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LETTERS FROM THE ORIENT

By ELLIS YORKE, Federated Press Staff Writer.

Peking, May 4.—The recent formation of the Chinese Chartered Corporation—a British enterprise with vast ramifications—has aroused discussion on a subject that has always been latent in the councils of European labor. The industrial, low-priced, overworked, docile, rice-eating Chinese workmen now constitute the latest phase of the "Yellow Peril," with which they have long been accustomed, though in a different connection. Capital is diverting its energies to the Far East, where natural resources are illimitable and labor has no voice. Riches can be accumulated by the sweat of that human beast of burden, John Chinaman, one of whose tasks in the interior of his country is to transport on his back burdens of produce that would appal the American laborer. His docility is proverbial.

One of the stories of the Revolution of 1911 (which gave China her republic) relates to the unruffled demeanor of the farm workers, who calmly pursued their labors in the fields between two armies who were blazing away at each other with all the artillery at their disposal. When a foreigner asked one of the peasants when the battle was over, of course he was disregarded; the fighting, he serenely replied: "No blongue my plough" (It had nothing to do with me).

When an idea becomes embedded in the consciousness of people who are thousands of miles away from the opportunity of personal investigation, it is difficult to remove it. The Chinese workman, like his westerner comrade, is not averse to a display of independence. In other words, he is beginning to throw off the shackles of an age-long subjection.

The eve of May Day produced a profusion of pamphlets stirring up the workers to demonstrate on Labor Day, and the government issued proclamations announcing that rewards would be given for information leading to the arrest of any person found circulating them. The right of organization is also denied—"the men are not yet ripe for trade unions"—and every effort is being made to stamp out incipient unionism. Although no demonstrations like those in Japan greeted May Day, albeit many secret meetings were held, the spirit is not lacking, and European labor should rejoice that the seed is being sown to such good purpose in the Orient. The labor agitation is concentrated in Shanghai and on the railways.

China's Wealth Exploited

The exploitation of China's wealth brings in its train the industrialization, as it were, of the Chinese workman, and the greatest force to make him conscious, ironically enough, is the development of his country along modern lines. The mechanical era was the breeding ground for modern trade unionism, and the Chinese will not be left stagnant when his peaceful countryside is whipped into new life, and himself harnessed to the task of making the wheels go round.

There are other factors also that are contributing to the revolution in the outlook of the Chinese workman. In addition to the influence of the coolies with the armies in France, there is no lack of intelligent leadership, mainly drawn from the student ranks. Here is a translation of a typical "call to arms" which recently appeared in a Shanghai newspaper: "Students, merchants, newspapermen, awakening brothers! The first of May is at hand! Demand the establishment of an eight-hour day laborer. are in an awfully bad condition. The condition of labor in some places is unbearable. We know that the workmen of civilized nations who have achieved success also formerly underwent hardships. We are now awakening. We must awaken to help ourselves. We must have eight hours rest, and eight hours of recreation. We must struggle to obtain this. All students, merchants, newspapermen, and awakening brothers and sisters support us in our struggle for this great purpose! Hasten to awaken!" This notice was signed by an "initial group of workmen," and is evidently the result of the collaboration of American-educated students.

Changed Relationships

What of the evidences of the changed relationship between employer and Chinese workman? Years and years ago when our civilization was very dim, the Chinese realized the futility of individual action in industry, and small groups of workers banded together under a headman, with whom the employer made all arrangements for labor. Thus to China belongs the honor of being the first country to have labor guilds. Modern trade unions were being formed before the revolution and have since been merged into organizations known as Progressive National Labor

Union and Chinese Returned Labor Union. The objects of these associations are educational and economic.

Of late years Chinese students have used the strike as a weapon for political purposes and their example has been emulated throughout the country by the workmen in connection with wage demands. The Hongkong strike in 1920 withdrew the labor of 9,000 employees in the rice and sugar refining factories, while men engaged on public works walked out after being refused a uniform wage increase of 40 per cent. Industries were paralyzed till substantial advantages were conceded. Latterly the price of rice, which has increased 90 per cent in the last two years, has added fuel to this "divine discontent," and strikes have been the vogue. Even the "boys" (servants)—who are generally so slavish in ministering to the slightest whim of their "Chau Jen" (master)—are catching the spirit.

Workers Move Afoot

A movement is on foot and is described as "A Sinister Move" by a foreign newspaper in China, to amalgamate all domestic servants into a trade union. In the capital the teachers at the university, at which Bertrand Russell is now a professor, are on strike, not for an increase in pay, but for the pay itself. The financial stringency of the government is such that its public servants are expected to live on air. The professors have been without money for about four months and have now kicked. Professional dignity has not survived the dispute, either, and some hot encounters have been witnessed at the ministry of education. In the metropolitan area, too, the carpenters and masons have just been conceded a demand of four coppers a day (about one cent) which makes the daily rate nearly a quarter, while Shanghai has recently weathered a street car strike.

It is a strange argument to hear it said that the Chinese workman will always underbid the westerner by reason of his cheap living. You might as well go back to the forties and reckon on the diet that prevailed among the working classes then as the standard diet. What relation did it bear to the diet of the employing class? There is a growing relation of the relative position of labor which is bringing with it a demand for better working conditions and a higher standard of life. May not the new movement allay the suspicions of those who fear economic competition? Labor must be international.

LUNATICS. UNORGANIZED

I had a friend in Washington recently who went out to St. Elizabeth's Hospital and was shown into a big room where there were a hundred men who were supposed to be insane and only three or four attendants to guard them. He said to the superintendent: "I should think you would be afraid to have only three or four guards, these men might attack the guards."

The superintendent said: "No, they won't attack the guards; they are not organized, they are crazy." That is the way Gary and Wall Street look at the laboring man—he cannot organize, he is crazy. Ah, but the laboring man, the citizen of America, who believes in democracy, who hopes for democracy, who sacrifices for democracy—that man and those millions of men will suddenly demonstrate to those few men who now sit in the seats of power the might of God expressed in men when organized for human benefit.

Aye, this is a crusade, a crusade for human liberty, and we have the hosts aligned—your labor organization, the mechanic, the bricklayer, the railroad employe, the shoemaker, all lined up, marching shoulder to shoulder into the brilliance of the new day, and meeting this crusade in the mystic form of that great Laborer of all times, the Carpenter of Nazareth, for democracy as established in America is the fulfillment of that promise of old.

I thank you.—Glen E. Plumb, before the Denver convention of the A. F. of L.

THE CHURCH'S ATTITUDE

I want to point out to your attention three or four facts. One man said to me once: "I will never darken the doors of a church." I asked him why he would not and he said: "Because you are against the common people." In 1908 the Federal Council of Churches adopted this—which I read to the man, who seemed to be something of a socialist—"We stand for the highest possible wage that industry can afford and for the most equitable division of the product of labor that can ultimately be divided."

The man jumped out of his chair and said: "You are lying to me." I showed it to him in the document and he said: "Why, in the name of God, don't you go up and down the land telling the people the church stands for that thing?" And that is what I have been trying to do ever since—Rev. G. S. Laekland before the Denver A. F. of L. convention.

WAGES AND HOURS

—Breaking away from the "open shop" group of building trades employes that has locked out 60,000 mechanics since May 1, the Master Plasterers' Association has settled with the Philadelphia local of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International Alliance on a basis of \$8.50 for an eight-hour day. This is the first break in the lockout, the settlement being made for 10 cents an hour more in wages than the "open shop" contractors insisted the plasterers should work for.

—Lower wages and the "open shop" have been instituted in the building trades in Chicago, by fixture manufacturers, notably Seck and Johnson and the F. O. Bowman Company. As a result the organized workers in the plants quit immediately. The wage scale was reduced from \$1.10 to 80 cents. Outside carpenters working in places where material from these shops is being installed also left their jobs.

—A three-day strike of 1,200 felt hat makers, members of the United Hatters of America, and many of them members of New York Local No. 8, has ended in a victory for the workers. The settlement with the Felt Hat Manufacturers' Association of New York provides that the existing wage scale shall be continued. Although the manufacturers had demanded a 10 per cent wage reduction, every member of their association has signed the new agreement reaffirming the old wage scale for another year.

—Wages in general in Los Angeles, Cal., in the building trades are from 65 cents to \$1.60 higher a day than in San Francisco. Recruiting agents for the San Francisco Builders' Exchange, with orders to produce 250 strikebreakers a week for importation to the north city, have averaged about 25 instead. There are now upward of 40,000 union men in good standing in this city. The old regulations of San Francisco and Los Angeles, whereby the former was a "union" town and the latter "non-union," seem about to be reversed.

—Wage cuts affecting 50,000 employes of the American Railway Express Company, as announced in Chicago by the United States Railroad Labor Board, will go into effect August 1. All employes except shopmen are reduced six cents an hour and the cut represents a saving to the company of something like \$8,000,000 a year.

—Organized plasterers of Detroit, Mich., have defeated employes who would operate anti-union shops and reduce wages. The employers agree to the union shop and \$1.12 1/2 an hour.

—Cloak makers in Chicago have duplicated the success of New York organized cloak makers by securing a renewal of last year's agreement. In both cities the workers' solidarity, offset propaganda for lowered conditions, and retained their wage scales, work system and other gains which they established after years of contest.

—A cotton mill at Laurel, Miss., closed down because employes refused to sign a statement renouncing the A. F. of L. One saw mill ceased operations when employes declined to accept a 25 per cent reduction, which would have been the fourth cut this year.

—Longshoremen to the number of more than one thousand went on strike recently at St. John's, Nfld., as a protest against a proposed wage reduction. Leaders of the strikers asserted that because of increased taxes recently imposed by the Government they could not afford to accept the reduction. The loading and discharging of cargoes on several steamers were suspended.

—Calgary, Alta., Bricklayers' Union have arrived at a settlement with the Contractors' association at a rate in accordance with those made in other cities of the West, and things should run along smoothly for awhile. The bricklayers accepted a cut of 10 cents per hour, believing that this may encourage building during the present season. The new rates are \$1.15 an hour instead of \$1.25 as formerly.

—Wages have gone up on an average of 88 per cent, while the cost of living has gone up about 100 per cent in Canada.

—By a vote of 187 to 113 the U. S. House of Representatives at Washington rejected a 12-hour work day for firemen, oilers and water tenders on the great lakes. The proposal was included in Congressman Scott's amendment to the seamen's law. Congressman Nolan of the Iron Molders' union led an all day battle against the long work day. The bill is now in the hands of the senate committee on commerce.

UNIONS SMASH OPEN SHOP DRIVE

(By The Federated Press)

San Francisco.—Contrary to expectations and to the recommendations of officials and delegates to the Building Trades Council, several unions have rejected the Chamber of Commerce proposal for a new arbitration committee and the "American plan." The scheme included a 7 1/2 per cent cut in all crafts and the employment of union and non-union men on the same job.

Among the unions turning it down were the Carpenters, Locals 22 and 483, the Structural Iron Workers, the Millmen and the Electrical Workers. It was P. H. McCarthy, president of the council, and for 30 years a member of Carpenters Local No. 22, the largest union in the council, who, with other officials, campaigned for the proposed Chamber of Commerce compromise.

As a consequence, Athol McBean, chairman of the industrial relations committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which drew up the proposed compromise, states that efforts to put it over have been definitely ended. The committee, said McBean, will remain open to suggestions from the unions but will consider none which does not include the "American plan."

LABOR'S TRUE POLITICS

All political parties, no matter of what color they may be, can win the enthusiasm of the laboring masses only for a time. The Trade Unions, on the other hand, hold the continued attention of the workers; only the Trade Unions constitute a real Labor Party capable of forming a bulwark against the power of capitalism.—Karl Marx

THE ALBERTA LANDSLIDE

(By D. Ronald.)

The sweeping victory of the Alberta farmers at the polls this week, wherein they won 35 of the 61 seats in the Edmonton legislature, comes as a refreshing breeze these dog days. Nothing of such importance has happened in the political arena of Canada before.

The farmers, like the rest of labor, have been asleep so many years that a victory of such magnitude gives us a sudden jolt and forcibly reminds us that when aroused "labor omnia vincit."

Without the farmer we would all starve to death. He is the most indispensable unit in the collective production of society. Civilization might perish but food we must have. True, we present civilization to disappear the status of our farmer of today would change also, but food getting—whether agrarian or nomadic—would still be the "sine qua non" of existence. Undoubtedly, the beneficial effects on the rest of the country will be far reaching. Alberta's inspiring example will soon be emulated by other provinces.

A Rational Advance

An important feature of the landslide is the fact that it is a rational development of Canadian economic forces. It is fit and proper that a country such as Canada, whose principle resources are mainly agricultural, should be strongly represented by its principle elements. Of late years, the United States has changed its economic status from a preponderantly agricultural nation to that of a new and powerful industrial nation, with the margin in favor of industry gradually increasing.

The Alberta result will no doubt be gratifying to the Non-partisan League of North Dakota. If the Alberta farmers succeed in holding what they have got and show general efficiency in their political work, then they can confidently look forward to a period of abuse and misrepresentation as experienced by the N. P. L. to the South. The reproachful epithets—Bolsheviks, Anarchists, Socialists et al—will likely be their portion in the near future. Entrenched plutocracy can be safely relied upon to pretty soon open up with a barrage of invective and abuse, but as an old Scotch proverb has it, "Sticks and stones will break my bones; but names will never hurt me."

THE GUILD MOVEMENT

In February of this year the first two houses in England, built directly by labor without the intervention of employing contractors, were completed. These were in the mining district outside of Doncaster, in the urban district of Bentley. They were the first two houses of 77 being built there on a contract with the Builders' Guild. The contract was signed November 5th, so that the houses were completed within four months, and the tenants had moved in.

Two principles are involved in the Builders' Guild contracts. The first is that the workers get continuous pay. The second is that the houses are built for service and not for profit. Continuous pay clauses are put into the contracts.

The two houses built at Bentley cost £760 each or £200 below what the cost would have been under private contractors. The profits of the private contractors would have been nearly 27 per cent.

For houses to be built at Heywood, Lancashire, the Guild tender was £26,000 less than that of the Heywood private contractors.

The Guild is extending its activities all over England. The craftsmen work together harmoniously under their own leaders. There are no wage disputes. There are no disputes between the contractor hunting bigger profits and the municipalities for which the houses are built.

With no employer driving the workers in order to get profits, the old craft spirit is reviving. The workers are putting in small improvements not called for in the contracts for the mere love of doing the work well.

There are between 500,000 and 800,000 houses needed in British to house the workers. The Guild movement seems the only method open at present to provide these houses.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP NOTES

—The water-works system of Providence, R. I., reports a very successful year financially. After deducting interest charges and \$14,000 for depreciation, the net profit was \$285,000 which has been applied to the sinking funds.

—Cars of the Lincoln, Ill., Municipal Railway are to carry placards announcing a 5-cent fare, primarily for the edification of the visitor to that city as an advertisement of economical management of a municipal enterprise.

—Word comes from Maine that there is likely to be a big fight in that State over the question of State ownership of the State storage, basin and water rights, in order to develop state-owned hydro-electric power.

—The Board of Estimate of New York City has appropriated \$383,200 for extensions, improvements and operation of municipal trolleys.

—St. Petersburg, Fla., has a municipal railway. Motormen and conductors receive from 40 to 50 cents an hour, the fare is five cents, and in March the municipality cleared \$10,000 on the operation of the line.

—Detroit, Mich., is making great progress with the construction of its municipal street railway. It has put into operation 13 miles of track and has 5 more miles built. The city developed a new type of track construction, reducing cost from \$97,000 per mile to \$62,000 per mile. The fare is five cents.

CO-OPERATIVE NOTES

—Over two years ago mead working in the creameries of Minneapolis, and driving the milk wagons were on strike. To overcome the situation, they decided to form a co-operative society. They organized the Franklin Co-operative Society and went out and sold stock to nearly two thousand consumers. They themselves became stockholders, the same as the others. After the strike they went back to work and took two years to perfect the organization. The company is now capitalized at \$200,000 and handles 24,000 quarts every eight hours. Of the profits, 25 per cent thereof are put into a reserve fund and 5 per cent is used for educational purposes.

—The New England Co-operative Wholesale Association began modestly without a warehouse, and with only one employe who bunched the orders of the neighboring co-operatives for staple commodities and ordered in car load lots in order to get the cheaper price and the cheaper freight. From this it grew into a big organization.

—The first course on Co-operation, to be given in a New York University, has met with such big success as to attract the University authorities. One of the professors of the Department of Arts and Sciences of Columbia University, where the course of nine lectures was given by Dr. James P. Warbase, remarked that, "No lecture course of a serious nature has ever been given in the Department of Arts and Sciences that has held its audience from week to week as this has."

—The United County Consumers' Co-operative League of Erwin, Tenn., celebrated recently the completion of its first year of existence. The society of 500 members had done almost \$200,000 worth of business on a capital of \$35,000.

—The British Co-operative Wholesale Society functions as joint contractors with the Building Guild in the building of houses directly by labor without the intervention of any contractor, and the Co-operative Insurance Society acts as guarantor for the due performance of the contract.

—The first co-operative society organized by American Indians of which we have record has just been launched by the Indians of Itaska County, Minnesota. The society has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state for the purpose of buying and selling goods to promote the welfare of the Indians of the county. Peter Drumbeater is the president of the cooperative society.

—Retail grocers of Ottawa, Ont., have formed a corporation and purchased equipment to bake bread and cakes on the co-operative plan. It is stated that "the grocers believe that by having a bakery of their own they will be able to eliminate the existing heavy overhead cost of making daily deliveries of bread from house to house." These grocers are among those individuals who tell trade unionists that cooperative societies interfere with "legitimate business," and are, therefore, not in the interest of the public. The grocers, however, apply co-operation when it means more profit to them.

—United States statistics show that in that country the value of a share of stock in co-operative companies ranges from \$5.00 to \$100.00, the greatest number reporting the former amount. The significance of this is altered somewhat by the fact that some societies require the purchase of more than one share of stock by each member. With this factor taken into account the capital investment required ranges from \$5.00 to \$300.00, the majority of societies reporting was \$41.00 per member.

—There are 104 co-operative associations run by farmers in Colorado, affiliated with the Colorado Farmers' Union Exchange. During 1920 they did a little over \$83,000,000 of business.

—Building Tradesmen of Philadelphia have been locked out since May

HEREDITARY INTEREST SLAVERY

To the Editor of the Labor World,
Dear Sir:—Again figuring at the lowest rate of bank interest, we are

One family of OWNERS OWN	One family of EARNERS must pay	
1600	\$ 10,000	\$ 300 a year.
1625	20,000	600 a year.
1650	40,000	1,200 a year.
1675	80,000	2,400 a year.
1700	160,000	4,800 a year.
1725	320,000	9,600 a year.
1750	640,000	19,200 a year.
1775	1,280,000	38,400 a year.
1800	2,560,000	76,800 a year.
1825	5,120,000	153,600 a year.
1850	10,240,000	307,200 a year.
1875	20,480,000	614,400 a year.
1900	40,960,000	1,228,800 a year.
1921	81,920,000	2,457,600 a year.

Have you yet discovered what service to humanity this family of owners ever rendered which has entitled them to turn a fortune of \$10,000 into a fortune of \$81,920,000?

Have you yet discovered what crime the family of earners ever committed which should have increased their fine for living from \$300 a year up to \$2,457,600 a year?

Does it not give you a guilty shiver to contemplate that the descendants of these owners will possess without service as follows:—

In 1950 their children will have \$163,840,000 capital.

In 1975 their grand children will have \$327,680,000 capital.

In 2,000 their great grand children will have \$655,360,000 capital.

Does it not arouse your fire to contemplate that the descendants of this family of earners will be punished with ever doubling interest the moment they appear on earth as follows:—

In 1950 their children will be paying \$4,915,200 a year.

In 1975 their grand children will be paying \$9,830,400 a year.

In 2,000 their great grand children will be paying \$19,660,800 a year.

Is not the above a very mild and fair indication of the drift of this subtle and horrible slavery? The world has abolished many open and flagrant forms of slavery.

Is this hereditary interest slavery any less deadly because of its subtlety?

Yours truly,
I. S. Henri.

familiar with (3 per cent), which causes capital to double every 25 years at compound interest, let us again look at our table of last week, as follows:

One family of OWNERS OWN	One family of EARNERS must pay	
1600	\$ 10,000	\$ 300 a year.
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1921	81,920,000	2,457,600 a year.

Have not millions been dispossessed by this system? Have not millions been driven to death by this system? Are not the millions of today starving, sick, and dying, owing to this system? Am I not right in saying that this form of slavery has caused more misery and death than any of the sister forms of more apparent and direct slavery which we have abolished after terrific struggle? Does not this system stand between our production and the children for whom we produced? Does it not stand today between our proffered services to humanity and our opportunity to render those services? Untold millions want to work on many terms to enable them to educate their children, but these untold millions must starve in the midst of plenty, and await the red tape, caprice, and glutony of the Mammon we have erected through centuries of hereditary interest. This Mammon is under no obligation to render service, yet it can easily prevent you and me from rendering service, and you know it is doing it now. It is just as much of a crime to attempt to work today without the permission of this Mammon as it is to take food, clothes, shelter, or education without permission. Nothing governs today but this Mammon and his apologists. Hereditary interest will soon be 100 per cent King, while the masses are approaching 100 per cent slavery. Say yes or no.

Yours truly,
I. S. Henri.

BRITISH RAILMEN STAND BY THOMAS

This month witnessed another echo of the recently settled British miners strike. It came in the form of a motion to defeat J. H. Thomas for the supreme leadership of the Railwaymen's Union of England at a conference held by that organization at Newcastle.

The resolution for unseating Thomas was, it appears, introduced by the executive committee of the Railwaymen's Union. His popularity and genuine leadership, however, proved too much an obstacle to overcome for his opponents, and after this resolution was defeated another motion confirming the appointment of Thomas was carried by a vote of 57 to 17.

PARASITIC DISTRIBUTION

Capital employed in production usually adds to the social wealth, but much of the capital employed in distribution is purely parasitic. Banking, brokerage, insurance, advertisement, all these represent quite disproportionate costs at present. Most of them could be reduced almost to vanishing point, whilst all that high proportion of cost which is due to speculative gambling in the markets could be wiped out entirely.—Stephen Foy.

1st. To offset the contractors' effort to starve the workers into submission, two co-operative organizations have been launched during the past month—the Quaker City Construction Co-operative Association for building and construction work and the Quaker City Co-operative Association for the organization of retail stores throughout the vicinity. In speaking of the Quaker City Co-operative Association, W. P. Allen, representing the Philadelphia District Council of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, said: "Our object is to demonstrate that contractors are profiteering and that we can do the same work at a much lower rate and still have our members receive the union rate of wages."

U. S. RAILWAY LABOR TO HOLD REFERENDUM

The membership of sixteen railroad labor organizations, including the "Big Four" brotherhoods, will decide, through a referendum vote by September 1st, whether to accept or reject the 12% wage reduction that went into effect on July 1st. This was decided last week by the chief executive and 1500 general chairman of the railroad workers organizations in conference at Chicago.



Lundi: journée à Un Dollar chez



Heures d'affaires durant juillet et août
9:00 a.m. à 6:00 p.m. tous les jours
9:00 a.m. à 1:00 p.m. le samedi

Nous avons préparé des occasions remarquables dans tous les rayons. Venez lundi vous rendre compte des économies que vous pouvez faire.

Le Monde Ouvrier-The Labor World

The Official Bilingual Mouthpiece of Montreal Organized Workers Member of the International Labor Office... GUS. FRANCO, Editor and Publisher, Vice-President of the International Labor Press

Trades and Labor Council Meeting

LIGHT AGENDA CAUSED EARLY ADJOURNMENT

Little business was transacted at the Trades and Labor Council meeting last Thursday evening. The principal discussion centered around a request from an affiliated local for a loan of \$100 for one year to tide them over a particularly trying period.

The credentials of the following delegates were accepted and the delegates seated: Local 182, International Union of Coopers; D. Verdun; Local 15, Cook and Skirt Makers; Union; Joseph Schuler; T. Jacobs; Isadore Cohen; Louis Fabricant; The Ladies; Local 23, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America; A. Berthelme; A. Mathieu; P. Gervais; H. Massé; P. Boisjoli; A. Boyer; A. Durand; Local 134, Carpenters and Joiners; Ar. Sene Mireault; Local 19, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; M. Buhay; J. C. Underwood; H. Codrington; Local 112, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Telephone Lafore; P. Martel; Local 21, International Molders' Union; Arthur Lamont; T. J. Malone; Jos. Murphy; S. Poulson.

A communication was read from the Joint Council No. 17 of the Shoemakers stating that the Ames-Hollen-McCreedy Company, which had a contract with the unions for twenty years and union label stamp No. 114 had ceased its relation with the unions. The Joint Council wished this fact to be brought to the attention of the workers of Montreal and to the attention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Convention at Winnipeg, as this Company has a large western trade in footwear. The Trades Council adopted a resolution to make these facts known as widely as possible.

A communication from St. John, N. B. from Local 663, Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, was read, notifying the Council that the Street Railway Company of St. John had locked out its employees and to advise all workers to that effect. The committee appointed to interview the Quebec Department of Labor with regard to the question of a fair wage scale to workers employed upon the new Court House Annex in Montreal reported that it had been received by Mr. Louis Guyon, Deputy Minister of Labor, who informed it that no fair wage clause had been inserted in the contracts, but that the Government would see to it that proper wages were paid. The committee declared that it could not report further as it had not received information yet whether union rates of wages were being paid. A motion was thereupon passed by the Council concurring the Government for not having protected labor by a fair wage clause when awarding the contract. The meeting then adjourned.

THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA

I am a preacher of the gospel. I stand at the bedside of mothers and children. The saddest funeral I ever conducted is the funeral of a little baby whose parents stand beside the casket and say: "How can a God of love stand for this?" I say it is not a God of love but the industrial conditions that make 240,000 of those funerals. If the pulpit pleaded for the women and children of Belgium, I say in God's name let us plead for the women and children of America! — Rev. G. S. Lackland before the Denver A. F. of L. convention.

Always Something Good at LOEW'S The Union-Right Through Million Dollar Playhouse

IMPERIAL THEATRE DEMPSEY-CARPENTIER FIGHT FIRST AUTHENTIC PICTURES. All next week.

CAPITOL CANADA'S GREATEST PLAYHOUSE Now Open ST. CATHERINE ST. NEAR MANSFIELD

DOMINION PARK NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON Bigger and better than ever. New features; latest novelties. Adults: 15c Same PRICES as last Children: 7c year Tax included

LABOR THE WORLD OVER

CANADIAN NOTES

A large proportion of the Canadian municipalities have no pension system for policemen. This was brought out at the convention of Chief Constables of Canada held in Montreal, by Chief Baker, of Outremont. He asked the police chiefs of those municipalities where there was no pension system to stand, and the majority of those present got to their feet. There were about 100 present. "Work for a police pension, everyone of you," urged Chief Baker.

A deputation representing Toronto electrical workers called on Premier Drury to ask that the laws governing the installation of electrical wiring and the handling of electrical apparatus be more strictly enforced by the provincial authorities. It was asserted that recently electricians had lost their lives because some industrial plants were not keeping within the regulations. The Premier promised to see that the regulations were enforced.

Milk can now be secured at 12 1/2c a quart in Halifax. The Farmers of Nova Scotia are adopting the co-operative plan of distribution, and the consumer reaps the benefit. The effect of the recent milk strike has been the promotion of a Dairy Company, controlled and operated by Farmers, with the object of eliminating the profits of the middlemen and dealing direct with the consumer. By this method the Farmers have been enabled to top 1 1/2 cents off the price of milk, other dealers charging 14c.

Simultaneous with the taking of the Dominion Census and Municipal Inventory taken annually by the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of the Public School Act, the N. S. Steel & Coal Co., at Sydney Mines, N. S., are taking a record of employees who are supposed to be on the shady side of the three-score mark. It is said there are about 190 veterans on the honor roll who have done their bit in the pits on this side of the water, and it goes without saying they should be hand only rewarded for their services. No official announcement is made regarding the object of the census.

The Toronto Board of Control has adopted a motion by Mayor Church that the heads of departments and various outside boards be requested to report at as early a date as possible what permanent and temporary work could be undertaken to relieve unemployment during the coming fall and winter months, stating the conditions of labor and other particulars.

F. A. Acland, Deputy Minister of Labor, has gone to Stockholm, Sweden, to attend a meeting of the International Labor Bureau of the League of Nations. Prior to returning to Canada, Mr. Acland will visit the head offices of the International Labor Office at Geneva. He is expected in Canada about the middle of August.

The women's section of the Alberta Workmen's Compensation Board have decided to give special instruction in first aid work to women employees of factories and shops in Alberta.

In Calgary all that remains of the O. B. U. is a small unit of not over fifty paid up members, made up largely of 15, P. R. shopmen. There used to be a metal trades unit, but it has been out of business for a long time.

Charging the Canadian National Railways Western Lines management, with violation of the Industrial Disputes Act, in seeking arbitrarily to impose a 12 per cent wage reduction upon certain of its employees, the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, have notified General Manager A. E. Warren that they emphatically reject the proposed cut and are prepared to face the issue in whatever way events determine.

AMERICAN NOTES

For working with non-union labor and under police protection, according to a special investigation committee, the delegates of Local No. 11, Bricklayers and Stone Masons, and Local No. 322, Hoisting Engineers, have been unseated in the Central Trades and Labor Council of Rochester, N. Y. The locals were found guilty of violating the rules of the building department of the American Federation of Labor.

Three hundred employees of the Erie railroad shops at Dumore, Pa., have refused to fall into what they regard as a scheme of the Erie to eliminate the older men and deprive them of their priority rights. About a month ago the shops suspended work and a few days ago notices were posted calling the men back to work. When they reported they were asked to sign "health certificates" as a condition to their re-employment. They refused.

In order to eliminate middleman's profits and to enable the farmers to dispose of fruits and vegetables which at present are a drag on the market local farmers have opened a public market in San Francisco, selling direct from the farm to the consumer. Harry S. Maddox, state market commissioner, formally opened the curb market with an address in which he announced the intended opening later on of a municipal free market, paid for by taxes and regulated by the city. Goods are being sold at about 60 per cent below current prices.

Mayor Hylan, of New York, was denounced by delegates at a meeting of the Central Trades and Labor Council here as "unfair and unjust to labor" and "not the kind of man we want at the head of this city another term." A resolution which would have placed the organization representing 700,000 union workers, on record as opposed to Hylan's reelection, was seconded but was not recognized by the chairman, John Sullivan, because it was not in writing. The attack on the mayor came after a discussion of the plight of about 300 street cleaners who recently were discharged by Mayor Hylan's street commissioner without hearing.

The large number of workers imported into Toledo, Ohio, by anti-union employers are idle and the city is feeling them, according to the municipal welfare director. Hundreds of Mexicans were brought to this city for strike-breaking purposes. The cost of feeding this "Red" army is estimated at \$10,000 a month.

President Slater, of the Texas state federation of labor, is visiting Mexico border towns and cities in the interest of trade unionism. He reports success among Spanish-speaking workers.

Conditions in West Virginia call for unity among workers and factional disputes, fostered by company spies, should be eliminated, says Frank Snyder, editor of the West Virginia Federationist, who declares that the state

is plastered with spies and company detectives.

The Mexican government is returning its jobless citizens from the United States to their homes. More than 300 have been sent from Oklahoma City, Okla., at the expense of the southern republic.

Wives of striking street car men have appealed to Governor Miller to use his influence in settling the six-months' street car strike in Albany, N. Y. The women cited numerous cases where governors have successfully acted in cases like the present one.

Typographical Union No. 63, Toledo, Ohio, voted its officers authority to establish a machine composing plant to relieve the congestion in machine type composition caused by the 44-hour strike. The committee have set aside several thousand dollars for this purpose.

By a vote of 25 to 6, the state senate at Hartford, Conn., defeated a "can't strike" bill, that had been approved by the house. Senators declared that the act would foment strikes and that it was an attempt to coerce labor. One senator frankly stated that its passage would be bad politics and would imperil his party's success at the next election.

The Farmer-Labor party will send a commission to study conditions in Russia this summer, if the necessary arrangements can be made, it was announced at the party headquarters, in Chicago. The commission will be headed by Parley P. Christenson, of Salt Lake City, the party candidate for president at the last election, who declared, "The commission will study conditions in Russia with a view to learning what can be done to re-establish trade relations with the United States."

IMPERIAL NOTES

The New South Wales Labor government controls, at Newcastle, in that state, the finest dockyard and ship-building works in Australia. Vessels are turned out, engine, rigged and even furnished at this Labor government controlled yard. Another claim of which the New South Wales Labor government is justly proud is that its ship-building yards have turned out more of the Australian federal government-owned cargo boats than all the rest of the shipbuilding yards in Australia put together. It has the greatest facilities, the most extensive plant of the lot for ship construction, repair work or general engineering.

In speaking of the recent miners' strike, the Toronto Statesman says: "The failure of the miners to draw all labor into the strike was due to J. H. Thomas, M.P. The collapse of the Triple Alliance was followed by a striking cartoon in the 'Communist' which is edited by Francis Meynell, a former director of the 'Daily Herald.' The cartoon was after the well known picture, the Last Supper, showing J. H. Thomas in the role of Judas Iscariot. An action for libel has followed. The 'Communist' was suppressed by the police during the visit of the Crown Prince of Japan. It published a cartoon of the Prince of Wales and the Japanese Prince, in which they were viewing a murdered Sinn Feiner. The Japanese Prince, when told what it was exclaiming: 'Ah! another dog of a Christian!' This was too much for Downing Street on the eve of an Anglo-Jap treaty controversy."

Having secured substantial wage reductions in their industry, building employers of Great Britain, now say that if the unions dilute their trade profit sharing plans will be made effective. George Hicks, president of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, replies that the bosses are aiming at destruction of the building guilds, which are becoming a menace to building profiteers. The union executive says the employers have in mind a gigantic trust of building material to destroy the guilds. With their profit sharing scheme they hope to corner the labor supply.

A message just received at the Australian bureau of The Federated Press, from the Fiji Islands (South Pacific) indicates that the strike of Hibiscus is fizzling out. On most of the fields the Hibiscus are going back to work. On others they will remain as soon as the rice crops are harvested. Small concessions in wages and conditions have been granted. Subterfuge and misleading statements have played a big part in breaking the strike. The sugar trust, it is stated, brought 500 freed workers (not indentured slaves) from India at reasonably high wages and spread the rumor that these were Hindus who had previously left Fiji but who returned because "it was better than India." Then the newspapers and wireless stations got to work booming the "glad" news. Another dodge worked by the sugar trust was the spreading of a report that thousands of Hibiscus in India were clamoring to come to Fiji.

A hundred years ago there were 700 banking corporations in Great Britain. Today there are 29, and 5 of these hold two-thirds of the deposits.

Disillusion is the fate of those who believe trade union activity can be supplanted by government boards that will enforce fair working conditions and a living wage. There has been a marked hostility shown by many employers to the trade boards established by the British government to see that fair wages are paid. The government is largely the instrument of the employers. Consequently the trade boards established are not doing their duty, but are dodging the question of wages as much as possible.

During the first four months of the present year, 1,750,000 British workers in fifty-one trades had their wages reduced.

It is announced that the three British railwaymen's unions, the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the Railway Clerks' Association have signed an agreement with the companies, which provides that when the railways are decontrolled joint councils of officials and employees are to be formed to deal with various questions.

A Department of Labor has recently been established at Bombay, India, with Mr. Findlay Sharraz, formerly Director of Statistics in India, as Labor Commissioner.

FOREIGN NOTES

The Norwegian Government recently decided not to renew the "provisional" Compulsory Arbitration Act, which has been in force since 1916. The Japanese Government has passed

Commission des Liqueurs Appel au Public de la Province de Québec LE 1er mars dernier, le Gouvernement de Québec nommait une Commission de cinq membres chargée, le 1er mai suivant, de l'application de la "Loi des Liqueurs de Québec." La tâche était considérable et rendue plus difficile encore par une puissante coalition d'intérêts affectés par la nouvelle loi et le délai—2 mois—très court pour créer de toutes pièces dans toute la Province l'organisation requise pour l'administration, non pas d'une loi modifiée, mais d'une loi entièrement nouvelle. Cette loi, entièrement nouvelle, a été votée à l'unanimité par les deux Chambres de la Législature de Québec. C'est une loi de tempérance réclamée par la grande majorité de l'opinion publique; elle conserve à toute Municipalité le droit de permettre ou de défendre à la Commission l'octroi de licences sur son territoire. C'est une loi de liberté, parce qu'elle conserve à tout citoyen qui n'est pas en faveur de la prohibition le droit d'obtenir des boissons pures sans recourir à des moyens détournés. C'est une loi de protection contre la vente des boissons frelatées. La Commission ne vendra au public que des alcools purs, des vins naturels, soumis à l'analyse de chimistes de réputation bien établie. La Commission n'a qu'un but, c'est de coopérer avec le public afin de lui donner le meilleur service possible. La Province de Québec jouit à juste titre d'une réputation enviable au point de vue du respect des lois. Tout le continent a les yeux tournés vers notre Province pour juger des résultats de l'application de la nouvelle loi. Pour l'honneur et le bon renom de la Province, la Commission, sans hésitation, fait appel à tous les bons citoyens et les engage à coopérer avec elle pour assurer l'observance fidèle et intégrale de la nouvelle loi. Dans des annonces subséquentes, la Commission se propose de familiariser le public avec la loi des liqueurs, ses clauses essentielles et les sanctions qu'elle comporte. Tous ont intérêt à suivre cette campagne et à s'inspirer de ses enseignements. Commission des Liqueurs de Québec

ed a regulation prohibiting night work for all female workers under 14 years of age, in the employ of the Tokyo Central Telephone Bureau. This new regulation will affect more than 400 children. The Japanese Government has also forbidden the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches. A building guild has been formed at Amsterdam for the purpose of carrying on building operations and forming similar organizations in other places in the Netherlands, with a view to the creation of a national guild. The Social Democratic, Syndicalist, Christian and Catholic Building Unions are each entitled to two members on the guild council. The guild is created to allow the workers to take contracts to build houses without the intervention of a private contracting profit-taker. The vote of the Italian Confederation of Labor against joining the Third International was 1,435,873 to 432,588. This is a sufficient margin to show that Italian labor desires progressive measures in the forward march of labor rather than sudden revolutionary changes. The Moscow bureau of the International Red Trade Unions reports that 10,900,000 foreign trade unions are already affiliated. The working class of the Republic of Argentina, organized in the Argentine Communist Federation, numbering 250,000 members, has been going through a gigantic strike to protect seamen from the barbarities of ship owners. The Fascisti of Italy, the terrorist organization of the employers, now claims a membership of 2,000,000 in Italy. Its head is Mussolini, a disgruntled ex-Socialist editor of Milan. This organization, which three months ago was confined to a small "bitter-ender" nationalist organization in Romagna and Tuscany, is now a nation wide organization with branches in nearly every city and village in Italy. It is now virtually impossible in Italy for communist, socialist or labor union leaders to hold public meetings. The Fascisti are often supported by government troops, who preserve an appearance of neutrality, but who arrest the communists who resist the Fascisti. A new university has been opened in Nijni Novgorod, Russia. It contains faculties for political economy, social sciences, pedagogy, literature and art. Oil companies which have closed down operations in the states of Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz, Mexico, "without sufficient justification" were ordered to pay indemnification to employees thrown out of work by their action in a decree issued by President Obregon. The decree was promulgated through the Department of the Interior. Although the amount of the indemnity is not stated, it is understood that all laborers would receive three months pay. The radicals won a victory at the recent elections at Quevilly, France, reinstating Mayor Bazzin, by a big majority, after he had been deposed for hoisting the red flag on the town hall, on May 1 last. Mr. Bazzin and most of the municipal councillors support the Third International. About 10,000 agricultural workers are on strike in Denmark as a result of the wage reductions of 13 ore per hour (three cents). The position of agriculture has undergone a change since the war. Land owners turn to the workers to recoup their losses and proceed with wage cuts. Building workers are going on strike in sympathy and the harbor and metal workers are also threatening to join. A general strike was proclaimed in Venice, Italy, on June 14th, as a protest against the deaths of two railwaymen, which were caused by a conflict between the Socialists and the Fascisti. HAS THE LESSON BEEN LEARNED? The original promise to the British miners was that the government would decontrol the British mines in August. The promise was broken, the mines being decontrolled on March 31st. This was to save the government money by withdrawing the subsidy. The result was the greatest strike in the history of Britain when over a million workers remained idle for three months. The miners' strike cost the British government about seventy million pounds in increased military establishments, and in many other ways. When will the employing class and their governments learn that it pays to keep faith with organized labor? UNITED CONSUMERS OF MONTREAL LTD. At a meeting of the above co-operative organization, held last Wednesday evening in Painters' Hall, 217, Ontario street east, some lively discussion took place. Mr. W. N. Dixon, general manager, made it clear to the membership that no matter how many shares an individual possessed he was entitled to only one vote. This point was strongly emphasized. Some animated discussion ensued between the members prior to the meeting coming to a close. The directors spoke in an optimistic tone regarding the society's future. The society is at present prepared to furnish coal to all purchases for cash.

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