits par des gens inexpérimentés, qui manquent du sens pratique des affaires, ce sera la même chose, et ils seront, de par la force des circonstances, entraînés à faire plus de grèves que les Unions Internationales qui sont généralement dirigées par des gens qui un entraînement spécial a rendus plus aptes à régler les disputes industrielles.

C'est probablement encore une des raisons qui ont déclenché la grève des policiers et pompiers de Québec — grève qui fut une des plus payables et des plus désastreuses qu'on ait jamais vues. Jamais une union de policiers dirigée par des hommes de la moindre compétence n'aurait osé décider une grève après qu'un bureau d'arbitrage eut siégé et rendu une décision plus ou moins acceptable. Je ne vois pas comment l'organe par excellence de la bonne presse, Le Devoir, peut en rejeter la responsabilité sur le gouvernement et sur moi-même, par ricochet. Voici ce qu'il dit à ce sujet:

«Les agents de police et les pompiers sont en grève à Québec. Mais ce qui intéresse toute la province, c'est le retentissant échec de la loi Galipault. Or, cet échec est d'autant plus navrant que cette fameuse loi était annoncée dans le discours du Trône, que M. Taschereau arborait comme une coquille à son chapeau tout neuf de premier ministre de fraîche date.

«Le moment de la passer. Les syndicalistes de l'Internationale montrèrent les dents. M. Franq fit sa grosse voix, derrière sa grosse moustache, roulant ses gros yeux derrière ses grosses lunettes. M. Foster se dressa sur ses courtes jambes. Et M. Galipault retraça comme le député de Témiscouata devant Jean-François Pouliot. Il fut consulté ses collègues aussitôt par un homme de cette frappe paralytique des unions internationales, lesquelles pourtant, si peu de jours après, devaient remporter la plus éclatante victoire de la fameuse cellule A.

«Et alors on émascula le projet de loi d'une simple petite clause qui en contenait toute la force. La sentence arbitrale, contrairement à ce qui avait été demandé par les unions nationales catholiques, ne fit plus les parties...» — Le Devoir, 28 juin 1921.

Non, messieurs du Devoir, la grève de Québec ne prouve pas la faiblesse du gouvernement, mais elle prouve d'une manière irréfutable la faiblesse et le manque de jugement de ceux qui président aux destinées des Syndicats Catholiques. Ou les membres de ces Syndicats sont rebelles aux exhortations et aux conseils de leurs supérieurs, ou ces derniers manquent de toutes les qualités nécessaires pour être des meneurs d'hommes.

C'est très facile de parler de ma grosse voix, de mes gros yeux, etc. C'est entendu, je le conçois, je suis gros de partout, certains malins disent même que c'est la même chose avec mon intelligence; je plaide encore coupable, mais ce que je sais, c'est que si les hasards de la vie m'avaient fait président aux destinées des policiers et pompiers de Québec, il n'y aurait pas eu de grève, car elle était perdue d'avance et comme je n'ai pas l'habitude de me battre contre des moulins à vent, je n'aurais pas entraîné policiers et pompiers dans une lutte sans issue.

La loi Galipault oblige les municipalités et leurs employés à soumettre leurs différends à un bureau d'arbitrage avant qu'une grève ou contre-grève soit déclarée. C'est logique et c'est bien. A Montréal, nous avons eu une grève de policiers et de pompiers parce que la Commission Administrative refusait de donner sa sanction à la nomination d'un bureau d'arbitrage réclamé par les employés. A Québec, policiers et pompiers ont déclaré la grève parce qu'ils n'étaient pas satisfaits de la décision d'un bureau d'arbitrage.

La bonne feuille prétend que si la loi avait contenu la clause demandée par les Syndicats Catholiques: "la sentence arbitrale", la grève aurait été évitée. Puisqu'ils l'avaient demandée, et si la sentence arbitrale est une bonne chose, pourquoi alors pompiers et policiers ne l'ont-ils pas observée? Si c'est une mauvaise mesure, pourquoi l'ont-ils demandée? C'est simple et ça se passe de commentaires.

Le fiasco de la grève des policiers et pompiers de Québec prouve simplement qu'aucune grève ne peut être un succès si l'opinion publique ne lui est pas favorable, et elle ne le sera presque jamais après que le différend aura été soumis à un bureau d'arbitrage. C'est une de ces lois naturelles qu'on ne peut impunément méconnaître et c'est justement la connaissance de ces lois qui manque le plus aux abbés bien intentionnés qui dirigent les Syndicats Catholiques, et qui fait que ceux-ci sont plutôt une menace pour les ouvriers qu'un bienfait.

Le gouvernement a supprimé de la loi Galipault la clause de la sentence arbitrale — à ma demande, je le confesse — parce que cette "sentence arbitrale" est une farce et a été un fiasco partout où elle a été mise en pratique — lisez l'histoire de l'Australie. En admettant que cette clause fut restée dans la loi, policiers et pompiers seraient en grève la même chose, et alors, les rédacteurs de l'Action Catholique et du Devoir les auraient probablement tous arrêtés et jetés en prison. Cela aurait été très facile, n'est-ce pas? Mais il est logique de présumer que le lendemain les ouvriers de Québec se seraient presque tous mis en grève pour soutenir leurs camarades emprisonnés, et puis après? ... Une nouvelle prison!

Ce n'est pas avec une sentence arbitrale qu'on règlera les différends entre le Capital et le Travail, mais en organisant les ouvriers de manière à ce qu'ils soient solidaires les uns des autres et en plaçant à leur tête non pas des théologiens ou des philosophes, mais des hommes qui ont blanchi sous le harnais, qui ont vécu de la vie du peuple et qui connaissent ses besoins et ses aspirations.

Gus. Franq.

EN TOUT IL FAUT DE LA MESURE

Une question se pose pour la jeunesse travaillable: les enfants doivent-ils payer pension à leurs parents? Jusqu'à vingt-et-un ans ne sont-ils pas à la charge des autres de leurs jours? Un avocat vous contera de fil en aiguille ce que le code — qui est l'expression d'une sagesse surannée — dit des devoirs d'un chacun. Nous ne parlerons que des obligations morales des "parties", comme on dit en style du palais. Il y a de gens qui tirent une sorte d'orgueil à laisser à leurs enfants qui travaillent la totalité de leur avoir: — Ils ont travaillé pour gagner leur argent, qu'ils en disposent à leur gré, nous n'avons rien à y voir.

Même quand ils sont riches, les parents ne doivent pas tenir ce langage, ni se désintéresser ainsi de l'avenir et plus encore du présent de leur progéniture. C'est un grand danger de laisser trop d'argent entre les mains des enfants qui, jusqu'au jour où ils entrent en service, n'avaient eu qu'un trente sous dans leur poche pour s'amuser le dimanche. Une poignée de dollars bien à soi qu'on a gagnés à la sueur de son front cache à celui qui la palpe un plaisir ressemblant un peu au premier amour. C'est une musique bien harmonieuse que celle des pièces blanches qui tintent dans le gousset. N'allez pas croire — à moins d'être avaré — qu'on mette l'enveloppe de la paie tout rond à la banque ou qu'on la cache dans le fond d'un tiroir. Il y a sans doute des individus qui aiment l'argent pour l'argent. Ils éprouvent, à caresser la peau lisse des billets de banque, la même émotion qu'à passer leur main sur le derme satiné d'une main de jeune fille. Quand le magot grossit, il leur semble que leur poitrine se dilate, se gonfle d'aise. Ils le portent dans leur esprit et la journée leur semble longue loin de l'objet de leur pensée. Et leur première visite, avant même d'avoir embrassé leur mère, est à l'idole cachée qu'ils reviennent avec des transports de joie. Mais rarement la jeunesse est cupide. Son motto est: L'argent est fait pour rouler. Le gain d'une semaine représente des parties de plaisirs de toutes sortes, théâtre, vues, dîners pris

dans les restaurants chics pas nécessairement sains, des tours au parc Dominion, d'où l'on ne sort pas sans y avoir laissé sa paie dans les folies gracieuses qui nous emportent dans leur tourbillon.

Il arrive souvent que le premier argent gagné par le jeune homme lui fasse perdre la tête et qu'il se jette à corps perdu dans les tentations qui l'assaillent de partout à la fois. En deux jours, il a tout dévoré et il ne lui reste plus rien pour passer la semaine. Il n'est pas rare qu'il soit obligé d'emprunter pour manger et payer sa chambre. Jamais il ne s'est trouvé plus pauvre que depuis qu'il a fait de l'argent, car il contracte des dettes. «Plus le diable en a, plus il en veut», dit un proverbe. Il en est ainsi de ceux qui ont trempé leurs lèvres à la coupe des jouissances du siècle, ils ne font qu'activer le feu de leurs entrailles. Plus ils boivent, plus ils ont soif.

Les parents doivent donc intervenir au moment où leurs fils vont toucher leur premier argent, en exiger une partie pour les protéger contre eux-mêmes. Ils sont à un moment décisif de leur vie. De la façon dont un jeune homme dépense ses premiers émoluments, on peut augurer de son avenir. Celui qui a assez d'énergie pour repousser les amis toujours nombreux et importants quand ils sentent de l'argent et pour faire taire en soi des désirs tumultueux que la possession du papier vert déchaîne en sa chair, celui, dis-je, qui a le caractère assez fortement trempé pour rester calme quand il tient dans sa main l'ivresse d'une heure, la randonnée en une auto qui fait de la vitesse, la note d'où l'on revient avec une meule de bois et un mal de cheveau, celui de son destin. Dès lors, il a bridé la bête et saura mener ses embarras.

Mais il ne faut pas que l'enfant soit tenté au-dessus de ses forces, s'il est faible de volonté et d'entraînement facile. Beaucoup de piastres représentent beaucoup de dépenses folles, alors il vaut mieux ne pas l'exposer à faire des extravagances qui peuvent avoir de profondes répercussions dans l'avenir. Que les parents ne se fassent pas de faux scrupules

d'intervenir pour exiger ce qu'on appelle une pension, mais qu'il est plutôt une protection pour le jeune homme inconséquent qui ne sait pas encore orienter la boussole de sa vie. D'ailleurs, c'est un devoir de piété filiale, doux à remplir, que d'aider ceux qui nous ont prodigé leurs soins et leur tendresse. Il faut mettre quelque chose de grand dans l'existence d'un jeune homme, lui donner un idéal qui soutienne ses efforts et qui le défende contre les dangereuses suggestions du vice lumineux et tourment, parfumé et déshabillé, qui perfidement prend dans ses ondes l'âme inexpérimentée éprise de beauté et qui vient comme les papillons du soir se brûler les ailes à l'incandescence de cette lumière menteuse.

S'il y a des parents qui pèchent par une exagération de délicatesse, il en est d'autres dont la ladrerie, la mesquinerie, amènent des résultats aussi désastreux. Comme les oiseaux de proie, ils fondent sur l'enveloppe de paie de leurs enfants et l'empochent effrontément, sans leur donner un dollar, au moins, pour leurs menus plaisirs. C'est infâme et maladroite. Si toute peine mérite salaire, tout travail veut aussi une compensation. Cette avarice des parents est cause que l'enfant perd le goût du travail souvent: «Ce n'est pas la peine de se morfondre inutilement!» disent-ils non sans raison et ils retombent à la charge de leur "paternel" qui n'a pas su soigner sa poule aux œufs d'or pour qu'elle puisse continuer à pondre pour l'enrichir. Qui veut trop avoir perd tout. D'autres ne disent rien, mais n'en pensent pas moins. Ils apportent intégralement la "sainte touche" du front barré d'une ride, les yeux sombres, jusqu'à leur majorité, et ensuite ils prennent, non pas la clef des champs, mais celle d'une nouvelle maison de pension. Les mères soupirent: — Les enfants sont bien ingrats!

C'est vrai, mais souvent les parents sont pingres et tyranniques. Ils ont exploité l'adolescence, ils lui ont arraché tout ce qu'elle gagnait: on a souvent la progéniture qu'on mérite.

Julien Saint-Michel.

Le Club Ouvrier Maisonneuve et les prochaines élections municipales

Ce club, après avoir chargé un comité spécial d'étudier la question électorale et la possibilité d'endosser une ou plusieurs candidatures ouvrières lors des prochaines élections municipales, vient de décider de s'abstenir de toute participation active à ces élections. Cette résolution a été prise à la suite du rapport présenté, au nom du comité, par le camarade E. Blanchard, secrétaire-archiviste du Club, et dont voici la teneur:

«Aux officiers et membres du Club Ouvrier de Maisonneuve. «Camarades — Tel qu'autorisé à l'assemblée régulière du 7 juin, votre comité exécutif s'est assemblé chez le secrétaire pour considérer la question de mettre des candidats sur les rangs, aux prochaines élections municipales. Étaient présents, le président, le secrétaire, le trésorier et un syndic. Il a l'honneur de vous soumettre ses conclusions sur cette question de candidats. Votre comité croit et est même convaincu que l'administration d'une ville, avec 35 échevins, est une impossibilité pour donner une bonne administration et pour les raisons suivantes:

1o.— Ces 35 représentants sont autant de maîtres qui reçoivent chacun leurs instructions de leurs mandataires, souvent même, seulement du groupe de cabaleurs de profession qui existe dans chacun de ces quartiers.

2o.— Ces 35 bourgeois ont fait chacun leurs promesses pour se faire élire. De plus, par la loi, à leur première assemblée, ils sont tenus de choisir cinq bourgeois supérieurs, pour administrer la ville. De suite se forment les factions et groupes pour avoir leur homme dans l'exécutif. Les factions qui ne parviennent pas à mettre leur homme deviendront immédiatement des adversaires, et peu à peu les amis deviendront des ennemis à mesure que cette administration avancera.

3o.— Le maire, sous cette administration, quel qu'il soit, n'ayant que le droit de faire des suggestions ou recommandations à l'exécutif, si celui-ci ne tient pas compte de ses opinions, il ne lui restera qu'à user de son influence pour former une majorité du Conseil pour contrecarrer l'administration de l'exécutif.

4o.— Pour les raisons ci-haut mentionnées et beaucoup d'autres, votre comité croit que le principe de la politique du parti ouvrier: l'abolition des quartiers municipaux est le moyen d'avoir une meilleure administration parce que le nombre d'administrateurs est moins grand et qu'ils sont en droit quelconque l'abolition du double mandat, qui force nos représentants à être plus assidus dans leur administration; l'abolition du dépôt électoral. Votre comité croit que tous ceux qui contribuent aux revenus d'une ville, directement ou indirectement, ont le droit d'aspirer à gouverner cette ville sans avoir à risquer un certain montant. Le vote obligatoire: Votre comité croit comprendre par cela que chaque électeur doit exprimer, le jour du scrutin, sa confiance ou non-confiance envers les candidats; sa confiance par un bulletin marqué et sa non confiance par un bulletin blanc. Pour toutes les raisons ci-haut mentionnées, votre comité croit devoir recommander au public de ne pas mettre de candidats aux prochaines élections municipales. Même en supposant que ces candidats seraient élus, il leur serait impossible de faire avancer notre politique et d'établir nos principes; ce serait plutôt les conduire à un fiasco dans une telle anarchie. Votre comité croit qu'il serait plus bénéficiaire pour le club d'employer

ses énergies et son temps dans une autre sphère qui lui permettrait de faire avancer sa politique et ses principes. Le tout est humblement soumis par votre comité.

Signé: E. Blanchard, Secrétaire-archiviste.

Ce rapport, qui expose franchement une situation malheureuse, ne devrait pas, pourtant, décourager qui ce soit. Si nos camarades de Maisonneuve jugent à propos de "laisser faire", au mois d'octobre, c'est qu'ils ont de bonnes raisons pour ce faire, pratiquement parlant. Mais, en principe, il serait préférable qu'il en soit autrement, ne serait-ce que pour rappeler aux adversaires de la classe ouvrière que nous existons toujours et que, tôt ou tard, nous deviendrons une puissance politique avec laquelle il faudra compter.

Dans l'intervalle, camarades de Maisonneuve, faites un travail constant d'éducation par la conférence, la brochure et le livre; répandez à profusion la saine doctrine de la véritable solidarité ouvrière afin que, dans un avenir rapproché, vous soyez en état de faire élire un ou plusieurs de vos votes.

DE PARTOUT UN PEU

— A chaque occasion, nous lions des statistiques, nous donnons en chiffres ronflants le nombre de jours de travail perdus par les ouvriers à cause de la grève. A quand, maintenant, les statistiques de la quantité de jours perdus par suite du chômage organisé par un élément intéressé dans l'espoir de réduire la misère de la classe ouvrière et réaliser des profits énormes. La grande industrie, nos colossales compagnies de transport — ces dernières surtout qui ont aidé à développer l'arrêt de la production et l'aggravation de la crise — doivent être satisfaites. Ces compagnies de transport, qui pleurnichent dans le gilet du ministre du Travail fédéral pour obtenir l'introduction au pays de 60,000 Chinois sans prétexte que la guerre les avait empêché de faire restaurer leurs lignes et leur matériel, et qui à tout propos ferment leurs usines et jettent des milliers d'hommes sur le pavé, n'étaient donc pas sincères lors de leur pèlerinage à Ottawa. Ou ces Chinois étaient nécessaires et il y avait du travail pour eux, ou ils ne l'étaient pas. Dans l'affirmative (il devait y avoir du travail puisque les compagnies se sont adressées à Ottawa pour obtenir des ouvriers), il doit y avoir du travail pour les ouvriers du pays qu'on ne se gêne pas de fermer jusqu'au 4 juillet. Ces manoeuvres doivent encher des projets intéressés. On commence à voir clair dans le jeu de ces capitalistes qui veulent réduire le pouvoir d'achat des masses pour pouvoir plus facilement les contrôler et leur imposer leur volonté. Nous osons espérer que les travailleurs réaliseront la situation et qu'ils répondront en s'organisant plus fortement que jamais.

— La campagne menée aux Etats-Unis en faveur de la boutique ouverte ne réussit pas un grand encouragement. En effet, on nous annonce qu'à Cheng, sur vingt maisons de peinture, quatorze ont déjà signé un contrat avec l'union internationale des peintres leur donnant la boutique fermée et un salaire de 90 centimes l'heure.

— La loi de la journée de 8 heures votée par le Parlement belge, il y a quelques mois, et que le Sénat avait améliorée et renouée au Parlement, vient d'être votée par les Chambres belges à l'unanimité, moins 7 voix. Au moins les ouvriers belges profiteront de la convention internationale de Washington, C. D.

A TRAVERS LE MOUVEMENT OUVRIER

— L'installation des nouveaux officiers de l'Union locale 1558 de la Fraternité des Charpentiers-Ménisiers d'Amérique, présidée par G. H. Bellefleur, le président du local 1375, de Lachine.

Après l'installation, le président J. E. Vigeant en prenant le fauteuil présidentiel pour la sixième fois, remercia cordialement les membres pour la confiance qu'ils lui ont accordée; cependant, il préférait les membres qu'un autre de ses collègues peut se préparer à occuper la charge de président, au prochain terme. Le temps du repos est arrivé pour les vieux, au jeunes de montrer que sous la sage direction des vieux ils ont acquis quelques qualités qu'ils pourront employer dans l'intérêt des membres du local 1558.

Les autres officiers, à tour de rôle, ont dit leur mot de bien vouloir de travailler pour le bien des membres de l'organisation qui avaient mis leur confiance en eux. Le camarade A. Boldart, du Monde Ouvrier, fut invité à dire quelques mots; il établit la nécessité de maintenir le taux des salaires actuels. A ce propos, il expliqua l'opinion donnée par deux capitalistes importants du continent américain, Henry Ford, le grand manufacturier d'automobiles, et John D. Rockefeller, de la Standard Oil Co. Ces messieurs sont d'avis que seul le haut salaire payé aux ouvriers producteurs en peut faire de bons consommateurs. Les bas salaires est opposé à la consommation. Avec le système de machinisme actuellement en vogue, la production est plus forte, il faut par conséquent donner les moyens à la masse du peuple d'être un consommateur régulier. Pour aider à la consommation des produits manufacturés, il faut faire travailler le plus grand nombre de mains possible; de la consommation des produits et de leur circulation régulière sort la richesse pour le producteur et l'intermédiaire et le bien-être de l'ouvrier au quel un bon salaire permet d'être un consommateur régulier. Depuis l'inauguration, le printemps dernier, de cette campagne de réduction des salaires, l'ouvrier prudent a limité ses achats et par conséquent la consommation, ce qui a encore aggravé la crise économique que nous traversons. Qu'on ne se permette de consommer et la production reprendra son cours normal au profit des producteurs comme des consommateurs. La soirée s'est terminée par des amusements divers.

— Certains patrons refusent de traiter avec les unions, et cependant ils sont organisés en association. Ils s'engagent à ne reprendre à leur service aucun homme à moins d'avoir l'assentiment de leur comité de travail. Pourquoi refuser aux ouvriers de traiter avec leurs représentants accredités, alors qu'on s'engage par écrit à ne pas déroger aux règles d'une association. Si l'union fait la force des patrons, est-ce qu'il est interdit aux ouvriers d'user des mêmes moyens?

— Dans le différend de l'imprimerie, les patrons sont supportés par l'Association des Manufacturiers. Les ouvriers sont supportés par leurs unions internationales. Un ouvrier laissé à ses seules ressources perd infailliblement sa cause. Il en est de même des patrons. Alors pourquoi blâmer les ouvriers de restreindre?

— Le local 588 de l'Union Internationale des Opérateurs de machines à vapeur vient de procéder à l'élection de ses officiers au Monument National. Le camarade X. H. Richard a présidé à l'élection qui a donné le résultat suivant: Président, Eugène Hamelin; vice-président, R. Charrier; secrétaire financier, J. H. Leclair; secrétaire-archiviste et correspondant, C. Germain; trésorier, A. Archambault; conducteur, A. Dionne; gardien, G. Desrosiers; syndics: A. Collin, H. Potvin et H. Rivard; auditeurs: A. Collin, N. H. Rivard et E. Dionne; délégués au Conseil des Métiers et du Travail: Eug. Hamelin et G. Desrosiers; délégués au Parti Ouvrier: Eug. Hamelin et C. Germain.

Le camarade A. Archambault représentera les membres du local employés par la ville de Lachine, au Congrès des Métiers et du Travail à Ottawa, en septembre prochain. Muni de toutes les correspondances nécessaires, il se rendra au local.

— Comme nous l'annoncions dans notre dernier numéro, le mois prochain, le 22, s'ouvrira à Winnipeg, le congrès annuel du Congrès des Métiers et du Travail au Canada. Tous les ans, ces assises ouvrières réunissent au-delà de 2,000 délégués venus de tous les endroits du Canada. Cependant, vu l'éloignement, il est peu probable que ce nombre soit atteint. Les unions ouvrières de la province de Québec devraient faire un effort pour se faire représenter.

— Comme il était question que la réduction des salaires faites sur les chemins de fer des Etats-Unis — et qui devait prendre effet le 1er juillet — serait aussi appliquée aux ouvriers de chemins de fer au Canada, les ouvriers du Grand-Tronc ont unanimement voté le refus d'accepter cette réduction.

— Le conseil de district des charpentiers-ménisiers de Montréal a fait l'élection de ses officiers pour 1921-22. Le dépouillement du scrutin a donné le résultat suivant: M. Adélaïde Robert, secrétaire sortant de charge, réélu; Pierre LeVêvre, du local 134; Edouard Henry, du local 2098; Eudore Primeau, du local 1127, tous réélus agents d'affaires. M. R. Saint-Maurice, actuellement secrétaire du local 134, a été élu agent d'affaires, en remplacement de M. Lord, qui avait décliné la candidature. Après le dépouillement du vote referendum pour l'élection du secrétaire du district et des agents d'affaires, le conseil procéda à l'élection de son bureau de direction. La séance était présidée par J. O. Gagnon, président sortant de charge. Les officiers suivants furent élus: James Lespérance, président; Richard Lynch, vice-président; J. A. Roy, secrétaire financier; Sébastien d'Armes. Les syndics élus sont: J. Archambault, E. Blais et J. A. Delisle. L'exécutif se compose de R. Lynch, président, E. Blais, J. Nasse, J. Abrahamson, M. Lavallée.

— Les bureaux du conseil de district sont au numéro 217 rue Sainte-Catherine Est.

— A Trenton, N. J., l'Association des Entrepreneurs a déclaré une contre-grève, espérant ainsi faire accepter par les ouvriers une réduction de salaires. Comme les membres de l'Association des Entrepreneurs n'étaient pas tous en faveur de cette mesure et que les ouvriers étaient unis, le contrat a été reconnu par la plupart des entrepreneurs.

— La grève des mineurs d'Angleterre est maintenant finie. Cette grève dura trois mois et tous les moyens avaient été employés par le patronat pour la déconcerter. Les ouvriers demandaient la nationalisation des mines. Cette demande avait été faite pour empêcher les propriétaires des mines de prendre des profits exagérés. Pour en arriver à un règlement, le gouvernement a promis une subvention de 50 millions de livres sterling. C'est un peu cher. La nationalisation aurait pu coûter moins cher au public anglais.

— Lundi dernier, à la salle St-Joseph, à Saint-Henri, fut tenue l'assemblée régulière du local 2003 des travailleurs textiles. Un rapport du comité d'organisation fut fait et adopté. Il fut décidé de commencer une campagne d'éducation ouvrière parmi le personnel des moulins textiles. Une colonne spéciale traitant de l'organisation des ouvriers textiles, paraîtra tous les quinze jours dans Le Monde Ouvrier, et les membres du local seront chargés de la distribution du journal à tous les ouvriers concernés. A cette assemblée fut pris un vote de condamnations à l'adresse du camarade H. Vaillant qui vient de perdre sa mère, madame Godfroy Vaillant. Le premier article dans Le Monde Ouvrier paraîtra dans le numéro du 13 juillet.

Conseil des Métiers et du Travail

Le fait saillant de la réunion fut le des Métiers et du Travail du Canada, le 22 août, à Winnipeg, et une allocation de \$300.00 à chacun d'eux. Il fut résolu d'envoyer trois délégués cette année.

De nombreux candidats furent mis en nomination. On décida, au préalable, que les trois qui recueilleraient le plus de votes seraient élus délégués. Le résultat du vote indiqua que les camarades Alfred Mathieu, Alphéus Mathieu et Richard Lynch étaient choisis comme délégués au Congrès, alors que Jos. Pelletier et R. Blais étaient désignés comme substituts.

Un certain nombre de délégués furent ensuite admis à siéger. Une longue discussion s'engagea ensuite au sujet de l'immigration. Les cordeliers demandèrent au Conseil d'inciter le Gouvernement, par l'intermédiaire du prochain Congrès, à supprimer toute immigration pendant deux ans, sauf dans le cas de la main-d'œuvre agricole. La même union déclara aussi que le Gouvernement fut prié d'arrêter la concurrence que fait le travail des prisons au travail libre. Cette dernière fraction de la demande fut adoptée unanimement.

Quant à la partie de la requête ayant trait à l'immigration, le délégué Pagé trouva qu'elle n'allait pas assez loin et préconisa une résolution censurant sévèrement le gouvernement pour permettre l'entrée au pays de main-d'œuvre étrangère en concurrence avec la main-d'œuvre locale. Le délégué Franq observa que l'amendement était inutile. Tout ce que le gouvernement dirait, dit-il, en réponse, serait qu'il avait obligé tout immigré de posséder au moins \$250.00 en monnaie locale ou son équivalent, avant d'être admis ici. D'autre part, il est impossible de maintenir un homme sur une ferme lorsqu'il ne peut plus ou ne veut plus travailler.

Le délégué Zavalscoff ajouta qu'il ne reconnaissait à aucun gouvernement le droit d'empêcher un homme d'aller d'un pays à l'autre, si celui-ci a les moyens de se subvenir à lui-même et aux siens, c'est-à-dire n'est pas une charge publique et est de moeurs irréprochables. Un pays n'a que le droit de réglementer l'immigration, car il serait inutile de vouloir l'arrêter complètement.

Le délégué Zavalscoff présenta ensuite quelques observations relatives aux immigrants et suggéra qu'on les accueille avec bienveillance. Ce ne sont pas eux, dit-il, qui sont cause du chômage, c'est le système qui est mauvais parce qu'il est basé sur le profit au lieu de l'être sur le besoin.

Vu la chaleur, le Conseil ajourna un peu plus tôt qu'à l'ordinaire.

— Par les grandes chaleurs que nous subissons actuellement les profiteurs s'en donnent à cœur joie. Les robinets municipaux ne donnant qu'une eau chaude sans saveur ni fraîcheur, le public se jette sur les boissons glacées qui, de nos jours, sont d'un prix de guerre. On a même vu des marchands de "mixture bière d'épingle" détailler leur pitre à 5 centimes la verre. Encouragés les hôteliers de la rue Saint-Jacques qui veulent maintenir leur verre de bière à 10 centimes! Et il paraît que le coût de la vie baisse! S'il ne baissait pas, à quel prix boirions-nous?

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## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR RESOLUTIONS

The following is a continuation from our last issue of the decisions arrived at by the American Federation of Labor in its Convention held in Denver last month. These resolutions outline the policies, and principles of Organized Labor. Members of affiliated unions who become thoroughly informed of these resolutions can speak with authority in their local unions upon matters of vital importance to Montreal labor.

### Housing

The Convention endorsed the action of the Executive in its efforts to obtain the establishment of a government Bureau to have general oversight over housing conditions and authorize it to continue its efforts to secure the enactment of a proper law to regulate housing and encourage the efforts of the workers to provide homes for their families.

### Labor Days

The Montreal Convention formally designated the fourth Sunday in May as Labor's Memorial Day. The Executive recommended that this day be appropriately observed by men and women of labor everywhere in honor of those who have died in the service of labor. The Executive also recommended that the Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day be appropriately observed with religious ceremonies. The Convention officially adopted these recommendations.

### Non-Partisan Politics

The Convention directed the establishment of a central bureau of information to be established in connection with the legislative committee. The bureau will prepare and distribute periodically a digest of congressional action to the local unions for the information of the members. Records of the members of Congress will be kept so that organized labor in each congressional district may know how to use its vote in the interests of labor.

### Education Committee

The Convention approved the appointment by the Executive Council of the permanent committee on education and the special investigator, and authorized the Executive to publish the findings and recommendations of the committee. In this manner organized labor will be kept informed of the attempts made to instill into the minds of the children anti-labor propaganda under cover of pretending to educate the children.

### High Cost of Living

In order to combat the high cost of living, the Convention urged the Executive Committee to make every effort to secure (1) the continuance of the work of the Federal Trade Commission in obtaining and publishing information respecting the ownership, production, sales and profits in the basic necessities of life, such as shelter, clothing, food and fuel; (2) the enactment of laws to limit unnecessary reassignments and brokerage operations, including gambling in futures; (3) the encouragement of cooperative associations and agricultural producers and cooperative consumers' organizations; and (4) the inclusion of provisions for adequate publicity in all legislation dealing with the regulations of corporations and monopolies.

### Labor Publicity

The Convention commended the Executive Council and its officers for the growing usefulness of the periodical and special publications of the Federation. It also recommended the preparation of an elementary primer of the labor movement, setting forth the purposes and methods of the American Federation of Labor in the question and answer form in the interests of clarity and effectiveness. The Convention also urged the fullest support of trade unionists for the labor press, which performs its essential service under the greatest difficulties.

### School buildings

The Convention urged organized labor to demand in all communities, high standards of cleanliness, attractiveness, sanitation and safety from fire in all school buildings. And furthermore that building programs be immediately undertaken to remedy the acute congestion caused by the serious shortage of school buildings. In the exceedingly important field of adult education, the Convention commended the growth and success of schools under trade union auspices, and such promising plans for cooperation with educational institutions as those of the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women in Industry.

### Marble Slate and Stone Polishers

The Convention authorized a change in the name of the International Association of Marble, Slate and Stone Polishers, Rubbers and Sawyers by the addition of the words "Tile and Marble Setters' Helpers" thereto.

### Publicity for North Dakota

The Convention directed that the Executive Council make known to the national, international and local Federation of Labor to secure a return to those principles upon which the American government was founded. In order to better secure the blessings of liberty it reaffirmed its united support of legislation that would bring about the public ownership and democratic management of the railroad systems of the United States. The Executive was directed to give every aid possible to the railroad organizations to have this policy carried into effect.

fish four-fifths which is paid back to the State in monthly payments, which monthly payments average only \$29.50 per month on houses costing \$5,000.

### Increased Organizing Activity

The Convention authorized the Executive Council to issue an appeal for funds from the affiliated organizations in order that (1) the recently established lecture bureau might function and qualified speakers be enlisted who will enter into all portions of the nation in furtherance of the program of the principles of the A. F. of L.; (2) that the campaign of publicity might be enlarged in order that no mistake or attack on the labor movement may go unanswered and that the people may be made more familiar with labor's humanitarian purpose and patriotic principles; and (3) that the force of organizers might be increased by the appointment of additional qualified men and women who will cooperate with all agencies now existing in an intensive campaign to organize the unorganized and educate those already organized in the philosophy of the movement.

### Jurisdictional Disputes

As many jurisdictional disputes between various craft unions arise as to what work comes within the respective purview of each union, the Executive is instructed to revise the "Instructions to Organizers' Manual" in order that a clearer statement of the jurisdictions of the various organizations may be within the reach of all.

### Labor Dailies

The Convention discussed the question of the necessity of establishing a National Daily Labor Press with a chain of papers established in the largest centers of population in order to give authentic labor news and correct the gross misstatements of the employers' press. As this subject involved large capital expenditure it was referred to the Executive Council for investigation and report at the next convention.

### Office employees

There are a number of charters issued to local unions under different names such as bank clerks, court reporters, counters and timekeepers, state, city and county employees and the like. The Executive was instructed to issue an international charter to an international union of office workers as soon as the combined membership of all the above classes of local unions shall total six thousand members or more.

### Chinese and Japanese Immigration

The Convention directed the Executive to oppose by every means available to the exclusion laws that would permit the admission of a single Chinese man to the United States or the Hawaiian Islands. The Convention also opposed the admission of Japanese in the future, temporary residence of students, tourists and other transient visitors alone being permitted under a time limit as to their stay.

### Ireland

With but two dissenting votes, the Convention declared that it supported the Irish people in their struggle for freedom and for the recognition of the Irish Republic, urged the American government to recognize the independence of Ireland and to protest to Great Britain against the uncivilized warfare now being conducted in Ireland; urged the Trade Unions in Great Britain and in all British colonies to cooperate in obtaining such recognition, and instructed the Executive Council to take up with the trade unions of Great Britain, her colonies and dominions, a proposal to inaugurate a campaign for the trial and punishment of the officers and men of the British regular and auxiliary forces guilty of atrocities in Ireland in a manner similar to that in which German officers are now being tried and punished for violation of the rules of warfare in France and Belgium.

### Sale of Beer

The Convention declared itself in favor of a modification of the Volstead Law so as to permit the manufacture and sale of a national beverage of wholesome beer, and instructed the Executive to do everything within its power to carry this declaration into effect.

### Railroads

The Convention declared that it was the purpose of the American Federation of Labor to secure a return to those principles upon which the American government was founded. In order to better secure the blessings of liberty it reaffirmed its united support of legislation that would bring about the public ownership and democratic management of the railroad systems of the United States. The Executive was directed to give every aid possible to the railroad organizations to have this policy carried into effect.

### Democracy in industry

The railroad resolution above given had embodied in it a resolution of much wider import, which, if applied, will have a far-reaching effect on the whole industrial life of the nation. This was declared for the actual partnership of labor in the management of industry. The declaration was embodied in the two following clauses: "Resolved, that we declare for the recognition and restoration of these fundamental principles to the end that those who contribute their effort to the industry shall enjoy all of the rights, privileges and immunities granted to those men who contribute capital in proportion to the value which each contributes, in order that the government shall be instituted for the common good and not for the profit of a class and in order that all men may enjoy the gains of their own industry; and, be it further "Resolved, that in order that this resolution may become effective in the industrial life of this nation, the Executive Council be and it is hereby directed to divide and publish the neces-

sary legislative program designed to make effective the fundamental principles of government above set forth and to secure to men employed in organized industry that equality of enjoyment of all the rights, privileges, and immunities now enjoyed by those who contribute capital to organized industrial enterprises, to the end that industry conducted under corporate grants shall be conducted for the common good and not for the profit of a class of men."

### Disarmament

As a practical advance toward general disarmament is offered through a limitation of naval establishments, the Convention earnestly urged a conference of the powers with the hope and in the belief that through such a conference the billions now being expended in naval armaments may be saved to the taxpayers of the several countries, and urged the United States to lead the way in this matter.

### Minimum Wage in Government Service

The Convention called upon Congress to pass the Nollis Minimum Wage Bill which provides that no less than \$3 a day be paid federal employees in the United States. The enactment of this measure is a pressing need as there are 50,000 employees in the United States service who do not receive that amount of remuneration for their services.

### Courts-Miners Labor

On October 31st, 1919, Judge A. B. Anderson issued an injunction, restraining the United Mine Workers from carrying on a strike of miners previously authorized. If this decision is allowed to stand, judge made law will make the workers almost chattel slaves by taking away the right of the workers to refuse the sale of their labor. The Executive Council was instructed to continue its cooperation with the United Mine Workers in taking this case to appeal and to give to the miners whatever assistance lies within its power to the end that the natural, moral and legal rights of America's workers may be safeguarded and that the constitutional conceptions of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness shall hereafter govern the administration of law instead of the will, whim and fancy of those who would employ labor to their own advantage and personal gain.

### Law to Free Labor

The Convention instructed the Executive to press for the enactment of a law that would prevent any judge from issuing an injunction to tie up a strike or to restrain members of the working class from doing those things necessary to carry on a strike, and to forbid the courts from issuing judgments based upon the principle that concerted action on the part of workers with regard to wages, hours and conditions of labor is a conspiracy in restraint of trade.

### Cooperative Banks

The Convention endorsed the establishment of cooperative banks and credit unions based on the Massachusetts law which prevents any one individual holding more than \$2,000 of the capital stock of any such concern.

### Railway Executive Salaries

The Convention urged the Railway Labor Board of the United States in its orders to reduce wages, to take action on high salaried railroad executives who are getting in the neighborhood of \$100,000 a year each, and order the reduction of these salaries to a reasonable basis.

### The Unemployed Situation

The Convention declared that it is apparent that a portion of the present industrial depression which is causing great suffering among the wage earners and their dependents, is artificial and was manufactured by profiteering and for the purpose of lowering working and living standards, weakening the organized labor movement and breaking the morale and spirit of the workers. As a partial means of overcoming the depression, the Convention instructed all State Federations and Central Bodies to request that state, county and municipal governments immediately make provision to carry on such public works as they may now have under consideration.

### UNION EDUCATION

The work along educational lines achieved by the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union would have been considered wonderful a few years ago. However, organized labor is going forward so rapidly in so many lines that even this record will be outstripped and be considered ordinary.

In 1916 the Union started with a budget of only \$5,000, to establish an Educational Department. In 1918 it doubled its budget to \$10,000, and at its convention held in Chicago in 1920 it assessed its members 10 cents each for educational purposes. The union has been able to spend \$150,000 for education. It has seven public schools. It has established the Workers' University which is an extension of the Washington Irving High School where the members of the union who are more advanced may study the subjects they are most interested in, economics, literature, the history of the trades union movement, drama, music and practical psychology. Two thousand members of the organization have taken advantage of the opportunities given to them in the labor schools and three hundred students have attended the Workers' University.

—Montreal manufacturers are shipping heavy freight to Vancouver via New York and the Panama Canal, and are saving in the neighborhood of \$450 per car by so doing.

## THE QUEBEC STRIKE

In the last issue of the Labor World was an article signed by Mr. Gus France, upon the strike of the policemen and firemen of Quebec who belong to the National Catholic Union. The purport of this article which was in French, was not to attack members of the working class but to show how foolishly they had been led by the priestly strike leaders. The Catholic Union is under the protection and guidance of the Catholic Church, their purpose is to divide the working class along race and religious lines. The fault lies with the leaders, not with the men. Had the men belonged to the international unions and had the leading of men skilled in handling labor difficulties, the men would have been better guided and the public would have been protected. Mr. France, in his article, pointed out that when a fire occurred during the strike of the Montreal firemen, the strikers went to the fire and helped extinguish it. In their labor dispute they did not forget their duty to the public who confided in their honor.

With the above explanation, we publish the following letter from a correspondent in Quebec:

Quebec, 29th June, 1921.

To the Editor of Labor World.

Sir:—A recent article in your paper, signed by Gustave France, and concerning the attitude of the National Catholic Union in the strike at Kenogami Paper Mills was in my estimation too delicate, he should have told more of the story to his readers, i. e. how the members of the National Catholic Union seized upon the opportunity to become strike breakers by taking the places of those who had gone out against a reduction of pay. He should have also told how once the difficulty had been adjusted these strikebreakers were meted out the fate that invariably falls to their lot. It always has happened in the past and so too in this case, without being a prophet will it be in the future.

Once the difficulty settled out goes the strike breakers. In the Kenogami case, it was very pointed. Employers paper makers were carefully handled. Now, why did not Gustave France hand this bouquet to the "Progres du Saguenay" and to the almoner of this National Catholic Union? Let us come back to Quebec. On Saturday, 25 of June, at midnight, the entire police force and the fire brigade went out on strike. Of course, it is to be distinctly understood that National Catholic Unions never go out on strike. So let us examine this thing closely.

The City Corporation were not quick enough in accepting the award of the arbitrators, this award did not suit the Policemen's Union nor the Firemen's Union. So the pretext was a good one and the strike was on. Now let us examine how a strike is run by the National Catholic Union. Going out they cut the harness, removed belts from the waggon and engines, assembled in one of the lower sections of the town, made a procession through the streets at three o'clock in the morning, singing, intimidating women and children, breaking ornamental lamps and window glass in the houses en route, ringing false alarms, etc., etc.

Now what a beautiful crowd of hoodlums Quebec had for a Police Force, ditto for Fire Brigade.

But this outburst through its publicity will in future serve to class the National Catholic Unions as it is now generally recognized in this city and they are nothing more nor less than a branch of the I. W. W. and a hypocritical one at that. They have not got the courage to acknowledge the fact. But judge them by their acts. First and foremost, war against legitimate Trades Unions, second, sabotage, third, no respect whatever for existing contracts, and fourth, most despicable of all, rank, rotten, cowardice.

The people of Quebec who know the story are still laughing at it. About one hundred men belonging to the Laborers National Catholic Union, after having broken up the streets and rendered them impassable (more sabotage) went on strike and going to one section where a few men were working, intimidated them. The police were appealed to for aid but refused to act because they belonged to the same union.

These men advanced bravely to attack 8 men, slight odds 100 to 8, but unfortunately for them the foreman was a fighter and he picked up a stick of dynamite and faced the crowd. He had no sooner drawn back his hand to throw when the run started. Judging from the speed they ought to be running yet. During the strike, a fire occurred in Limoilou, this fire is believed to have been started by the striking firemen and it destroyed four tenement houses. When the chief and deputy-chief reached the scene of the fire they found plenty of respectable citizens willing and eager to assist them. They also found that the caps of the hydrants had been removed and the threads battered so as to prevent the connection of the hose.

The prevailing general impression here is that the real cause of these strikes is a conspiracy between employers and the heads of the National Catholic Unions to discredit Union Labor and reduce wages all around. I have no positive proof of this, but it does look suspiciously like as if such were actually the case, as no man endowed with ordinary common sense would have taken such action. Making a demand for an increase of 25 per cent in pay, in the face of the fact that there still are hundreds of men unemployed or only intermittently employed and with falling prices, is not reasonable. The long used and much abused high cost of living argument went into the discard or mayhap this is a mad world. The National Catholic Unions of Quebec are desirous of supplying their quota, so let us be charitable and say that the great majority of these men, right thinking and sane, were misled and ask who were their leaders.

P. Johnston.

## WAGES AND HOURS

The farmer-labor party of Maryland has endorsed by resolution the principle of the 44 hours week in the printing industry and commends the eminently fair and statesman like methods pursued by the allied printing trades during the past two years to secure the proper recognition of this principle by the employing printers.

Under the British factory act no factory may be open for more than twelve hours in any one day.

Trade unionists of Illinois are urging the passage of law compelling a rest day in every seven days. The milk drivers, of Chicago, however concluded not to wait for the law but to get the rest day through their union. The milk drivers are now working six days a week and getting the same pay they received for seven days.

Forty thousand Hindus recently ceased work in the Fiji Islands and demanded the same political and industrial status as white workers. Early in March the Hindus met and drew up the following demands: Three dollars a day for a six-hour day; \$1.50 per day while sick; a six-hour working day, five days a week; free house and five acres of land and grazing for five animals; free medical attendance, and the release of all Indians imprisoned as a result of the December and January riots.

A special commission appointed by the New South Wales Labor government to inquire into the claims of the various trade unions for a 44-hour week be applied immediately to 40 different trades. Other trades are being enquired into as to the feasibility of the 44-hour week. The commission recommends that agreements be entered into between employees and employers that the 44 hours be worked in five days of 8 hours and 48 minutes each so as to give the workers two clear days a week.

Until three and a half years ago, the eight-hour day was not on the statute books of any country in Europe as a legal maximum for a day's work. The Russian Bolshevik government was the first to establish this labor maximum. Finland was the next to fall in line. Wherever there have occurred revolutions in Central Europe, since then, the eight-hour day schedule was forthwith applied for every class of work and for all workers. In Germany this took place after the November Revolution of 1918. In Poland, Czechoslovakia and German-Austria it occurred in December 1918. In 1919 Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Portugal, Holland and France enacted the eight-hour day. Greece, England, Belgium, Italy and Denmark have since enacted eight-hour legislation.

The Culinary Workers' union of Fresno, Cal., has renewed its agreement with hotel and restaurant men. Chief cooks will be paid \$7.50 a day; other cooks, \$5.50; counter waiters and waitresses, \$4, with overtime \$1 an hour. A rate of \$3 a day will be paid pantry employees.

Organized painters of Tacoma, Wash., have signed a union shop agreement with the Master Painters' association. Rates will be \$7.20 a day.

The N. B. power company, of St. John, which operates the street railway of that city, posted notices of a 20 per cent cut in wages. Many of the employees have been cut 25 per cent while the power house men and the gas house men were cut only 5 per cent. The company has also abolished the time and a half rule for overtime and holidays. Speaking upon the above subject, the Union Worker says: "After many years of friendly relations with its employees, with one notable exception, the N. B. Power Co., under the generalship of a new Moses in the person of Percy W. Thompson, has decided to break with the union and introduce the independent bargaining plan advocated by union busters throughout the country."

## Settlement of Mine Strike

The British mine strike has been settled. Very little was mentioned about the terms upon which the men went back to work.

The terms appear to be that the government grant a bonus of £10,000,000 to help the mining industry over a difficult period of readjustment. The miners get a wage twenty per cent in advance of the 1914 scale and the mine owners get the interest on their investment. Any surplus funds arising from the industry after taking care of capital and labor in the above manner are to be divided, seventeen per cent to capital and eighty-three per cent to labor.

This is one of the most remarkable settlements that has ever been made by labor. It is a profit sharing scheme in which labor gets the lion's share.

On this side of the water there are profit sharing schemes, but labor gets the small end of the game. After capital and labor has been provided for labor usually is allowed ten, fifteen or twenty per cent of the surplus profits. The lion's share goes to capital. In the settlement of the British mine strike, the lion's share goes to labor.

Of course the bargain is not so one-sided as it appears to be for the immediate future, for the cost of living is away beyond the twenty per cent increase in wages granted over the 1914 rate, so that a good bit of that seven-

ten per cent profit to the employers is a bonus to capital taken out before labor gets a living wage. However the miners are likely to win greatly in the end.

The cost of living is going down. Under the scheme of settlement, wages will not fall with the falling prices. The British miners have got away from the idea that wages should be governed by the cost of living. That is a great step in advance.

The other great step is that the miners have become partners in the coal mines. They have a vital interest, now, in seeing that the mines are economically run and that labor saving machinery is installed.

The production in England per miner has fallen to a fraction of the output of the American miner. The miners were not interested in seeing production increase, greater output meant a quicker glut in the market and mines shutting down, with unemployment without pay.

Now, for every additional shilling taken in for the sale of coal, over the cost of operation, almost ten pence go to the miners. The greater the production, therefore, the more the miners' earnings will be.

Under such an arrangement, the mining industry should take on renewed prosperity for every miner will have an incentive to do his best.

## CO-OPERATIVE NOTES

The Rochdale Co-operative movement began in Rochdale, England, in 1844. It grew out of an unsuccessful strike. At first the store in Toad Lane sold but four articles—flour, sugar, butter and oatmeal. At first it was open but two hours a night, three nights a week. It was seven years before it was possible to keep it open all day. Now the English Rochdaleurs own their own stores, wholesales, factories, tea plantations, wheat farms, ocean freighters, banks, newspapers and pleasure resorts.

Last year the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, Limited, shipped 130,000 pounds of wool to the British market. Now G. E. O'Brien, General Manager, is in England, with a full line of samples of Canadian wool, and expects to sell direct to the British market, without the intervention of middlemen.

In Hastings County, Ont., the Hastings County Co-operative Wool Co., Ltd., has been formed. Its capital is \$100,000, divided into 1,000 shares of \$10 each. No individual may own over 10 shares. The company is preparing to manufacture woolen products from the wool furnished by the members.

The Co-operative Central Exchange of Superior, Wis., recently held its fourth annual meeting. There are fifty affiliated societies. The exchange is maintaining a special educational department, which is costing it over \$2,000 per year. It maintains a summer school in which co-operative principles are taught. Scholarships of from \$50 to \$75 are given to the students who show ability and who otherwise would not be able to attend the courses. The Exchange declares that "The best material from which to develop workers for the Co-operative movement, we have found is in the men and women who have been active in the working class movement in the political or the economic field." The scholarships are given to help such workers. The educational funds are obtained by a one per cent assessment upon all the net sales of the affiliated societies supplemented by voluntary contributions from interested parties.

A remarkable development of British and Scotch co-operatives is a scheme of almost free insurance. There are today 2,716,329 members of co-operatives who are insured through the Co-operative Insurance Department of the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale societies. The selling society pays the sum of 2 cents on every \$5 of its sales to the Co-operative Insurance Department. This sum is the only premium required. The individual members of the society need not be examined, nor is it necessary to collect statistics as to their age, etc. Automatically the payment of this small sum of two-fifths of one per cent of the amount paid for purchases insures every purchaser, and if he is married it insures his wife also. Only 3 per cent of the premiums paid goes toward office and sales force expenses, compared with 43 per cent for the average overhead expense of the profit companies. The amount of insurance carried upon the life of each member is governed by the amount of purchases he has made.

Father John A. Ryan, head of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Council of the U. S., declares: "Our industrial system as now constituted is well nigh bankrupt. It is fast becoming an industrial feudalism, and the day of feudalism, whether in politics or in industry, has gone forever.... There are only two conceivable alternatives. One is Socialism, the other is co-operative control and ownership by the workers of the greater part of industry."

Some co-operatives are adopting the policy of letting people pay their stock subscriptions out of purchases. Thus if a non-member trades \$100 at the co-operative and the dividend to members is \$6, the co-operative would allow the non-member to add \$4 to the \$6 dividend and issue a \$10 share therefore, thus allowing the purchases to go a long way to paying for the stock.

The Crystal Falls, Mich., Society began in 1911. It had 174 members and did a business of \$60,478.01. In 1920 it had 400 members and did a business of \$250,512.16.

## The Greatest Sale Ever Held In

# ALMY'S

MONTREAL'S LARGEST STORE

## Bargain Basement

IS NOW IN PROGRESS

Thousands of dollars worth of goods on sale at extremely low prices because we made a special purchase of just what people want for personal wear and for their homes.

Bargains everywhere—and nothing over \$1.00 in price.

### Here are a few items

- Silk lisle stockings-worth, \$1.00—Sale price 35c; 3 pairs for . . . \$1.00
- \$1.98 trimmed and untrimmed hats—Sale price . . . . . 39c
- \$1.25 Summer night combinations—Sale price . . . . . 49c
- \$1.25 Ribbons—Sale price 39c a yard
- ENAMELWARE at 79c, worth up to \$2.50; at 39c, worth up to \$1.25; at 18c, worth up to . . . . . 49c

COME!

# LABOR THE WORLD OVER

## CANADIAN NOTES

The strike of plumbers in all the cities of Saskatchewan, which was called on June 1st is still on.

The United Farmers of Manitoba are against governments drawing revenues from the liquor traffic. They take the position that the profits from the sale of liquor being tainted money, the Government should not resort to the liquor business for revenues purposes.

At the recent convention of the United Mine Workers of Nova Scotia, held at New Glasgow, the reporters of the Halifax Herald and Chronicle were excluded. The reason given for the exclusion was that these newspapers had magnified trivial incidents and misinterpreted salient facts, wronging the people of Nova Scotia a wrong conception of the aims and objects of organized labor.

Mr. Herbert Tracey, late director of the British Labor Party Press, is in Canada. He intends to make a close study of the economic problems of Canada, Newfoundland, and the British West Indies. He then expects to write a book giving the results of his studies on Imperial problems from the Labor standpoint.

From 1917 to 1919, twenty per cent of the crime committed in Canada has been charged against offenders under sixteen years of age.

Efforts will be made by the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council to have the authorities prevent an undue influx of harvest labor this fall from Eastern Canada. The railroads in order to develop traffic in the west in the past have conducted campaigns in the East for harvest labor. One-way tickets were sold very cheaply. Many men went west with little money, and at the end of the harvest season, found themselves unable to return for lack of funds. Western labor desires that the west be not flooded this year with an army of harvest workers to swell the army of the unemployed.

The Child Welfare Association of Montreal recently conducted a physical survey of the pupils attending the Academy at Ayers Cliff. Some 410 physical defects were found among seventy pupils examined—no child being found free from physical defectiveness. Malnutrition was prevalent to the extent of 18.5 per cent. Eighty per cent of the cases examined were in immediate need of treatment of teeth, while faulty health habits were prevalent throughout the entire series. The results of the survey bore out the previous findings of impartial observers that the rural school child was less healthy than the average urban pupil.

As a result of the deliberations of the Nova Scotia Labor Party held June 20th, at New Glasgow, a new platform for the party will be submitted to a referendum vote. This new platform calls for the workers to unite under the banner of the Independent Labor Party of Canada, N. S. Branch, to the end that (1) the capitalist system be abolished, (2) that the workers secure control of the means of production, and (3) that industry be conducted for use instead of for profit. Among the hundred delegates present were Mayor Shipley, the Labor Mayor of Annapolis, and Mrs. Donaldson, who secured 2,500 votes on the Labor ticket in the last Provincial elections of Nova Scotia. The Convention appointed a provincial organizer for the party, and endorsed the proposition to publish a Labor Paper at Glace Bay. This paper is to be capitalized at \$75,000 in shares of \$5 each. In order to safeguard the paper for labor, sixty per cent of the stock will be held by bona fide Labor organizations. It is to be started at once as a weekly and enlarged later to a daily.

The Ottawa Local of the Civil Servants Union have asked the support of the labor movement throughout the country in its efforts to obtain redress of the grievances by direct negotiation. The difficulty facing this union arises from the fact that another organization which has its membership largely amongst the political friends of the Government is given preference by the Government.

In the recent Provincial elections in Saskatchewan, Alberman Perry ran on the Labor ticket in Regina. He polled 2,400 votes, not a sufficient number to be elected.

## AMERICAN NOTES

There are \$50,000,000 in bank deposits belonging to the organized labor movement.

With regard to the war prisoners, originally there were under the Department of War, through court martial trials, 14,954 military offenders and 602 conscientious objectors. Of these, up till June last 15,629 military offenders and all the conscientious objectors had been released, the total remaining in prison being 1,325. Originally there were under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice, convicted under the Espionage Act, 1,484 prisoners. Up till June last 1,039 had been released, 315 were out on bail, and 111 including Debs were in jail.

In speaking before the Denver Convention of the A. F. of L., the Rev. G. S. Lackland declared, "I find that in 1891 the average working man in industry lived to be 35 years of age. After years of struggle, in 1911, the American Federation of Labor, by giving better conditions in industry had lengthened the average life of the working men in industry from 35 years to 45 years. With such a result before us, I say I am for labor organizations and any organization that will do that."

There are now twenty branches of the Women's Trade Union League in various parts of the United States, the last to be formed being in Alabama.

Private American investors are now purchasing foreign bonds, stocks and other securities at the rate of one million dollars a day.

The theory of open covenants, so widely proclaimed in the closing days of the world war, has been rejected by the U. S. senate rules committee. The senate will consider treaty propositions in secret session.

The U. S. President has appointed T. V. O'Connor, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, as a member of the United States Shipping Board.

When some electrical contractors of Davenport, Iowa, signed an agreement with the Electrical Workers' Union, they were expelled by their fellow members from the Tri-City Electrical Contractors' Association.

Trade Unionists of Trenton, N. J., are demanding that those contractors who claim that high wages are retarding building, make known to the public how much over the day's wages they charge on the materials used over the cost to the contractor.

The Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs are waging a campaign to inaugurate a State Bureau of Child Hygiene—this to be thirty-fifth State possessed of such a Bureau.

The big drive for membership in the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers' Union has commenced in earnest. The meat cutters who had to fight an additional cut in wages on June 19th know the necessity of organization.

The Pacific Typetting Company has filed suit against the Seattle Typographical Union for \$20,000 damages. The Pacific Company alleges that its business has been seriously injured by the strike for the 44-hour week, that it cannot get non-union help, and asks that its damages be assessed against the union.

In 1911, Illinois passed an adequate mothers' pensions act and in 1913 organized charity got this mothers' act amended so as to make the aid for mothers below what the mothers would absolutely need. This gave an opportunity for private charity, and added one more excuse why people should allow the rich to be rich so that they may generously help the poor.

Senator Borah, Idaho, declares that it is the intention of the present U. S. government to exact no interest for ten years from the allied countries on moneys owed the United States. Mellon is in the Harding Cabinet. He belongs to the Morgan group who are the American fiscal agents of the British government.

The New York Times, leading reactionary paper in the East, denounces the fact that what it calls radical books have any sale outside of novels.

The Citizens Protective Housing League, with an annual membership fee of \$1, is being formed in New York City. It is a society to protect New York's tenants, and expects to have a membership of 300,000.

## IMPERIAL NOTES

Sixty per cent of all the workers in Ireland are members of the British trade unions. At the Congress of the British Trade Unions, held in Portsmouth, in September of last year, the delegates present from Dublin and Cork, representing their respective unions, were given as hearty a welcome as were the delegates from Manchester and Belfast, thus showing in the most practical way, the harmony in the Irish and British organized labor movement.

The Portsmouth Congress of British Trade Unions, held in September 1920, consisted of 955 delegates representing 57 and a half million workers, as compared with the year previous when 551 delegates were in attendance representing 5,283,076 workers.

In England, 5 per cent of the people receive 95 per cent of the wealth produced. There are five thousand landlords who own more than one thousand acres each and between them they own half England, the whole of England being in the hands of about one million people.

In the forthcoming Congress of the Women's Co-operative Union, at which over 1,300 delegates, representing 1,000 branches, will be present, a resolution will be introduced asking the Congress to "appeal to the scientists of Great Britain and other countries not to allow their intellectual gifts to be exploited by militarists for the deliberate purpose of destroying human life by chemical warfare."

Lloyd George, in a speech in Wales, declared that, "the great controversies of the future would range round the relations of capital and labor, and how to create and how to distribute wealth."

Emmon de Valera, "president of the Irish Republic," was arrested in Ireland in June, but was subsequently released. There is trouble enough in Ireland, without Britain arousing more fury by persecuting Valera.

Reports from England indicate that Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who was sent to prison for six months for writing communist articles, which appeared in the Workers' Dreadnought, was released before her full term had expired. A large crowd greeted her as she emerged from the prison gates and sang the Red Flag and other revolutionary songs.

In an open letter to Anglo-Indians, Mahatma Gandhi declares that the following is what the Empire means to India: Exploitation of India's resources for the benefit of Great Britain; an ever increasing military expenditure, and a civil service the most expensive in the world; extravagant working of every Department in utter disregard to India's poverty; disarmament and consequent emasculation of a whole nation; an armed nation might imperil a handful of Englishmen in its midst; traffic in intoxicating liquors and drugs for the purpose of sustaining a top heavy administration; progressively repressive legislation in order to suppress an ever growing agitation, and degradation.

Private enterprise considered 1919 a good year, but the public suffered. This is what happened to wool and to the public. The public is beginning to realize that private profit and public service are two separate things.

## Trades and Labor Council Meeting

Delegates selected for the Winnipeg Labor Congress

The most important business transacted at the meeting of the Trades and Labor Council, last Thursday evening, was the selection of delegates to attend the Trades and Labor Congress to be held in Winnipeg, beginning August 22nd, and the determination of the amount to be allowed the delegates for travelling expenses. The Executive Committee recommended that \$300 be allowed. The delegates would have to pay over \$144 for railway fare and sleeping berths, \$70 for hotel and dining car expenses, and the Council had at ways allowed the delegates an indemnity of \$40 dollars a week, which for two weeks amount to \$80, or a total for travelling expenses, hotels and indemnity of over \$294. An amendment was introduced to place the indemnity at \$250, as it was stated that the delegates would not be absent for the whole of two weeks, and that the railway fare was less than quoted. Several delegates expressed the opinion that \$300 was not enough, that incidentals ran away with many dollars, and that the Council should offer sufficient incentive to get the best men in the Council to attend. A sub-amendment was therefore introduced to increase the allowance to \$350. Upon vote, the allowance was fixed at \$300.

Owing to the importance of the Congress this year, on account of the unemployment crisis, it was resolved to send three delegates. This was decided upon after the Council had been informed by the Treasurer that there was cash in hand of \$2,700 out of which to pay the expenses of \$900 for the delegates.

Many candidates were put in nomination. It was resolved that those receiving the highest number of votes on the first count should be the delegates. As a result, Delegates Alfred Mathieu, President, Alphus Mathieu and Richard Lynch, English Recording Secretary, were chosen as delegates, while Jos. Pelletier, French Corresponding Secretary, and R. Blais were chosen as substitutes.

The credentials of the following delegates were accepted and the delegation seated: Local 124, Carpenters and Joiners, D. Bruce, E. McCallum, R. Lynch, Local 799, Amalgamated Association of Street and Electrical Railway Employees of America: Aurele Lacombe, M.L.A., Omas Hebert, M. Charbonneau, Henri Champagne, A. LaTrelle, J. L. Bourbonniere, Ernest George Gougeon, Achille Vezein, O. Lecavaller, Local 445, Barbers' Union: J. A. Gagnon, Local 588, Steam Engine Operatives: E. Hamelin, G. DesOrmeaux, Local 1555, Carpenters and Joiners: E. Bruneau, Ernest Parent, O. Proulx, Local 134, Carpenters and Joiners: Ernest Blais, Pierre Lefevre, Michel Lavallee, Emile Arbogast, Raphael St. Maurice, Bruno Gaudet, Fortunat Doucet, Raphael Picotte, James Lesperance, J. A. Roy, Emile Charbonneau, Local 1127, Carpenters and Joiners: Elzear Frechette, Endore Primeau, Leo Lecours, Ferdinand Chaput.

A long discussion upon immigration arose out of a communication from the Boot and Shoe Workers asking that the Council, through the Trades and Labor Congress, ask the government to stop all immigration for two years except for agricultural labor directed to the farms. The letter also requested that the government be asked to stop the competition of prison labor with free labor. The part dealing with prison labor was passed unanimously.

Delegate L. N. Page did not think the resolution went far enough, and asked that a resolution be passed severely censuring the government for allowing foreign labor to enter Canada in competition with Canadian labor. Delegate Page was of the opinion that foreign labor was composed of the riffraff of Europe who came over to Canada to lower wages and degenerate the standards of Canadian labor.

Many delegates opposed the statements made and the amendment refused. The immigrants were frequently of higher intellectual type than many Quebec workers and brought ideas of enlightenment.

Delegate Gus France pointed out that the amendment was useless. All the government would do in answer thereto would be to point out that it had raised the money qualification to \$250, and as the fare was about \$100, only men with \$350 cash could leave Europe. As our money was worth three times European money, owing to the rate of exchange, an immigrant had to have over \$1,000 in his money before he could come to Canada. How many Montreal workers, if they wished to go to another country, would have over \$1,000 in hard cash in their pockets to start with.

As to immigrants going on the farms, this was more or less impractical. An immigrant comes to Canada as a farm laborer, works a few months on the farm in summer, and then when the winter slackness comes on, gravitates to the city. Thus the so-called farm immigrant becomes an industrial worker.

The idea was bad in principle. Suppose the United States should tell the French Canadians who had gone there to work that they were foreigners and to get back to Quebec. We would be swamped with our own people. A worker is a brother, whether he is English, French, Spanish, German or Russian and should be treated as such.

Del. France did not recognize the right of any government to prevent any man from going from one country to another providing he had the necessary means to provide for himself, so as not to become a charge upon the country and providing he is of good moral character. A country has the right only to regulate immigration, but it is useless to stop immigration entirely.

Delegate Dixon declared that unemployment conditions required that restrictions be placed on immigration and that shipping companies, for the sake of passage money, should not be allowed to load up their ships and dump the people into Canada. He also pointed out

## WHAT HAPPENED TO WOOL

In 1914 the United States woolen mills produced 222 million square yards of worsted piece goods, the wholesale price of which was approximately 64 cents a yard, a total of \$143,360,000. In 1919 only 167 millions square yards were manufactured with an average wholesale price of \$1.17 per yard or a total of \$183,520,000.

Forty million dollars more were charged for fifty million yards less of goods.

Private enterprise considered 1919 a good year, but the public suffered.

This is what happened to wool and to the public. The public is beginning to realize that private profit and public service are two separate things.

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## Le Monde Ouvrier-The Labor World

The Official Bilingual Mouthpiece of Montreal Organized Workers

Member of the



Member de la Presse Internationale Ouvrière d'Amérique

Gus. FRANCE, Editor and Publisher, Vice-President of the International Labor Press

2 St. Paul Street East MONTREAL

Editorial - - - - - Main 3412 Administration - - - - - Main 1688

that the \$250 cash requirement was illusory, as the money was frequently borrowed, and after the immigrant got into Canada, the next mail took the \$250 back to the lender, thus leaving the immigrant without the necessary funds to tide him over his first few months in a new country.

Delegate Zavaleff declared that immigration did not create the unemployed situation and did not cause low wages. Immigration helped the workers as it gave more employment as new work was necessary to make Canada habitable for more people. The immigrants also brought better ideas to Canada from the working class experience of other countries and were therefore an asset to the labor movement. He declared that the system was to blame and that it should be changed from a profit basis to a basis of service. He declared that labor should intelligently welcome the immigrant, labor control committees should be established who would look after the immigrant the moment he lands. He should be met at the ship and organized as soon as he sets foot on Canadian soil.

Upon vote, the motion carried and the amendment was defeated.

The Council has therefore gone on record as desiring to suppress industrial immigration for two years, but not to censure the Canadian government.

Owing to the heat, the Council was late getting down to business and adjourned comparatively early.

## FAITH IN LABOR'S STATESMANSHIP

SHIP

There was never, my friends, greater need for statesmanship and there was never a more striking lack of statesmanship in those quarters where we have a right to expect to find it. I am not a pessimist. Those who know me best say that I am a confirmed optimist, but even an optimist cannot afford to shut his eyes to facts. I am not disposed to lay too great emphasis upon the oft repeated assertion that labor is facing a crisis. Of course labor has been facing a crisis. Labor has been facing crises since Adam was evicted from the Garden of Eden. Since that fateful day when he went forth from the Garden to find some Schwab or Atterbury who would give him the opportunity to earn the wherewithal to enable Eve to exchange her fig-leaf for a calico apron—from that day labor's trouble began. But labor has emerged from the crises of the past stronger than ever, and labor is sustained by that experience when it faces the crises of the future.

Neither am I inclined to lay too much emphasis on the claim that the bolsheviks will get you if you don't watch out. It isn't bolshevism that menaces America, it is bourbonism. I don't believe that there are enough honest-to-God bolsheviks in America, if they were all gathered together in one place, to break up a picnic of the molders' union, and if I am under-estimating their numbers, at least there are enough molders' unions to be called upon, and we can get the blacksmiths and others to help them.

No, it is bourbonism drunk with war profits that is the real danger. Fifteen thousand millionaires were made in America while fifty thousand American boys were dying in Flanders. Scratch an open-shopper and in nine times out of ten, you will find a profiteer, the kind of man who stood on a street corner and waved a flag and cheered while the boys went over to war, and then went to his office and marked up the price of coal and flour.

My friends, this optimism of mine is based upon my faith in the leaders of organized labor, and more than that, on my faith in the rank and file of organized labor, because the wisdom of the labor movement after all is to be found in the boys in the trenches. And the best evidence of that wisdom is this convention and the men who are sitting here today as delegates. I have faith in the statesmanship of labor, and never before has that statesmanship had such an opportunity for manifesting itself.

I do not propose today to go into a discussion of the problems that confront us, but I hope that as a result of the work of this convention labor will take the lead in safeguarding American institutions. Lincoln once said toward the close of the Civil War, that as a result of that great conflict capital would become enthroned in this country to such an extent that it might threaten our liberties. I wonder what would Lincoln say if he were here today. — The Hon. Edward Keating, before the A. F. of L. Convention at Denver.

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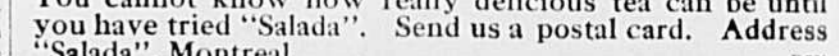
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