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Pas de politique avec notre législation sociale

"La loi de réparation des accidents du travail de la province de Québec, qui verra en force en septembre prochain, devrait prouver être un succès..."

La confiance exprimée par M. Sinclair, le président de la Commission des accidents du travail de l'Ontario, dans la nouvelle loi de Québec et dans son succès mérite d'être mentionnée, car, depuis plusieurs années, il préside aux destinées de cette importante législation dans la province-voisine et ce à la satisfaction générale.

Nous sommes de l'opinion du président de la Commission ontarienne, nous sommes convaincus que cette loi donnera pleine et entière satisfaction. Les ouvriers organisés, à quelque groupe qu'ils appartiennent, sont de la même opinion.

Certes, nous admettons que d'une bonne chose on peut en faire une mauvaise, que le succès de toute législation sociale dépend de la manière dont elle est mise en force ou administrée; la loi des accidents du travail n'est pas une exception à cette règle, bien au contraire, car plus les pouvoirs de ceux qui sont chargés de la mise en force d'une loi sont étendus, plus le danger est grand, mais tout cela ne détruit pas l'excellence de cette législation.

Justu à preuve du contraire, le Travail Organisé a confiance dans ceux qui composent la Commission des accidents du travail — quoiqu'il eût été préférable que la classe ouvrière y fut représentée directement par un de ses membres et qu'il y eût aussi une représentation patronale, comme cela s'est fait dans presque toutes les autres provinces; nous aurions certainement obtenu cette représentation n'eût été la division malheureuse qui existe dans les rangs ouvriers.

On peut différer d'opinion sur la manière dont la Commission a interprété certaines clauses de la loi de 1928, sur certaines décisions prises sur le degré d'incapacité d'un accidenté — ceci ressort du domaine médical et comme la médecine est loin d'être une science positive, on peut errer de bonne foi, — mais, somme toute, dans son ensemble, la Commission a fait de la bonne besogne malgré tous les "handicaps" dans lesquels elle se trouvait placée.

D'ailleurs, il n'y a rien d'immuable sur la terre: les hommes passent et les institutions restent; il en sera de même pour la réparation des accidents du travail tout comme pour toute autre mesure de législation sociale, la voix du Travail Organisé est trop puissante aujourd'hui — elle le sera davantage encore demain — pour ne pas être entendue par ceux qui président aux destinées des hommes et des choses.

Le Travail Organisé avait toujours espéré — avec présomption peut-être — que la discussion sur cette loi humanitaire serait écartée des discours de la campagne électorale que nous inaugurerons bientôt, car, durant la session, les conservateurs accusaient les libéraux de leur avoir volé leur programme sur cette question sociale, et que, partant, ceux-ci ne pouvaient être blâmés d'avoir adopté une loi préconisée par les deux partis. Nous serions-nous trompés? C'est à le croire. Toutefois, ce ne sont pas les diatribes des tribuns stépiés, d'un parti ou de l'autre, qui feront changer d'opinion les ouvriers qui ont toujours souhaité ce système pour notre province. Ce sont eux les premiers intéressés, et les politiciens seraient mal venus de faire de la réparation des accidents du travail ou de toute autre mesure de législation sociale une question politique pour en tirer des avantages électoraux.

Cette mesure est sortie du domaine politique, pourquoi essayer de la remettre sur les hustings? Il serait préférable, à notre sens, d'attendre que la classe ouvrière — la première intéressée — fasse entendre sa voix. Ensuite, libre à ceux qui voudraient critiquer ou louer d'entrer en lice et d'appuyer ou non les revendications ouvrières. Jusqu'à ce moment, nous croyons donner aux politiciens un avis de prudence: "Ne touchez pas à notre loi des accidents du travail" — Hands off our workmen's Compensation Act!

SOCIUS.

Titres et décorations

Monsieur Armand Laverne, autrefois nationaliste, est devenu impérialiste. Il demande au gouvernement de permettre à l'Angleterre d'ennobler les Canadiens, de leur conférer des titres, de leur accorder des décorations et ceci à l'encontre de M. Mackenzie King, qui avait prié — oh! très poliment — les souverains de la Grande-Bretagne de garder leurs périlleux honneurs. On ne doit pas oublier que nous sommes dans un pays démocratique et que cette précieuse pacotille ne nous dit pas grand chose. Pour l'Europe, qui ne s'est pas encore libérée du préjugé, elle accorde encore beaucoup de considération aux ordons, aux collettes blanches, aux jarretières, vains oripeaux dont nous faisons fi, mais qui flattent sa vanité. Nous n'avons pas à la critiquer; chacun prend son plaisir où il le trouve. Mais il y a pour nous une question de dignité à refuser de nous laisser "sérer". Lord Rochester avait dit de nous, il y a quelque cent ans: "Les Canadiens sont des gens inoffensifs, on se les attache facilement en leur donnant quelques honneurs". Nous ne sommes pas les seuls à aimer les plumes et les panaches. Nous aimons à nous pavaner sur la rue avec des colliers d'or, des tabliers sur le ventre, à porter les rubans des bannières, à faire montre de nos chapelets en nacre de perles sur monture d'or. Il y a plus de chevaliers du Saint-Sépulchre ici que dans la ville de Rome. Des malins ont tellement exploité notre prédilection pour la bijouterie qui brille d'autant plus qu'elle n'est pas en or que nous devons prendre aujourd'hui ces distinctions honorifiques avec circonspection. Nous avons l'expérience du

passé qui doit nous servir de leçon. C'est avec des colliers de perles que les explorateurs ont payé les plus belles terres, des fleuves sans pareils, des forêts vierges. Des miroirs et quelques verges d'indienne à ramages voyants ont plus fait pour l'évangélisation des sauvages que le dévouement des missionnaires, ne l'oublions jamais. Nous payons toujours directement ou indirectement ces titres qui nous viennent de l'étranger. Ce sont des récompenses qu'il faut mériter. Il est un moyen facile de distinguer ici les hommes politiques qui servent leur pays avant leurs intérêts personnels et leurs ambitions: ceux-là ne sont pas "sérés". Nous ne pouvons toujours directement ou indirectement ces titres qui nous viennent de l'étranger. Ce sont des récompenses qu'il faut mériter. Il est un moyen facile de distinguer ici les hommes politiques qui servent leur pays avant leurs intérêts personnels et leurs ambitions: ceux-là ne sont pas "sérés".

Le privilège de changer notre sang rouge en sang bleu, qui n'est pas la reconnaissance de notre valeur ou de notre mérite, qui n'affine pas notre nature. Quand on naissait comte, marquis, baron, duc ou prince, on pouvait se croire d'une autre essence que le commun des mortels, mais celui qui a conscience de sa métamorphose et qui voit sa rotture se muer en aristocratie ne peut garder d'illusion sur ses origines sans avoir un tantinet perdu le boule. Etre un manant hier et se retrouver seigneur au saut du lit, c'est un prodige qui tient de la magie et d'un homme d'esprit ne saurait être dupé. Ne retournons pas au passé. De même qu'on ne chausse pas les souliers de notre puérile enfance, qu'on ne prend plus de plaisir à faire des bulles de savon, délaissions ces hochets de la vanité qui nous rendent ridicules et qui retardent notre évolution morale et intellectuelle. Le bien porte en soi sa récompense. Le témoignage de la conscience et l'estime que l'on a de son caractère, la satisfaction de s'être conduit honorablement doit valoir plus que toutes les médailles, tous les titres de noblesse qu'on peut nous offrir. C'est toujours l'éternelle histoire de rétribution qui atténue la valeur de nos actes. Si nous avons mené une bonne vie, nous exigeons le lien en paiement, comme si nous n'avions pas déjà reçu notre récompense, quand même ce ne serait que cette paix intérieure dont nous jouissons et la satisfaction de pouvoir lever le front et défier la malice des humains qui ne peut rien contre nous.

JULIEN SAINT-MICHEL.

Ces députés paresseux

Par GRACE WOODSWORTH

Notre visite à la Chambre des Communes nous a donné l'impression d'être des spectateurs à une sorte de jeu. Penser que tous les députés sont obligés de passer six heures par jour dans l'arène politique! On est là à trois heures de l'après-midi jusqu'à onze heures du soir avec deux heures de congé pour le dîner. Autrefois on siégeait bien souvent pendant la nuit, jusqu'à huit heures du matin. Comment peut-on croire qu'après une session de douze heures, les députés pouvaient bien être en état de diriger les affaires du pays! Heureusement, on a aboli ces longues sessions depuis plusieurs années.

Le visiteur à Ottawa ne manque jamais de demander: "Mais pourquoi ne pas commencer à neuf heures du matin et finir à cinq heures du soir, comme le reste du monde? Ne rien faire pendant toute la matinée! Ils sont bien paresseux, ces députés!"

Alors, ce matin, nous allons nous cacher dans le bureau d'un député ouvrier, précisément pour voir comment il passe son temps. Nous sommes étonnés de voir la porte qui s'ouvre à neuf heures moins le quart et notre député qui entre, les mains remplies de lettres, de journaux, de bulletins. Sans nous voir — car nous sommes invisibles — il les pose sur son pupitre, s'assied sur sa chaise, et commence à lire ses lettres.

Voilà une lettre d'un soldat qui demande des renseignements au sujet de sa pension. En voilà une autre d'un fermier qui décrit les mauvaises conditions dans l'Ouest. Voilà une étudiante qui prépare un débat sur le problème du chômage, et qui cherche des statistiques. Voilà une coupure de journal envoyée par quelqu'un qui n'aime pas les idées des députés ouvriers. Il y a encore une douzaine de communications, mais nous n'avons pas le temps, nous, de les lire. Notre député est cependant obligé! Il cherche les réponses parmi ses documents.

Enfin, il appelle sa sténographe à laquelle il dicte ses réponses. Souvent il est interrompu par des coups de téléphone — une demande relative à un prisonnier à Winnipeg, des renseignements sur la question des banques, etc. Mais enfin il congédie sa sténographe. Il prend quelques instants à lire les journaux et à en faire quelques coupures. Souvent le matin il passe une demi-heure dans la salle de lecture où on trouve des journaux de chaque partie du monde.

Ce matin, notre député commence à préparer son discours sur le budget. Un coup de téléphone: "Un monsieur désire vous voir". Il arrive — un professeur de l'Afrique du Sud qui s'intéresse à présent à une étude de nos affaires canadiennes. Il reste une demi-heure pour demander une foule de renseignements. Il part et le député recommence à préparer son discours. Quelqu'un frappe à la porte et entre. C'est un député qui lui rappelle un comité sur la question des banques. Les deux partent ensemble.

Dans une heure notre député revient accompagné d'un officiel d'une union ouvrière. Ils discutent la question des salaires pour les ouvriers dans cette industrie. Encore un coup de téléphone. Une députation de chômeurs qui arrivent pour considérer les moyens qu'ils doivent prendre pour attirer l'attention des autorités sur leur condition. Ils se décident enfin à convoquer une grande assemblée publique.

Ils sortent en même temps qu'un garçon entre avec les lettres qui sont prêtes à être signées et mises à la poste. Voilà une heure qui sonne. Le député jette un dernier regard sur son discours inachevé. Puis il prend son chapeau et sort pour le déjeuner, afin d'être rentré quelques minutes avant le commencement de la session de l'après-midi. Il a promis de voir un officiel au sujet de la navigation du Saint-Laurent.

Dans la rue, il rencontre un ami qui lui demande: "Qu'y a-t-il de nouveau aujourd'hui?" — "Pas grand chose", répond notre député, "au contraire, je viens de passer une matinée bien ordinaire!"

Les syndicats britanniques et les secours aux chômeurs

Au dernier congrès de la Confédération des Syndicats britanniques on vota une résolution indiquant l'insuffisance des mesures envisagées par le gouvernement pour combattre efficacement la crise économique. Tout en prenant en considération la circonstance que le gouvernement travailliste est un gouvernement de minorité et qu'il lui est donc malaisé de prendre des mesures de caractère purement socialiste, on met cependant en relief que c'est uniquement grâce à l'assurance-chômage que l'on doit que la terrible situation actuelle ne dégénère pas en aventures révolutionnaires. On indiquait parmi les moyens capables de remédier à la crise l'exécution sur une plus vaste échelle de travaux publics, l'octroi de crédits à l'exportation pour le commerce avec la Russie, l'organisation méthodique et l'assistance aux chômeurs, la réorganisation systématique de l'économie, etc.

Depuis ce congrès le perfectionnement sinon la réorganisation complète de l'assistance aux chômeurs est demeuré au centre des préoccupations constantes du Congrès des unions ouvrières. Le Conseil général du Congrès des unions ouvrières vient de saisir la commission instituée par le gouvernement pour l'étude du chômage, de propositions tendant à une réorganisation complète d'assistance, au sens que toutes les charges incombent à l'Etat qui les répartirait sur tous les revenus.

La délégation qui communiqua les propositions motivait cette mesure dans les termes suivants:

"Les travailleurs ne sont pas les auteurs du régime économique, mais en sont les victimes. Tant que la société n'aura pas aménagé les moyens dont elle dispose de manière à assurer du travail à tous les individus faisant partie de la communauté active, les chômeurs ont droit à l'assistance en tant que réserve de main-d'oeuvre industrielle. En fonction du système actuel, basé sur une cotisation fixe et invariable à l'assurance-chômage, on impose à la main-d'oeuvre, dans les périodes où elle est occupée, une sorte de taxe de prévoyance pour les périodes de chômage. L'ouvrier doit payer 7 pence par semaine indistinctement du taux de son salaire. La cotisation est la même pour l'ouvrier qui ne travaille qu'une journée par semaine et ne gagne que quelques shillings et l'ouvrier qui est occupé la semaine entière sur un salaire convenable! C'est là une injustice flagrante. Le Trade Union Congress réclame donc une détermination qu'on abolisse la cotisation patronale et ouvrière. Les patrons aussi peuvent se trouver placés dans la désagréable situation de devoir continuer à verser la cotisation même quand ils ne réalisent plus de profits".

Pour les différents motifs qu'il évoque dans son mémoire et considérant

Au Conseil des Métiers

L'Assemblée du Conseil tenue jeudi soir dernier, au Monument National, fut une des plus ternes depuis bien longtemps. Etait-ce dû au fait que plusieurs officiers internationaux étaient dans notre ville et que différentes assemblées spéciales avaient été appelées dans ce but? A tout événement, le président Foster étant actuellement en Europe et les vice-présidents Ben Drolet et Adhémar Tremblay absents, l'assemblée fut appelée à se choisir un président pro tem. Le choix se porta sur le délégué Alphéus Mathieu qui fit dignement les choses.

Le comité exécutif, par l'absence de son secrétaire, n'ayant pas de rapport devant l'assemblée, il s'en suivit que l'ordre du jour tomba immédiatement aux affaires nouvelles.

Sur cet item, un délégué se leva pour demander s'il était à la connaissance du Conseil d'une déclaration de M. J. E. Blanchard, directeur des travaux publics de la Cité de Montréal, publiées dans les journaux.

Voici l'article en question: "La question du chômage à Montréal. M. J. E. Blanchard, directeur des travaux publics de la Cité de Montréal, faisant partie du voyage de l'Union des Municipalités de la province de Québec, invité à adresser la parole, parla de la question du chômage. Voici les principales idées développées au cours de sa causerie: "Pour venir en aide aux chômeurs, la ville de Montréal a décidé d'entreprendre de grands travaux, voulant par là éloigner le système 'Doe' qui consiste à donner une aide directe aux chômeurs, et semble plutôt encourager la paresse."

Dans plusieurs milieux, on a discuté fortement les emprunts que la ville avait été obligée de faire pour exécuter les travaux qu'elle voulait entreprendre, à part ceux de la loi du chômage. Ces emprunts, cependant étaient à mon sens très justifiés. Pourquoi, un gouvernement ne ferait-il pas des emprunts pour faire vivre en temps de chômage et les garder ceux qu'il dirige en tâchant de leur donner le maximum possible de travail et de confort?"

Les travaux exécutés ont fourni de l'ouvrage non seulement aux gens de Montréal, mais aussi à ceux des municipalités voisines; de plus, grâce à la commission industrielle du chômage, Montréal a contribué à aider le manufacturier canadien, en employant des matériaux fabriqués au Canada. Si la population qui a du travail, et ne souffre pas de la crise actuelle, nous donnait un peu d'encouragement, un peu d'aide, un peu de support moral, nous triompherions de la crise actuelle beaucoup plus rapidement, dit M. Blanchard.

Nous avions l'autorisation, poursuit-il, de faire travailler les ouvriers en trois équipes différentes de 8 heures chacune. Nous n'avons jamais été capables de réaliser ce système de travail. Les gens s'ingéniaient à porter plainte et à menacer la ville si cette dernière n'arrêtait pas ses travaux après six heures le soir, et à des endroits parfois où la première habitation était située à près de deux milles du lieu où l'on faisait le travail.

Inutile de vous dire alors que, dans ces derniers temps, nous avons beaucoup exagéré la crise du chômage. Il me semble que ce n'est pas juste envers sa ville et son pays de jeter cette note triste à tous les vents et à qui veut l'entendre, quand nous, qui sommes en contact immédiat avec entrepreneurs et employeurs, pouvons dire que la crise n'est pas aussi forte que la majorité des gens le croient, mais peut-être un peu de négligence du côté du travailleur, qui profite de la crise pour prendre un peu de repos, et dire qu'il n'a pas de travail.

En résumé, des travaux du chômage ont donné du travail durant les mois de février, mars, avril et mai, à 3,000 ouvriers par jour. Les travaux hors la loi du chômage ont donné, durant l'hiver par exemple du travail à 2,650

ouvriers, se rendant même jusqu'à 10,000 par jour et, actuellement, il y a 4,500 ouvriers qui travaillent sur différents travaux de la liste énumérée. Vous pouvez voir que le travail ne se limite pas aux ouvriers travaillant immédiatement sur les chantiers, nous embrasse aussi le manufacturier qui doit produire la marchandise nécessaire à la construction des différents travaux que nous avons à exécuter, ce qui peut porter le nombre à des chiffres encore plus considérables que ceux que je viens d'énumérer."

Les délégués furent d'opinion que la question était assez importante pour mériter une profonde étude. Il fut décidé que celle-ci soit référée au Comité Exécutif.

A sa dernière assemblée le Conseil avait décidé de coopérer avec la branche de Montréal du Parti Travailleur pour la tenue d'une grande assemblée relative à la question du chômage; le délégué Desormeaux demanda plus amples informations. Comme délégué du Conseil au Parti Travailleur, il était à sa connaissance que le Parti avait opté pour une assemblée à l'intérieur et non pas à l'extérieur afin d'éviter la controverse de ceux qui pourraient se trouver au milieu de nous et différer d'opinion. "Le Conseil a-t-il décidé quelque chose", demanda-t-il?

Le délégué Mathieu répond que le Conseil a consenti à coopérer avec le Parti Travailleur, mais qu'à date, il n'a aucune information à ce sujet.

Les délégués Jensen fait part au Conseil que l'avis du comité exécutif sera demandé à cet effet.

Pour faire suite à une communication du Conseil de Construction, dont lecture ne fut pas faite par suite de l'impossibilité de produire celle-ci, le délégué Pierre Lefèvre reçut l'assentiment de l'assemblée et en donna verbalement le contenu.

Cette communication, venant du Conseil des Métiers de la Construction de Montréal, était à l'effet qu'une plainte soit faite contre les entrepreneurs qui exécutent des travaux municipaux et ne se conforment pas à l'échelle de salaires et aux heures et que les inspecteurs de la Cité aient le privilège de voir à l'observation de ces conditions de travail.

Cette question fut référée à l'Exécutif pour étude et rapport à la prochaine assemblée.

Le délégué Thibault, des cordonniers, parla de l'étiquette unioniste dans la chaussure, appuyant sur le fait que c'est par ce seul moyen que les ouvriers feront valoir leur force et conserveront leur influence. Il demanda aux unions de coopérer avec lui lorsqu'il ira les visiter individuellement.

Faisant rapport pour le Comité de la Pêche du Travail, le délégué Jos. Pelletier fait appel aux unions affiliées pour élire une candidate au concours de popularité organisé par ce comité. Jusqu'à date, très peu d'unions ont fait réponse; comme le temps se fait de plus en plus court, il insiste pour que les unions agissent immédiatement.

Le délégué Perrault, des peintres, demanda aux délégués qui auraient de la peinture ou autres travaux pour les travailleurs de son métier de vouloir bien profiter de la présente crise, car il y a actuellement beaucoup de peintres sans travail et cela leur permettrait de gagner quelque chose pour nourrir leur famille.

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, l'assemblée s'ajourna à jeudi, le 2 juillet.

PROGRES AUX ETATS-UNIS DES PENSIONS DE VIEILLESSE

Les Etats du Delaware et l'Idaho de la Confédération américaine ont adopté au début de l'année des lois sur les pensions de vieillesse. L'une et l'autre de ces lois sont d'application obligatoire et couvre l'Etat entier. Ont seuls droits à la pension, qui ne peut dépasser \$25 par mois, les indigents âgés de 65 ans ou plus comptant quinze années de résidence au pays.

La loi de l'Idaho, par ailleurs, exige du pensionnaire dix années de résidence dans l'Etat. Elle délègue les pouvoirs administratifs nécessaires à des commissaires régionaux et décrète que la pension sera à charge des autorités administratives régionales.

La loi de Delaware n'exige que cinq années de résidence dans l'Etat. Des quatorze lois d'Etat actuellement en existence, elle est la plus généreuse sous ce rapport. Elle est aussi la première loi de l'Union américaine à imputer à l'Etat le coût intégral du régime de pension institué.

Les autres Etats possédant actuellement des régimes de pensions de vieillesse sont les suivants: Californie, Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Minnesota, Utah, New-York et Indiana.

Les salaires minima dans la fourrure

Environ 800 ouvrières dans l'industrie de la fourrure tomberont, à partir du 1er septembre prochain, sous l'application d'une Ordonnance du salaire minimum à Montréal. Cette décision fut prise par une Conférence conjointe de représentants du public, des patrons et des ouvrières, tenue aux bureaux du gouvernement jeudi dernier. Cette Conférence était présidée par M. Gus. France, le président de la Commission; les commissaires J.-C. Griffin, Omer Brunet et Eugène Richard, ainsi que le secrétaire Alf. Crowe étaient également présents.

Après de multiples explications de la part des intéressés, il fut tout d'abord décidé que l'Ordonnance viserait toutes les opérations dans l'industrie de la fourrure, exception faite pour les ateliers de teinture et de préparation des peaux, qui tomberont sous l'application d'une Ordonnance à être émise plus tard et qui couvrira les tanneries.

D'après les statistiques fournies à la Conférence, il y aurait 114 ateliers de fourrure employant environ 800 ouvrières; 52 apprenties gagnant actuellement moins de sept dollars par semaine, devront recevoir l'augmentation nécessaire pour arriver à ce minimum de sept dollars; la moyenne générale du salaire payé aux ouvrières et apprenties est de \$15.38 par semaine; celle des ouvrières expérimentées, \$18.99 par semaine, et celle des apprenties est de \$8.49.

L'Ordonnance suivante a été adoptée à l'unanimité par la Conférence et ratifiée le jour même par la Commission:

Table with 2 columns: Description of experience levels and corresponding minimum wages. Includes rows for 'Commencantes', 'Après 6 mois d'expérience', 'Après 12 mois d'expérience', 'Après 18 mois d'expérience', and 'Ouvrières expérimentées, après 24 mois d'expérience'.

ORDONNANCE No 13 Concernant les jeunes filles et femmes employées dans l'industrie de la fourrure de la ville et l'île de Montréal et un rayon de 10 milles autour de l'île de Montréal.

(1) Minima: Aucun salaire par semaine ne sera inférieur à ceux mentionnés ci-dessous:

Apprenties — commençantes, pas moins de \$ 7.00

Après 6 mois d'expérience 8.00

Après 12 mois d'expérience 9.50

Après 18 mois d'expérience 11.00

Ouvrières expérimentées, après 24

Le Coin des Unions locales

APPEL AUX UNIONS

Le comité de la Fête du Travail, du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail des unions internationales, à sa dernière réunion, tenue ces jours derniers, a décidé de lancer un appel spécial à toutes et à chacune des unions affiliées. Il demande leur coopération la plus active, dans le but d'assurer le plus grand succès possible à cette fête des travailleurs, qui sera célébrée le lundi, 7 septembre prochain.

Le comité annonce que, cette année encore, il institue un concours de popularité parmi les dames et demoiselles des membres des unions. Chaque union est invitée à faire connaître au comité sa candidate à ce concours, avant le 27 juin courant. La candidate qui aura placé le plus grand nombre de billets d'entrée au parc Dominion, le jour de la fête du travail, sera proclamée reine du Travail, pour l'année 1931-1932. La coupe de la Presse sera décernée à l'union qui aura la plus belle apparence, à la parade.

Pour la parade, les fanfares devront être formées des membres de l'union internationale des musiciens, ou avoir la recommandation des unions. Dans l'après-midi, un programme d'amusements est à l'étude. Un des numéros les plus populaires de ce programme est un concours de souque à la corde.

Les membres du comité de la fête du travail sont: MM. Gérard Gagnon, président; Hugh Corrigan, vice-président; Adhemar Tremblay, secrétaire-trésorier; Jos. Pelletier, Henri Massé, John Perreault, G. Brunelle, C. Miron et Jos. Giroux.

AU PARTI OUVRIER

Deux questions importantes ont fait le sujet principal de la discussion, à l'Assemblée du Conseil de district de Montréal, du parti ouvrier du Canada, hier avant-midi, à l'hôtel Mont-Royal; le nouveau budget soumis par l'honorable M. Bennett, premier ministre du Canada, et celle de l'Assemblée publique à tenir conjointement par le parti ouvrier et par le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal.

La séance était présidée par M. J. J. Cupello, président de ce Conseil. Les orateurs ne furent pas tendres pour le budget Bennett. Le président Cupello, qui commença l'attaque, déclara, en termes vifs, ce budget qu'il qualifia de "budget de classe", et dit qu'il était tout à l'avantage des riches au détriment des pauvres gens. "On a diminué, dit-il, en substance, l'impôt sur le revenu, de 25 pour cent, et augmenté la taxe des ventes, de manière que le pauvre qui achètera un habit de \$15.00 sera obligé de payer la même taxe que le millionnaire qui achètera un habit de \$150."

Une résolution fut adoptée, à l'unanimité, condamnant le budget Bennett, et copie de cette résolution sera envoyée au premier ministre, à Ottawa.

La seconde question, relative à la tenue d'une assemblée publique, conjointement avec le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal, souleva aussi une longue discussion.

DANS LES METIERS DU LIVRE

"Nous nous engageons à coopérer de toutes nos forces, avec les unions ouvrières des métiers de l'imprimerie du Canada, pour rétenir en Canada, les travaux d'imprimerie qui en toute justice, doivent être accordés aux imprimeurs canadiens de préférence aux étrangers", telle est la déclaration solennelle qui a été faite, à l'Assemblée générale et publique des ouvriers des métiers de l'imprimerie, lundi soir dernier, dans la grande salle de l'Assistance publique, par M. John B. Haggerty, président du bureau des gouverneurs des métiers alliés de l'imprimerie de l'Amérique du Nord et président général de l'union internationale des relieurs. Cette déclaration a été faite en présence de tous les officiers généraux des unions internationales de l'imprimerie des Etats-Unis et du Canada, qui assistent au congrès ouvrier de l'imprimerie, et d'une nombreuse assistance, qui applaudit à tout rompre.

La séance était présidée par M. Jos. Pelletier, secrétaire du Conseil des métiers alliés de l'imprimerie. Sur l'étrange d'honneur, on distinguait, outre le président du bureau des gouverneurs des métiers alliés de l'imprimerie, M. John B. Haggerty, de New York qui préside le congrès; MM. Woodruff Randolph, d'Indianapolis, secrétaire-trésorier de l'union typographique internationale d'Amérique; Geo. Bentley, aussi d'Indianapolis, 2e vice-président de cette union; Winfield T. Keegan, de Jersey City, N. J., président général de l'union des stéréotypiers et clicheurs d'Amérique; Edward J. Voltz, de New York, président général de l'union des photographes d'Amérique; et tous les officiers locaux étaient aussi présents à cette intéressante conférence.

Il y eut nombre de discours forts intéressants faits par les officiers internationaux et locaux de l'industrie du livre.

SALAIRES MINIMA DES ADOLESCENTS AU MANITOBA

La législature du Manitoba a récemment modifié la loi provinciale sur les salaires minima en étendant la couverture aux travailleurs âgés de moins de 18 ans. Le projet modificateur, déposé originalement en 1927 par M. S.-J. Farmer (Winnipeg), rencontra au début une vigoureuse opposition, pour trouver par la suite faveur auprès de la députation. Bien que des propositions du même ordre aient été soumises au législateur dans d'autres provinces du Dominion, le Manitoba est la première province canadienne à assurer protection du salaire de l'adolescent par voie d'une législation sur les salaires minima dont le but primordial est de protéger la main-d'œuvre féminine. Fonctionne en Colombie Britannique une loi sur les salaires minima pour la main-d'œuvre masculine portant constitution d'un organisme revêtu des pouvoirs nécessaires pour fixer un salaire minimum dans diverses occupations. La loi de l'inspection du travail d'Alberta porte l'emploi d'un travailleur à un salaire inférieur au minimum prévu et prohibe dans toute occupation relativement à laquelle un taux minimum de rémunération a été fixé pour la main-d'œuvre féminine de ladite occupation. La nouvelle législation en vigueur au Manitoba couvre les adolescents employés dans les multiples occupations présentement assujetties aux ordonnances fixant les salaires minima pour la main-d'œuvre féminine.

ELECTION CHEZ LES CHARPENTIERS ET MENUISIERS

La plus belle marque d'estime et de confiance qu'une union ouvrière puisse offrir à ses dirigeants, vient d'être témoignée par le local No 134 des charpentiers et menuisiers d'Amérique, à ses officiers sortant de charge: tous ont été réélus par acclamation.

L'élection a eu lieu à la dernière assemblée du local No 134 à l'Assistance Publique. Ainsi, le bureau de direction est ainsi composé: MM. F. Doucet, président; Eugène Godin, vice-président; Pierre Lefèvre, secrétaire-archiviste; J. A. Roy, secrétaire financier, réélu pour le 15e terme; E. Tisdelle, trésorier, réélu pour la 25e année (un record); N. Michon, conducteur; P. Lapointe, gardien; syndics: MM. R. Gingras, G. Leblanc, et Louis Quesnel; comité de secours aux membres: MM. E. Tisdelle, A. Blodeau, et Geo. Houle; délégués au Conseil de district de Montréal des charpentiers-menuisiers d'Amérique: MM. E. Boucher, E. Marchand, F. Doucet et R. Didier; délégués au Conseil des Métiers et du Travail: MM. Pierre Lefèvre, E. Larose, A. Mireault, J. Lespérance, Z. Primeau, H. Troitier, E. Marchand, J. Pépin; comité de la fête du travail: MM. E. Tisdelle, R. Gingras, F. Doucet, P. Lapointe, A. Blodeau.

MM. Pierre Lefèvre, E. Larose et F. Doucet ont été élus délégués à la 22e convention du Conseil Provincial, laquelle sera tenue à Québec, les 2, 3 et 4 juillet prochain, aux quartiers des unions internationales de cette union, 272, rue des Fossés.

EMPLOYES DE TRAMWAYS

La division 599 de l'association internationale des employés de tramways, à sa dernière assemblée, mercredi soir, à l'Assistance publique, a adopté des résolutions exprimant les sympathies et condoléances de tous les membres et officiers de cette union, aux familles des regrettés confrères suivants, décédés depuis la dernière assemblée: Rosalia Paquette, de la division St-Denis; Adélard Marsan, pensionnaire; Giovanni Ferrari, de la construction; et T. A. Mercier, de la division Saint-Denis.

D'autres résolutions de sympathies ont été votées à l'adresse des confrères Candide Collette, pour la mort de son épouse; Amable Léger, pour la mort de son fils, et à la famille de M. nos. Scott, contremaître décédé.

L'Assemblée, sur la proposition du président, M. Gérard Gagnon, secondé unanimement, a adopté une résolution exprimant les regrets de tous les membres de cette union, de la mort du cardinal Rouleau. Cette résolution fut adoptée debout, et par un silence de deux minutes, par respect de la mémoire de l'illustre Prince de l'Eglise disparu.

Plusieurs questions d'intérêt interne furent discutées.

CORDONNIERS EN CAMPAGNE

M. Lionel Thibault, organisateur général des cordonniers de la Boot & Shoe Workers' Union, entreprend une grande campagne en faveur de l'équipe unioniste de son organisation, à Montréal même. A cette occasion, M. Thibault rendra visite à toutes et à chacune des unions secourues des autres métiers, à leurs assemblées respectives. Etant donné l'estime et la popularité de M. Lionel Thibault, dans le travail organisé international, où il occupe depuis 25 ans, une place en vue, le plus cordial accueil lui est assuré dans toutes ses visites aux unions secourues.

DANS NOTRE EMPIRE DU NORD

Les Colons Au Pays des Mines L'Abitibi est aujourd'hui reconnu comme l'une des principales régions minières du continent.

C'est le pays du cuivre, du molybdène, du zinc et surtout de l'or.

On trouve, entre autres, des mines comme la Siscoe, par exemple, qui en 28 mois a triplé sa production. De \$20,000 par mois, le rendement de la mine est rendu à plus de \$60,000 mensuellement.

Et encore, n'est-on rendu qu'au niveau de 400 pieds.

Il est reconnu que jusqu'à date les

LA LOI DES ACCIDENTS DU TRAVAIL

Cette nouvelle loi, adoptée le 4 avril dernier et publiée in extenso dans notre édition du 11 avril, prendra effet le 1er septembre prochain. Comme "nul n'est censé ignorer la loi", Le Monde Ouvrier, toujours soucieux des intérêts de la classe ouvrière, a cru bien faire de la publier sous forme de pamphlet et de la mettre à la disposition des membres des unions ouvrières à un prix minime, soit 5 cents la copie, \$1.50 par lots de 50 copies et \$2.50 par lots de 100 copies, en français ou en anglais indistinctement. Nous sommes prêts à remplir toutes les commandes immédiatement, petites ou grandes.

Notre but est de faire ressortir les avantages de cette nouvelle législation et d'en faire profiter les intéressés.

Plusieurs unions ouvrières ont profité de cette offre avantageuse et nous ont fait parvenir leurs commandes. Nous recommandons à celles qui ne l'ont pas encore fait et qui désirent mettre leurs membres au courant de cette législation, de le faire dans le plus bref délai possible, car notre première édition — française, surtout — est presque épuisée; il nous sera impossible par la suite de remplir les commandes qui nous parviendront plus tard.

LE MONDE OUVRIER.

Le mouvement syndical au Canada

Sommaire du vingtième rapport annuel sur l'organisation du travail.

Le vingtième rapport annuel sur l'organisation du travail couvrant l'année civile 1930 au ministère du Travail, divisé le mouvement syndical canadien en six groupes principaux, savoir:

- (1) Syndicats locaux d'organisations ouvrières internationales ayant leur siège principal aux Etats-Unis;
- (2) One Big Union, organisation ouvrière internationale ayant son siège principal à Winnipeg;
- (3) Syndicats locaux des Industrial Workers of the World, organisation ouvrière révolutionnaire qui aspire à la suppression du régime du travail salarié. Le siège principal de cette organisation est à Chicago;
- (4) Organisations ouvrières "centrales canadiennes";
- (5) Syndicats ouvriers indépendants;
- (6) Syndicats catholiques et nationaux.

Le groupe des syndicats ouvriers internationaux, qui comprend les adhérents canadiens de 84 organisations, soit une de moins qu'en 1929, comprend 1,946 syndicats au Canada, (perte de 7 unités en regard de l'année précédente) groupant un effectif de 263,470 adhérents, une perte de 36 membres.

La One Big Union fixe à 45 le nombre de ses syndicats en Canada et à 23,724 le nombre de ses adhérents, ce qui représente une augmentation de 2 syndicats et de 834 membres en regard de l'année précédente.

Les Industrial Workers of the World ont déclaré avoir 6 syndicats locaux au Canada (le même nombre qu'en 1929) groupant 3,741 travailleurs, 234 membres de moins qu'en 1929.

Le groupe des organisations centrales canadiennes, qui sont au nombre de 27 (une augmentation de 2 unités), groupent 673 syndicats locaux réunissant un grand total de 57,168 adhérents, soit une augmentation de 34 unités et de 3,891 membres en regard de 1929.

Le groupe des syndicats indépendants accuse avec un total de 31 unités (le même nombre qu'en 1929) et 9,338 membres, une perte de 1,482 adhérents.

Le groupe des syndicats catholiques et nationaux compte 108 unités (augmentation de 2) et un effectif de 25,060 membres, le même qu'en 1929.

On enregistre pour l'exercice visé une augmentation nette de 31 syndicats locaux et de 2,973 adhérents, ce

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- ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL.** — To promote the interests of the Allied Trades and Labor Councils (speaking the French and English language). The following organizations comprise Council: Typographers' Union, No. 91; Photo-Engravers' Union, No. 9; Stereotypers and Printers' Union, No. 33; Newspaper Printing Pressmen's Union, No. 39; Amalgamated Lithographers of America, Local 25; President, Jos. Pelletier, vice-president, W. Trudeau; Recorder, A. F. Ricard; Secretary-Treasurer, James Philip, Room 2, 408 St. James West; Executive: Nap. Oulmont, John A. Boulter, John Moore; Auditors: Walter Forrest, R. Charbonneau and I. Lecavallier. Telephone: MARQUETTE 7459.
- UNION TYPOGRAPHIQUE JACQUES-CARIER No 145.** — Assemblée le 1er samedi du mois, à la Paestrie du National, 519 rue Cherrier par St-André. Président: Adhemar Tremblay, 978 rue St-Timothée; secrétaire-archiviste, Jean Lavigne; secrétaire-trésorier, Henri Richard, 3449, rue Bourdeau.
- UNION DES RELIEURS, Local 91.** — Assemblée tous les 1er et 3e samedis de chaque mois, à la salle de l'union, No 7 Craig Est, à 8 h 30 p.m. Président J. A. Julien; secrétaire financier et agent d'affaires, Jos. Pelletier, 7 Craig Est, 481, Lancaster 2726.
- TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION No. 176.** — Meets every first Saturday at No. 408 St. James Street, John T. Edwards, President, 286 de l'Épée Avenue, Outremont; James Philip, Secretary-Treasurer, 408 St. James Street. Business hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tel. MARQUETTE 7459.
- CHARPENTIERS-MENUISIERS.** — Union locale No 1558, Maisonneuve. — Assemblée tous les vendredis à 8 heures du soir au No 1558, Maisonneuve (Temple des Buffalo). Président: J. E. Desjardis; vice-président, L. Corbel; secrétaire-archiviste, Charles Thibault; 2141 Oréans; secrétaire financier, A. Robert, 1806 LeTouneux; secrétaire-trésorier, J. W. Corbel, 501 Lacordaire; conducteur, W. Bélanger; gardien, A. Bonnevill.
- WOOD, WIRE & METAL LATHERS.** — Local 515 of Montreal, meetings every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 182 St. Lawrence Blvd. (Monument National) room 11, Frank Moran, Financial secretary, 3460 Berrill St., Tel. HAR. 4497.
- Partout les persécutions servent au triomphe du bien; les persécutés succombent, les persécutés renaissent d'un éclat immortel. — Saint Jean Chrysostome. Sermons.
- Un petit garçon est un petit garçon. Si vous lui mettez de beaux habits, il les déchirera, il les salira; il faut qu'il coure, qu'il saute, qu'il amuse.
- Une petite fille est une femme plus petite. Elle ne se transformera pas, elle grandira, vola tout. — Alphonse KARR.

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17th Year — No. 25

SAMEDI, 20 JUIN 1931 — MONEREAL — SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1931

PRICE: 5 CENTS

The Week at Ottawa

By GRACE WOODSWORTH

Many vigorous protests against the policy outlined in the budget are being made these days by the farmer and labor members in the House. Their united objections to this budget, which does little or nothing for either the farmer or the worker, were set forth in their sub-amendment moved by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Miss MacPhail. Some people observe, and rightly so, that the farmer-labor corner can talk of nothing except the desperate conditions across Canada. Surely this very insistence means that the situation is indeed grave. The government disregards these repeated warnings at its peril!

The sub-amendment scores the government for its failure to provide any relief for unemployment and for its action in decreasing the tax on the larger incomes. It points out that the serious conditions of industry demands national planning based on co-operative principles of production and distribution.

It urges that as an immediate step the government temporarily go off the gold basis — as was done in 1914. The farmer and labor members believe that such action is absolutely necessary to ensure that:

(a) Commodity price levels may be raised, thus increasing the purchasing power of those engaged in agriculture, mining, forestry, fishing and other primary industries and in this way promoting a corresponding increase in the volume of employment;

(b) That the burden of both public and private debts and the interest thereon may be lightened;

(c) That the amount of currency and credit available for the purposes of trade and commerce within the country may be increased;

(d) That through the increased volumes of trade thus secured there might result larger revenues without any increase in the rate of taxation.

Mr. Spencer's speech set forth the reasons for the introduction of the sub-amendment. The world depression is largely responsible for the budget deficit. Although the government's tariff legislation of the special session has undoubtedly slowed up trade and thus increased the deficit by decreasing the revenue. At this critical time the extra taxation being imposed is \$94,000,000. This simply means that \$94,000,000 is being withdrawn from purchasing power thus intensifying the stagnation of industry.

True, the government is giving 5 cts a bushel on all exports of this year's wheat. But, at the same time the government is imposing on the farmer a share of the 300% increase in the sales tax, a share of the tea tax, the stamp tax, the postage tax, the excise and the tariff tax. This, at a time when wheat is the lowest in 133 years, butter bringing in from 12 to 15 cents a lb. and eggs as low as 5 cents a dozen.

Mr. Spencer noted that 80% of the new taxation is falling upon the consumer. Meanwhile the big incomes have had their burdens lightened. "A man receiving \$130,000 per year must pay \$513 more in taxes this year, but the man who receives \$140,000 or \$10,000 more is better off to the extent of \$163. A man receiving \$300,000 benefits to the amount of \$15,923 and the one receiving \$500,000 has a reduction of \$41,827 in his tax."

In the face of this some people have the nerve to suggest that there are only a few people with big incomes in Canada and that it is scarcely worth while to tax them!

The Minister of Trade and Commerce has stated that 87 new factories had been set up in Canada because of the government's tariff policy. But even before they were established Canada had more manufactured goods than her people could afford to buy. Meanwhile, on last year's export crop the farmers lost about 40 cents on every bushel. They cannot buy the products of the 87 new factories. Unemployment has increased since the present government and its tariff policy come into power. It is evident that tariff can cure neither agricultural nor industrial depression.

Mr. Spencer urged that Canada abandon the gold standard, quoting one of the directors of the Bank of England to the effect that there is not the slightest need for a country to hold gold behind a currency used within the country. Gold is necessary only for settling international balances, and here it is regarded as a commodity and not as coin. Currency and credit should be regulated by legislation.

Miss MacPhail gave six reasons for opposing the budget. These summarize the objections from the farmer labor groups:

1. Our currency is based on an out-worn system — the gold standard.

2. The budget does not deal with unemployment.

3. The larger incomes are to bear a lesser share of taxation than the small incomes.

4. Balancing the budget means imposing extra taxation on the debt-ridden farmers. Instead of using their borrowed money to meet the deficit, the government itself should have borrowed the money.

5. The budget increases the tariff.

6. So far as the people in her own constituency of Southeast Grey are concerned, "It means nothing to them but taxation, additional taxation."

Mr. Raymond, one of the French Liberals from Quebec, gave some figures

in connection with the textile industry in his province. Referring to the profits of the Dominion Textile Company he said: "The balance sheet of operations for the year ending March 31st, 1930 shows, according to the books of the Company... that, apart from the enormous sum paid to date in dividends at the rate of 150% on the initial sum paid, there is an accumulation of undivided profits amounting to \$7,498,000." Of the profits of the Montreal Cottons he said: "The balance sheet of the Montreal Cottons for the fiscal year ending December 31st, 1929 — that is the last I have — shows that after paying dividends at the rate of 6% on this watered stock, about \$3,000,000 it still has a surplus of accumulated and undivided profit amounting to \$663,000."

At the same time, according to Mr. Raymond, the following conditions exist in the Montreal Cottons: "Girls, who in the spring of 1930 were operating three 'warpers'—machines used in the preparation of thread for making cotton—and were receiving \$30 for two weeks' work, now operate six 'warpers' and receive less than \$22.... In the 'Cardroom' 18 men were working on 324 machines, that is, each worked on 18 machines. Today 8 men are doing the work of the 18 men, and are receiving a lower wage."

Mr. Raymond's concluding remarks were as follows: "What is the government doing? It is raising the tariff on textiles, when it has before it the balance sheets of the companies which show scandalous profits; and when these companies, to still further increase production and their profits, replace hand labor by machinery, overburden the worker who remains on the job and cut down his wages which are already insufficient. The government does not stop at this point. It reduces the taxes on the wealthy to impose them on the workers with his reduced wages, or on the unemployed, by taking all the necessities of life, and at the same time it admonishes him: 'Have courage and confidence.'"

Some of the easterners, members included, have been accustomed to think of unemployment as something existing, away off on the prairies, which really doesn't concern them much. Now, however, they are beginning to notice it right here in Ottawa, within the past week the unemployed of the capital city have held two mass meetings in a public square, both of which have been addressed by the labor members from Winnipeg and Vancouver. The members have urged organization as a means of forcing public opinion to stand behind the unemployed in their needs.

In his speech on the budget, Mr. MacInnis told how those men had taken refuge on the city dump. The police raided their miserable shacks there and rounded up some 60 of them. After spending the night in the police station they were turned adrift and most of them spent the following night in the park. "Surely these are wonderful conditions," declared Mr. MacInnis, "when the police have to guard the city's dump to keep Canadians from making their domicile there!"

It seems that while officials were arranging for the demolition of the wretched shelters on the dump, an officer of the Ottawa Humane Society was in the same office submitting plans for \$10,000 building to be erected on city property for the care of dogs.

Mr. MacInnis pointed out that two weeks ago Mr. Stevens, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, stated to the House: "This is scarcely the time, just in the spring of the year, for us to be making proposals to the house to deal with unemployment which may be anticipated next autumn."

Mr. MacInnis quoted the significant words of Sir George Paish: "Indeed, if I may say so, in my judgment there is a danger, a great danger, of a complete breakdown of trade, and we must be prepared. If those who are able to control world affairs are wise and not wisely, then we may mitigate the disaster, it cannot be prevented. It can only be made bearable."

Comment on the speeches of Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. William Irvine must be deferred till next week.

BRITISH BROADCAST SYSTEM OPERATED BY GOVERNMENT

A new radio broadcasting system is being installed to cover the entire British Isles. The plan calls for nine stations of 30,000 watts power each, one station of 50,000 watts, or equivalent to the highest powered stations in the United States, with a few smaller stations scattered throughout the islands.

The British system of broadcasting is government-operated. There is no advertising on the air, like the American system supported with business sponsored programs.

In England synchronizing experiments under which a network of stations is maintained on the same channel is officially reported by means of wire control is officially reported as working satisfactorily, although some difficulty has been experienced because of such areas created by the same channel of stations on the multiple operation.

What most increases anger is the feeling that one is in the wrong. — Riteher.

The Industrial Crisis

By BERNARD ROSE

The industrial crisis which according to present indications will come to an end shortly, has not only led to considerable heart searching, but stimulated an interest in human welfare, such as has not been manifested at any time since the beginning of the industrial era.

Statesmen and politicians confronted with a situation that called for considered judgment and constructive action, not only gave it their own attention, but solicited the aid of those who, in a practical or educational way, could advise, suggest, or recommend means to remedy it.

Notwithstanding all that may have been said in the past, regarding the indifference of the wealthier members of the community to the plight of their poorer fellow citizens, it must be admitted, that there is less of the callousness to human suffering, than prevailed in earlier decades.

Wealth, particularly on the North American Continent has been created in such abundance; huge fortunes have been made in such number; magnificent residences have become so conspicuous; luxurious furnishings, costly motor cars are used so openly, that when conditions become such, that millions are on the verge of starvation through inability to secure employment, the statesman and thoughtful politician, recognizing the responsibility resting upon them, even though they may be handicapped by tradition, precedent, and restrictive legislation, make an honest and earnest endeavor to meet the situation insofar as it injuriously affects and prejudices the wage earner.

The more forward thinkers in the United States belonging both to the executive and instructional classes, have in several instances, boldly expressed views that at other times would have caused them to be roundly denounced and repudiated. If their views are now meeting with a measure of sympathy, it is because even the most reactionary employer fears the consequences of a prolonged industrial depression, particularly where no provision has been made to at least partially, through unemployment insurance or other means, help the worker through the crisis.

Business men as a rule, are very practical. They refuse to make plans that are visionary. Nor are they any more in favour of wasting time discussing theories that are not of some immediate value. When the more enlightened of them, sense the need and urgency of taking the public into their confidence, through the addresses they deliver or the views they embody in books and pamphlets, it indicates that they appreciate the seriousness of the situation and the necessity for taking action.

I am indebted to Mr. Harry Burton of Burton's Limited, for directing my attention to a book that will undoubtedly affect the thinking of the humane and enlightened business men and legislators in the United States, our own Dominion, and in all likelihood, Great Britain. The title of it is a rather striking one. It is called: "Business Adrift" and the author is Mr. Wallace Brett Donham, Dean of the Graduate School of Business Administration of Harvard University.

Several passages contained in his book are almost identical with those that were contained in editorials in previous issues of the *Labour World* more especially dealing with the consequences of the industrial development of Great Britain, and the treatment accorded the workers at the beginning of the so called industrial revolution.

He states: "Not only political but business democracy is on trial and the issue of the trial may upset institutions to an extent quite beyond prediction. The danger in our situation lies not in radical propaganda, but in lack of effective business leadership. Great problems, upon the decision of which the whole history of the future may turn, are receiving no adequate attention."

The communists are taking advantage of the situation and labor to upset our institutions. Their success is entirely dependent and contingent upon business and political leaders failing to take the adequate measures to which Dean Donham refers, to preserve our institutions through the resistance offered to revolutionary propaganda by a contented working population.

Mr. Donham believes: "We are drifting with the tide, having no conception of where it is leading us. Business is as much at fault as politics."

A confession of this kind requires much courage to make, but having made it, the author can speak with a frankness that merits our praise. He continues: "Business must recognize that some of its most important problems, like unemployment, are also major political problems. Such problems require for their solution some cooperation between political and business leadership."

This suggestion is identical in tenor with that made by one of Canada's outstanding financiers and business men, Sir Herbert Holt, when addressing those present at the first annual meeting of the Royal Bank of Canada. He urged the formation of a non-partisan advisory council to assist and advise the Government.

It is by and through the cooperation between political and business leadership, that a complete or partial solution can be found for those pressing

problems that business and political leaders are called upon to deal with.

What Mr. Donham is seemingly more concerned about, is the lack of security that makes the life of the toiler an economic nightmare. He points out that: "Modern industrialism and society as it exists in this country have so far failed seriously, even by comparison with our earliest agricultural economy, in giving security in its various aspects."

He mentions specifically unemployment, old age, and invalidism. In the matter of old age, Great Britain and the Dominion are in advance of the United States.

The declaration of the Right Hon. ourable Mr. Bennett preceding the last election, that he favours the Dominion Government becoming responsible for old age pensions, will, when those entitled to them in the several provinces receive them, put Canada in the class of nations that make provision for the old, worn, aged, and destitute worker.

In the matter of unemployment insurance, the Prime Minister has manifested an intense interest, which shows a willingness to cooperate, when adequate data is available to permit full discussion and the preparation of a practical scheme.

Mr. Donham says: "In my judgment, continued good business will be impossible unless these problems are solved on a progressively better basis."

He proceeds in the chapter from which this extract is given, to discuss the basis. He tells us: "The answer to unemployment should be sought in work rather than in insurance, and business leadership should recognize this fact. It should also realize that unemployment is as much a general problem, and that solutions to be satisfactory must be worked out by business and politics in combination, each doing the part for which it is best adapted."

Politicians as a rule dislike unduly interfering with business. Business men resent this interference, but politicians, immediately responsive as they are to the wishes of the people, and influenced likewise by the representations made on behalf of the workers organized and unorganized, introduce, discuss, and enact legislation, which limits or restricts the otherwise unlimited and arbitrary power possessed by the business men who have control of the machinery of production, the agencies of the distribution, and the credit facilities at their disposal.

It has been said that wealth is a social product. Wealth is property, and the primary function of the State is to protect life and property. Such protection can only be secured through properly constituted governments that give and enforce laws enacted to give this protection. The worker's property, is wholly within himself. It is intangible by nature, since it consists of his physical energy and acquired ability to help in the making of commodities or serving the community. If this definition is correct, it follows, that business and politics must cooperate to protect and safeguard the worker, as they now do to safeguard and protect the owners of property.

Dean Donham places the blame upon business for what he calls, "The most spectacular world-wide breakdown of this nature that has ever happened. What has caused it?"

In his opinion: "Business is responsible so far as the first two categories of work are concerned."

The categories that he refers to, are first, "The work to create things," and second, "The tools brought into existence to make things which our neighbours want and can buy."

He continues: "For lack of a plan we have thrown our machinery of production—the first category, wholly out of balance. Partly through hysteria, partly through world-wide causes, almost wholly through lack of a plan, we have lost, not our capacity to make things our neighbours want, but our capacity as neighbours to buy them."

He is of the opinion that: "Five million able-bodied men with no chance to work, living on the past accomplishments of capital, with the consequent destruction of a large part of our smaller business men and immense human suffering, constitute in themselves a serious breakdown of capitalism."

The prediction was made by the earlier sociologists and those who are sometimes called Marxists, that capitalism would break down of its own weight; that over-production under capitalism, would result in widespread destitution and so enrage the masses, that they would revolt and overthrow capitalism and destroy the Bourgeoisie at the same time.

The first attempt to entirely destroy and root out capitalism, is that presently being made by the Russian dictators, Russia, however, was at no time in its industrial history a capitalist state. The ills and sufferings of its people were due to an absolutist form of government, that in its essence was an autocracy, rather than a society, the controlling influences in which, were the industrial possessors of great wealth and political leaders elected by the people.

In the more advanced European countries and the Western nations, the workers within the last fifty years have been able to make their influence felt and obtain a measure of political control that led to progressive reforms along political, economic, and social lines. Although because of the development of industry in the European and Western nations, the directors of

industry were able to accumulate a great amount of wealth and intensify the contrast in the social and economic position of the wage earner and the capitalist, the former has been able through the instrumentality of his organizations and the pressure they have been able to exert, to have the state take part of this wealth for the benefit of the community. The wage-earner in these countries, did not have a form of government or political system radically different from the one under which he presently lives. What he seeks, is that economic security that will eliminate the ever present fear, due to the possibility of his being unable to obtain employment, with this fear eliminated and security assured the worker, the fertile field for propaganda brought about through a prolonged industrial depression, will wither and become barren.

Mr. Donham's views will find favour with strong protectionists and those who believe in the doctrine of "Canada First". He affirms: "Unless we protect our home industries we shall meet more and more the competition of commodities produced abroad under lower standards of living by manufacturers who use our best technology and management. The result will inevitably be lower standards here."

Organized labor will fight any attempt to introduce lower living standards. Its leaders in the United States and the Dominion must be favourable to a tariff, since it is the "closed shop" against the unfair and lower paid labor of countries where living standards are far inferior to those prevailing on this side of the Atlantic. High living standards enjoyed by the mass of the workers provide a splendid home market.

I have not hesitated to express the view that, in a self-contained country like Canada with an abundance of raw material and a population that is virile, reliant, and proficient in the various activities to which it devotes itself, prosperity should be the normal condition. Any excess of commodities or raw materials not required for domestic consumption and manufacture, can be exported and the wealth obtained through exports accumulated without prejudice to the economic welfare of the workers and the employers.

Our legislation dealing with immigration and tariff is designed to protect our workers socially and industrially. Excluding immigrants who cannot be rapidly assimilated because of their standards of living and appreciation of our institutions, and making difficult the importation of commodities manufactured in countries where lower standards prevail, tends to safeguard the Canadian wage earner.

Discussing the proposals of those who advocate the common ownership of the means of production and exchange, he says: "Our answer to socialism should not be to hinder the success, but a demonstration that we have the capacity, the brains, the plan and the system, which can attain greater results."

President Hoover has declared himself a strong advocate of individualism in industry as opposed to socialism. Having risen from very humble beginnings to a position of the greatest importance and responsibility in the gift of his fellow citizens, and having achieved this success entirely by his own efforts, he strongly dissents from the views of those who favour what he would regard as a system of levelling, regardless of ability and opportunity.

The growth of socialistic sentiment, is bound to follow a prolonged industrial depression, and furnish its exponents with the material for making capital on behalf of their movement. The hungry and unemployed wage-earner, is prepared to embrace any system that promises him security against unemployment and destitution. When he is employed and earning good wages and enjoying robust health, and able to take advantage of opportunities which present themselves to rise in the financial and social scale, he pays no attention to the propaganda carried on by those who would substitute our present system of production and distribution for one that is socialistic or communistic.

The trade union movement has at no time repudiated the cardinal political principles upon which our form of government is based. Its leaders insist on the worker being given an adequate wage, and employed under conditions that give him the measure of protection against accident and disease, which as a producer he has a right to demand. They also labor to secure those reforms and social services, a number of which are now available to the wage earner of Great Britain and the Dominion. We can therefore, in discussing the welfare and the future of the wage earners, discount for the moment the influence and propaganda of socialists and socialists.

We are pressing concerned with helping the worker secure employment, and preventing the recurrence of the industrial crises that cause so much suffering and preventable destitution.

One can infer from the views Mr. Donham gives us in his book, that he is convinced of our ability to solve what now constitutes the problems which the leaders of industry and politics face, by the agencies and means available under existing conditions. It is his considered view that: "The job of each generation is to con-

Unemployment in Ottawa

By A. A. HEAPS

Ottawa is not unlike other cities in regards to its unemployment problem. Although it is the capital City of the Dominion with fairly steady employment of those engaged with the government, yet there are other local industries which depend upon the government purchases for their livelihood. As the government has embarked upon a policy of strict economy, these have naturally been adversely affected.

In addition there is adjoining the City the pulp and paper industries which employ a large number of men, these are to-day suffering along with the rest of the industrial world and are going through an acute period of depression.

The unemployed in Ottawa and district are not unlike those in other parts of Eastern Canada. They have been receiving from the City of Ottawa very little in the way of support. The men affected in this way have informed both J. S. Woodsworth and A. A. Heaps that married men with a large family receive \$4.00 per week. There is no immediate hope of any improvement in the labor conditions. A number of these men got together and requested Heaps and Woodsworth to address a meeting of the unemployed in a public square known here as Cartier Square. This is a large play ground owned by the Federal government and is used by the public in a general way.

After the meeting had been advertised for Woodsworth and Heaps to speak on the 11th, to the unemployed on these grounds, it was intimated that opposition would develop to the use of government ground for such purposes. J. S. Woodsworth then got in touch with the Civic authorities who did not object to the holding of the meeting, but as this was federal property, Mr. Woodsworth phoned to the Minister of the Department in charge, Hon. J. M. Sutherland, to ascertain if any objections would be taken to the holding of this meeting of the unemployed. This was just a few hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting to commence. After the Minister had considered this matter and probably discussed it with others, word was received by Mr. Woodsworth that the government objected to the use of these grounds for this class of demonstration.

The scheduled hour arrived and both labor members of Parliament arrived on the ground and by this time about 600 unemployed had gathered there. They were informed of the attitude of the government and it was then decided that the whole mass assembled would march down to the Market Square which they did in a most orderly way and there the meeting was held and was addressed by the Labor members.

It is a most remarkable thing and has created considerable interest here in Ottawa, that two members of Parliament should be denied the right by the Federal government to address a meeting of Canadian people on property which is supposed to be owned by the people themselves.

No doubt the last has not been heard of this episode, and will be raised at the appropriate time on the floor of the House.

And in the meantime the unemployed themselves are now getting busy with the publicity already received, they will likely go ahead and organize their efforts in the hope of receiving more adequate consideration than they had been able to receive up till the present.

sider not only economic theory but the whole gamut of the complex sociological factors existing at the time and to stimulate progress and minimize the dangers for the years which it can influence."

The job of the present generation of Canadians irrespective of their age and position, is to work in the direction of insuring that economic stability that will make for a permanent and national prosperity. This prosperity is the responsibility of capital—not the capital that seeks solely its own enrichment, but the capital that is efficient and altruistic at the same time. Efficient in organizing production, and altruistic in the steps taken to assure an equitable distribution of the total product and provision for that security of employment to which Mr. Donham refers so often in his book.

"If democratic government and individualistic business are to endure," he tells us, "we must constructively approach the problems of giving both security and progress to all important social groups."

Discussing "General Employment Policies," he says: "If permanent employment follows on a large scale, the reduced purchasing power resulting from such unemployment and from constricted markets will bring about the total continuous unemployment of a substantial part of our labor or reduced standards for all." He continues: "The only sound remedy for unemployment is work, and capitalist society fails miserably if able-bodied men are persistently unable to get work or if no remedy can be found for the recurring periods of unemployment which at least assures to able-bodied men their fundamental needs. Men are justified in feeling that the community owes them a chance through work to live with self-respect."

He must have no doubt been gratified when he learned that the present Canadian Government upon taking office, immediately put into effect his suggestion that: "The peculiar function of government should be the maintenance of stability of employment through plans for public works constantly kept in touch with the needs of a changing world, but applied only where business itself is unable to supply the necessary elements of security. This requires regular systematic planning by both business and government."

In other words, where business has been unable to prevent an impending industrial crisis bringing with it unemployment, the Government must come to the aid of the threatened wage earner by providing employment, such employment to continue however, only for a brief period and to cease when business and industry are again carried on in a normal way.

In the chapter which follows, those from which the extracts have been given, we are informed that: "Progress to be continuous in a capitalist society must be equitably shared between labor and capital... Security for workers must be sought and men will work for it. Without this security for capital is impossible."

Professor Donham is not in favour of placing too much reliance on export trade. In his view, "Export trade is the least stable of economic situations, and the instability will bear first on the labor group and then on capital... We should develop our home market by giving greater security and leisure at home rather than that depending on exports."

He concludes: "Our first duty as business men, upon which the success

of our institutions will depend, is the duty of planning so that our labor attains security and shares equitably in progress."

Canadians approximate more or less in the economic and social spheres to their American neighbours. Business and social intercourse is developed to a degree that makes for an understanding and where it is advantageous—mutual response.

If the workman's standards of living in the United States are high, the Canadian worker will insist that like standards be obtained in the Dominion. Canada under able political and industrial leadership has no reason to fear the future. The recognition by our statesmen and industrial leaders of their responsibility and opportunity and the great advantage that will come from discussion, negotiation, and cooperation with those engaged in the production of wealth, will make for that progress and stability, which Dean Donham urges as the objective for the leaders in business and politics of his own great country.

A. F. OF L. EDITOR LOSES LIFE

Member of Typographical Union and in Service of A. F. L. 20 Years, James P. Egan Was Staunch Defender of Unionism.

James P. Egan, 63, for 20 years editor of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service, member of the International Typographical Union and known to thousands throughout the country was struck by an automobile and killed Sunday evening, June 7. Mr. Egan was crossing a street at Riverside Md., where he lived, returning to his home. He stepped from behind a parked car into the path of an on-coming machine.

Close friends knew that Mr. Egan held a dislike for automobiles. Not long since he purchased a car, but soon disposed of it. It is believed that this dislike was at least in some measure caused by the fact that Mrs. Egan's father lost his life in a similar accident.

As a printer Mr. Egan had worked in many cities. He spent several years in Toledo and was perhaps better known there than in any other city except Washington, where for two decades he had been a part of the life of American Federation of Labor headquarters. He was particularly close to Secretary Frank Morrison and there was a close bond between the two. He also was one of the close friends of President Andrew Furuseth of the Seamen's Union.

It was characteristic of "Jim" Egan, as many knew him, to hold fast to the fundamental tenets of trade unionism, no matter what winds blew from the temples of the intelligentsia and it is as a stalwart, unwavering defender of the principles of the American Federation of Labor that he will be remembered.

DOMESTIC WORKERS' CHARTER

Meeting at Blackpool, England, the National Conference of Labor Women adopted a charter for domestic servants. Among the charter's proposals are:

An annual two weeks' holiday with pay, maximum working hours and a minimum wage scale, abolition of the servant's cap, "a badge of servility"; establishment of training and recreational centers, unemployment insurance for domestic workers.

Wage-Dividend Can't Be Compared

Why should wages be reduced to assure dividends? The latter is called "wages of dollars" by those who see no difference between dividends and wages.

Men talk of "putting dollars to work." This flippancy is intended to place the dollar on a level with labor—with human beings.

The dollar does no work. It is a medium of exchange. It is used, for instance, to buy a shovel or a ditch digging machine. Both must be operated by labor.

The dollar, the shovel, and the machine can not, by themselves, create wealth.

A portion of the resultant wealth that follows the application of labor to the machine is given to workers. This is called wages.

Because of its social effect, there is no similarity between this transaction and the payment of dividends.

When wages are cut, workers' living standards drop. This is felt by the entire country.

If wages of Montana copper miners are reduced, boot and shoe workers in Massachusetts and Missouri are affected. It means less work for eastern and southern textile mills. The same theory applies to every industry and calling.

This situation does not apply when dividends are postponed.

Small stockholders are few, as compared with the millions of wage earners. Living standards of large stockholders can not be affected.

The smaller number of stockholders is indicated by a recent statement that 4 per cent of the people own 80 per cent of the nation's wealth.

When dividends are not paid, this does not mean that a corporation is in the same condition as a worker whose wages are cut.

Managers of this corporation may pass living dividends to "provide for future contingencies." This means that earnings are placed in other funds, such as "reserves," "replacement" and "depletion."

Dividends may be used to carry inventories at lower market costs—that is, as the market price of this commodity drops, sufficient funds are set aside to equalize this drop.

The passing of dividends may also mean that payment can not be made on excessive (watered) capitalization and extra plant capacity that are evidences of unwise management, and which workers are now called upon to pay.

Wages is a first charge on industry. Wages are woven into the people's lives and are apart from dividends.

Wage reductions mean greater concentration of wealth. Under this system the 4 per cent who now own 80 per cent of the nation's wealth will secure an increasingly larger share.

From our Readers

Editor, The Labor World,
11 St. Paul West, City.

Dear Sir:—

DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF YOUNG MEN UNEMPLOYED

What the average citizen most regrets in connection with the present depression, is to see the number of fine young men who are becoming more shabby and physically attenuated with each succeeding day, because of their inability to secure that employment enabling them to purchase the necessities and clothing they require.

It is heart-rending, to note the number of respectable-looking young men who in a somewhat shame-faced way, approach pedestrians and solicit assistance. They not only do this as a last resort and one can understand what their feelings are. It is certainly to be deplored, that unfortunately no provision has been made to aid young men in this position.

There are probably thousands of young men belonging to the clerical and mechanical classes who are, and have been, without employment for several months. Quite a number have left their home city, and town in an anxious quest for employment. Strangers in the city to which they migrate, they are absolutely helpless. Where they cannot secure employment, they are forced in order to sustain life, to beg the odd ten or fifteen cents which the sympathetic and charitably inclined citizen is willing to give them.

It is almost a calamity, to have our young men placed in this position. It makes them lose that self-respect which is one of the essential attributes of the growing citizen who is ambitious and anxious to make his way in the world. One's heart goes out to those splendid fellows, who alone in the big city, wearily wander from place to place, not knowing where they will spend the night or where the next meal will come from. Is it not possible for some kindhearted and generous citizen, who himself may perhaps have gone through difficulties in his early life, to obtain the cooperation of those in his own class to make some provision to help these deserving young fellows who, becoming desperate, may be forced to commit crime in order to obtain the means to purchase bread?

The older citizen who has lived for many years in the same city or town, is not quite in the same plight as the young man, who, even where he might stay at home, cannot bear to witness the suffering and privation undergone by parents and in some cases a widowed mother, and leaves home in his quest for work.

It is the earnest hope of those who are interested in the welfare and future of their fellow citizens, particularly the growing generation, that the crisis through which we are passing will quickly end, and work will be available for all, but in the meantime, as a local contemporary has pointed out, we cannot allow men to starve.

B. R.

Labor Queries

Q.—Is the United Mine Workers of America an industrial organization?
A.—Yes, it includes in its membership all workers employed "in and around coal mines, coal washers and coke ovens on the American continent."

Q.—When were the first trade unions in Canada formed?
A.—There are records of a printers' union in Quebec city in 1827; in Toronto in 1832; in Montreal in 1833, and in Hamilton in 1833. The Toronto union lapsed during the rebellion of 1837, but was revived in 1844 and has had a continuous existence ever since. The Toronto Typos Union (now International No. 91) has had the longest continuous life of any Canadian union.

pened many times in Montreal the past winter.

It is only by political actions that Labour can protect itself in the future, Capitalism and Landlordism have in the past kept itself in saddle in this manner, it has never depended on union rules. It is only by sharing in the spoils of the system that Labour can share in the benefits of human progress as I say Unionism can only help to boost wages and compel the adoption of working rules that may be very beneficial in themselves.

The problem of the future means much greater activity than this. With millions of men idle in the civilized cities of the world plainly shows that Unionism as we know it has had its day.

I think that the three Labour members of Parliament referred to have done more to bring the cause of Labour to the front than all the Unionism of the past, they brought us the old age pension; there are many other reforms needed; there are widow pension, either a job or a pension for all workmen, making it illegal to water stocks in large corporations by which the workman is robbed of his hire, the removing of the slums in large cities that are always inhabited by the labourers who are too poor to live elsewhere, compelling the latest conveniences to be put in all workmen's dwellings.

In Montreal we need the changing of the method of moving which compels all tenants who are moving to move in three first days of the month of May. This law is a wicked law that should never be tolerated but Unionism has not been able to change it in the past, the whole benefit from now on that that can come to Labour is in the Political field.

The American Federation of Labor has ceased to function as a benefit society working in the cause of labor, they are scattered from pillar to post by the two great political parties at every election and the same is taking place in Canada, is it not wise to get behind our leaders in the House of Commons.

ALLEN L. SMITH.

ORGANIZE NATION-WIDE

A dispatch from Washington, Pa., drives home the lesson that nationwide union organization is necessary, if union wages and working conditions are not to be menaced.

The dispatch says that the representatives of 1,800 coal miners, striking against the wage scale paid by the Carnegie Coal Company, were told by the vice president of the company that his concern would not consider recognition of a miners' union until he been thoroughly organized.

"It is impossible for us to compete against the non-union fields of the South," he is reported to have said. "We will try to give you a living wage."

Whether what the official said is true or not is beside the question. It is the kind of argument union men are up against in many sections.

Union men who think that they have nothing to worry about because their trade is organized in their particular locality are mistaken. As long as their trade is unorganized in any section, their standards are threatened.

NO REAL GAIN IN CANADIAN EMPLOYMENT

The Canadian index of employment based on employment in 1926 as 100, stood at 102.2 in May. This was an increase of 2.5 points over April, but as the normal seasonal increase was 4 to 5 points, the change in the index does not show a real improvement in the employment situation.

At the Montreal Trades Council

Due to the presence in the city of numerous international officers on account of whom various union meetings were called Thursday, the meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council was rather expeditious for there was no report of the Executive Committee ready for the approval of the delegates.

President Foster being in Europe, the Council, owing to the absence of vice-presidents Ben Drolet and Ad. Tremblay, elected delegate Alphelus Mathieu, chairman pro tem.

A delegate rose up to draw the attention of the delegates to the following article which appeared in the Montreal Daily Star, of Saturday, June 13th, 1931, reading as follows:

"Montreal preferred to borrow money with which to expedite public works rather than have to employ the dele system. J. E. Blanchard, city chief engineer and director of public works, told the congress of the Union of Quebec Municipalities in convention aboard the S.S. Noronic, on Lake Ontario today.

Answering criticisms made that Montreal was borrowing too much money for public works, the chief engineer defended the administration by stating that the administrators preferred to execute public works which had awaited execution for years rather than have to support men in idleness as has been done elsewhere. "It is better, we think," Mr. Blanchard stated in his paper on "What Montreal has done to Help Unemployment," to borrow money with which to do public works than to keep in idleness by contributions."

In spite of unavoidable delays caused by securing real estate, giving contracts, getting the legal machinery into effect, etc., Montreal has been able to reduce unemployment by a great degree, while at the same time placing the city many years ahead in various improvements, such as public conveniences, tunnels, viaducts, public buildings.

In all this work, 95 per cent of the materials used has been of Canadian or Empire manufacture, the chief engineer stated. This was ensured by the Unemployment Industrial Commission.

Further in his discourse Mr. Blanchard said that unemployment was greatly exaggerated. He based his statement on figures obtained showing that men sent to various jobs had refused them.

Montreal was now employing 4,500 men per day, he stated.

The delegates present were of the opinion that this should be referred to the Executive Committee for action.

Delegate Desormeaux asked the Council if any definite action had been taken re the holding of a mass meeting in conjunction with the Labor Party.

Answering delegate Desormeaux, acting chairman Mathieu stated the Council had decided to cooperate with the Labor Party on the question but up-to-date no definite information on the matter had been received.

Delegate Desormeaux informed the Council that the Labor Party had decided to hold an indoor meeting rather than in open air, this being the best mean to avoid disorder caused by the presence of outsiders who may not agree with our ideals.

Delegate Jensen advised the Council that the Secretary of the Labor Party would communicate with the Council to inform them off their decision for approval.

Delegate Thibault, of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, informed the Council that a propaganda campaign in favor of the Boot & Shoe Workers' Union Stamp was being conducted and that the various labor unions would receive the visit of the organizer of that union. He told the delegates that the only means for the workers to maintain their influence was the constant demand of the union label.

Delegate Pierre Lefevre of the Carpenters' District Council of Montreal, referred to a communication that had been forwarded to the Council by the Building Trades Council but had not been read before the meeting.

With the permission of the chair he gave in substance the content of the communication asking that a complaint be registered against the contractors on municipal works who were not abiding to the minimum wage clause established by the City and that the municipal inspectors on such works be granted the power to see that the wages and hours clauses be observed.

This question was referred to the Executive Committee for further study and report.

Delegate Jos Pelletier reported for the Labor Day Committee making a special appeal to affiliated unions to elect a candidate for the popularity contest on Labor Day.

Delegate Desrochers, of Local 112, Ladies Garment Workers and Lionel Thibault, of the Boot & Shoe Workers, announced that their unions had elected their candidates.

Delegate Perreault, of the Painters Union took occasion to ask the delegates who should have any paint work to be done to take advantage of the present stagnation to do so, thus helping the painters who are actually unemployed.

The order of business being concluded the meeting adjourned on Thursday, July 2nd.

Expropriations

By ERNEST PITT

A frequent incident in the real estate broker's life in these days, is the task of meeting the complaints and dispelling the gloom of property owners who view with trepidation the huge cost of big appropriations charged back against their properties over the number of years.

They can only see the load of expense piled up against them during the coming years and they fail to appreciate the fact that there is a silver lining to their cloud, says Mr. Ernest Pitt in his weekly review.

The improvements in the locality which these expropriations lead up to, usually result in increased property values, increased revenues and more activity all round. Street widenings, for instance, have the effect of dressing the streets up and putting a new suit of clothes on them, so to speak. A street or a district resembles an individual in this respect, that a new suit and a general improvement in external appearance gives renewed energy, fresh courage and a flow of brighter ideas to the individual and to the district. Everywhere you can see things beginning to look up when a street goes into "Sunday clothes"; by widening, paving, laying permanent sidewalks and generally carrying out the necessary improvements and helpful embellishments.

Mr. Pitt calls attention to widening of Demontigny street, Decarie Boulevard, Queen Mary Road, Jarry street, Cremazie Boulevard and others.

ARTHUR HUDDALL UNION CHIEF, DIES; WAS ILL SIX DAYS

President Arthur Huddall of the International Union of Operating Engineers, who less than two weeks ago barely escaped death at the hands of an unknown gunman, died from pneumonia in a Washington hospital June 1. The illness which caused his death was an aftermath of a brain hemorrhage which caused his collapse six days previous and which it is believed resulted from excitement in connection with the shooting. Huddall, in company with General Secretary John Possehl and Samuel Langdon, the latter editor of the union's monthly journal, were at luncheon in a restaurant near the union's general offices in Washington when an unidentified man entered and fired several shots at the trio. Langdon was blinded in one eye by a bullet. One shot struck Mr. Huddall directly over his heart but was stopped by a heavy notebook in his vest pocket.

Mr. Huddall had been president of the Operating Engineers since 1919. Prior to that he was first vice-president for 11 years. He was 62 years old and had been a member of the union since 1898. His home was in Chelsea, Mass.

POWER DECLARES QUARTERLY DIVIDEND

At the regular monthly meeting of the directors of Montreal Light Heat & Power Consolidated, held last Monday, a quarterly dividend was declared at the rate of \$1.50 per annum to shareholders of record June 30th, payable July 31st.

OLD AGE PENSION LAW FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire became the seveneenth State to have an old age pension law last month when the Legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill calling for "humane" aid to indigent persons of 70.

The new law provides for relief not to exceed \$7.50 a week to be extended by counties, towns and cities. The requirements call for 15 years' citizenship, and State and county residence of a similar period. The law is to be administered by the county commissioners.

The preamble of the act states that its purpose is to provide "more humane care and relief of aged and dependent persons."

To eliminate as much opposition as possible, the age limit was raised to 70 (previously set) and Gov. Winant strongly urged its passage.

—Best of all would be wages permitting workers to "make provision for themselves on their own initiative," but only a few receive this, writes the Rev. John A. Ryan, in Public Utilities. Forthrightly, advocating old age pensions.

Le Monde Ouvrier-The Labor World

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AT THE PLAYHOUSES

AT LOEW'S
"The Lightning Flyer," a railroad thriller which comes to Loew's Theatre starting Sunday, features swift melodrama and adventure in the modern manner. It is primarily a nation picture against a background of railroad life. James Hall is the featured leading player in "The Lightning Flyer." Among the thrilling scenes is a race between a high power automobile and a train. The female lead is played by Dorothy Sebastian. Leading the vanguard will be Eddie Courand and Marion Eddy, in their musical comedy presentation entitled "The Music Master." Another outstanding attraction will be the famous "Chinese Tenor, Joe Fong, in Songs You Love to Hear."

AT THE CAPITOL
"Up Pops the Devil" with Carole Lombard and Skeets Gallagher, is the principal film at the Capitol Theatre commencing Friday. This is the screen adaptation of the well-known Broadway success of the same name and concerns the marital differences of a young writer and his wife in six days. The second feature is "Skippy" a story of child life based on the cartoons by Tex Avery. It is supported by one of two moments of pathos added. The cast includes Jackie Cooper in the title role, Mimi Green, Jackie Seale and Robert Cosgan, brother of Jackie Cosgan. Short subjects complete the programme.

AT THE PALACE
Janet Gaynor, of "Seventh Heaven" fame will be seen at the screen at the Palace theatre commencing Saturday in "Daddy Long Legs" adapted from the play by the famous Miss Gwyneth. It is supported by Warner Baxter, Una Merkel, Claude Gillingwater, Louise Closser Hale and John Arledge. The story concerns an orphan who makes herself so useful in the institution in which she has been brought up that the matron refuses to allow her to be adopted. An unknown benefactor, however, befriends her and this leads to the romance which forms the principal theme of the picture. Another Bobby Jones golf film and other short subjects complete the programme.

AT THE IMPERIAL
"Dangerous Hours," featuring Clara Bow, will be seen at the Imperial Theatre commencing Saturday. The story of the film is by Warner Fabian, who wrote the scenario of "Flaming Youth," one of Miss Bow's earlier successes. It concerns college life in the class room and on the campus. Frederic March plays opposite Miss Bow. The second feature picture is "Air Police" a story of an aviator's vengeance for the murder of a comrade. Kenneth Harlan and Charles Delaney play the leading roles. Short subject will complete the programme.

NEGRO IN INDUSTRY SHOWS LARGE GAINS

A marked increase of negroes to northern industrial centers is disclosed in figures compiled by the Census Bureau of Washington, D. C.

The shift has been largely from rural sections to urban centers. Many industrial centers in the South show a marked gain in negro population from 1920 to 1930, the chief loss being in rural communities.

In Delaware, Maryland, Michigan and Missouri the negro population increased faster than did the white. This is also true in such industrial cities as Philadelphia, Akron, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, Baltimore and Flint, Michigan.

—Thirty "liberal" and radical organizations plan to open headquarters as a group in Washington, one of the objectives being recognition of the red Russian soviets. The list indicates a strange assortment.

RACES at DORVAL

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