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La taxe sur les ouvriers étrangers

L'échevin Lalancette avait demandé, il y a quelque temps, au comité exécutif d'étudier l'opportunité d'imposer une taxe sur les ouvriers étrangers. Il déclarait que des ouvriers ne sont pas retournés en arrière de l'argent qu'ils avaient amassé au détriment de nos ouvriers.

LES JOURNAUX.

L'échevin Lalancette peut être très tenace dans ses projets, mais il nous paraît ne pas se tenir au courant de l'opinion publique ni des arguments présentés à l'encontre de sa suggestion par les corps ouvriers, qui sont parmi les intéressés.

Les ouvriers s'opposent à cette taxe pour la raison primordiale que c'est une taxe injuste, difficile d'application et qui ne vise qu'une classe de la société.

C'est une taxe injuste, parce qu'elle ne peut être imposée impartialement (sans que la faute en soit imputable aux autorités) en raison de l'étendue de la ville, de sa population cosmopolite, du mouvement ininterrompu de la population flottante, et surtout des moyens de perception ou inefficaces ou exigeant des dépenses trop onéreuses proportionnellement au montant percevable.

Si le Conseil de Ville décide d'imposer une telle taxe, il faudra qu'elle frappe tous ceux qui sont susceptibles de la payer, sans distinction de classe ou de profession. Car on doit comprendre par travailleurs étrangers tous ceux qui ne résident pas à Montréal.

Et quelles seront les conditions de résidence exigées pour échapper à la taxe? Par exemple, les acteurs de la Porte Saint-Martin, de Paris, qui viennent jouer aux théâtres locaux seront-ils forcés de payer cette taxe? Logiquement, ils devraient y être obligés, car malgré qu'ils soient artistes, ils sont des ouvriers, des ouvriers de la pensée, des intellectuels, mais des ouvriers quand même.

Parmi eux, il y a des personnes qui sont censées demeurer à Montréal. Trait-on leur imposer une taxe parce qu'ils viennent travailler à Montréal et s'en retournent ensuite avec l'argent qu'ils ont amassé au détriment de nos ouvriers, comme dit l'échevin Lalancette? Non, vraiment, ce serait une farce, une injustice, même une injure, car souvent ils ne récoltent que juste assez pour ne pas rester sur le carreau, avec la seule satisfaction d'avoir donné à notre population une jouissance artistique dont elle a besoin et qu'elle désire de plus en plus.

Si on accablait ces acteurs de taxes additionnelles, il leur faudrait exiger plus au public qui ne voudrait pas payer ce qu'on lui demanderait... avec le résultat que l'on sait.

Les experts, les avocats, les professionnels que la Ville et les industriels font venir de l'étranger — bien que souvent on ait des compétences supérieures parmi nous — seraient-ils aussi impossibles? Je ne crois pas que les autorités se risqueraient à les pourchasser pour leur faire verser un peu de l'argent qu'ils viennent chercher ici.

Supposons qu'un contrat pour le pavage des rues, des trottoirs, ou d'autres entreprises privées soit accordé à un entrepreneur du dehors de la ville, est-ce que l'échevin Lalancette verrait à faire payer la taxe par cet entrepreneur? Il ne le pourrait pas, pour la simple raison que cet entrepreneur, quoique remplissant son contrat, ne travaille pas lui-même, il fait travailler les autres, et cependant "il amasse de l'argent sinon au détriment de nos ouvriers du moins au détriment de nos entrepreneurs locaux."

S'il se risquait à imposer la taxe de la manière que nous serions en droit d'exiger qu'elle soit en vigueur, il verrait bientôt sa "carrière" d'échevin se terminer en catastrophe pour lui.

En définitive, seuls les ouvriers, ceux qui n'ont pas les moyens de payer, qui sont obligés de se serrer la ceinture et de faire des sacrifices pour faire vivre leur famille seraient sujets à cette taxe. Et comment pourrait-on la leur faire payer? C'est ici que les difficultés commencent.

Serait-on en droit de leur imposer un séjour plus ou moins prolongé dans notre métropole pour être exemptés de la taxe? Exigerait-on qu'ils soient propriétaires? Ou encore qu'ils soient locataires? Que ferait-on de ceux qui sont "en chambre" en ville — parfois depuis plus longtemps que l'échevin Lalancette réside à Montréal — et qu'on doit par conséquent considérer comme des citoyens montréalais. En un mot qu'entend-on par ouvriers étrangers? C'est de cette définition que dépend toute la question.

Est-il considéré comme étranger, celui qui s'en vient en ville et y loue une chambre pour le temps que dure son emploi? Est-il étranger, celui qui s'achète une propriété, la loue (par conséquent n'y demeure pas), se met en chambre et travaille en ville pendant disons trois mois par année, passant les trois autres saisons à la campagne? Comme on peut le voir, la situation deviendrait embarrassante et aurait des résultats inattendus.

Le Conseil des Métiers s'est prononcé énergiquement contre cette suggestion d'imposer une taxe sur les ouvriers étrangers pour des raisons motivées et nous ne croyons pas que le produit de cette taxe serait assez important pour motiver son adoption, en égard aux déboursés que la Ville encourrait pour en faire la perception. On se souvient de la taxe sur les vieux garçons et de quelle manière elle fut abandonnée. A Trois-Rivières — qui n'a qu'une population d'environ 32,000 habitants — le Conseil de Ville a décidé d'imposer une taxe de dix piastres tout à fait sur les ouvriers étrangers. Le trésorier a fait tout son possible pour faire la perception de cette taxe par les moyens ordinaires à sa disposition; il n'y a pas réussi. Le nombre des manufactures n'étant pas considérable, les autorités ont alors pensé d'employer la force policière et de faire cerner les manufactures par la police qui avait mission de faire exhiber par tout ouvrier soit un reçu de taxe locative ou un reçu de la taxe sur les étrangers. Ceux qui n'avaient pas ce reçu devaient être amenés au poste. La confusion a régné pendant plusieurs semaines dans la cité trifluviennne et finalement un bon nombre d'ouvriers ont été pinçés, malgré qu'un nombre respectable aient réussi à s'échapper. Se figure-t-on ce qui arriverait à Montréal si une telle situation se présentait?

Nous voulons que ceux qui nous viennent du dehors s'établir dans les limites de la ville deviennent de bons citoyens et mettent l'épauite à la roue pour l'avancement et la prospérité de notre ville. Donc, nous ne devons pas prendre les moyens de les éloigner, de nous faire mépriser d'eux. Si quelques centaines d'ouvriers — je dirai même quelques milliers — viennent ici amasser de l'argent, il est plausible de prendre aussi en ligne de compte ce qu'ils laissent dans nos institutions commerciales. La plupart de ceux qui travaillent à la ville font leurs emplettes avant de s'en retourner à leur foyer — ce dont les municipalités intéressées se plaignent très souvent avec amertume.

Serait-il juste de frapper d'une pénalité onéreuse ceux qui ont été chassés de la ville à la campagne par la cupidité des propriétaires ou par l'expansion de l'industrie qui requiert tous les jours un plus grand espace de terrain et qui est en train d'envahir tous les quartiers de la ville?

Si nos échevins veulent trouver des revenus à la Ville ils feraient bien de jeter les yeux ailleurs que sur les ouvriers à qui il ne reste rien quand ils ont fait face à leurs obligations — lorsqu'ils y réussissent. On ne doit pas leur faire payer le droit de gagner leur pain et celui de leurs enfants. Il faut qu'ils aient leur place au soleil.

R. HACHETTE.

La Sainte-Catherine

Il est tombé une petite neige légère, froide et brillante, lineul blanc qui enveloppe la prime jeunesse, de bien des filles dont plusieurs se sont refusés à l'amour et qui pour diverses raisons n'ont pas été les édues du cruel petit dieu.

Autrefois l'on disait: "Il faut manger le poisson quand il est frais et marier sa fille quand elle est jeune..."

Aujourd'hui qu'il y a des entrepôts frigorifiques on se régale de poissons frais depuis bien des mois. Grâce à l'hygiène, au sport, à la pharmacopée les filles conservent indéfiniment leur fraîcheur. Les vieux marcheurs s'attachent aux pas d'une demoiselle ayant doublé le cap de la quarantaine croyant suivre une petite poule... Croiriez-vous que cette sylphide qui effleure à peine l'asphalte de ses talons hauts est mère de six enfants. Seulement il y a un danger. Le cœur s'ouvre à vingt ans. Il a besoin de l'amour pour arriver à son plein épanouissement, comme la fleur, de rosée et de soleil.

Si vous appelez un seclé sur ce mystérieux coffret de divines émotions, il se ferme hermétiquement comme si vous en aviez jeté les clefs à la mer. Le cœur s'atrophie ainsi que les autres organes, faute d'usage. C'est une tristesse qu'une jolie fille qui a conservé tous ses charmes alors qu'elle a perdu la faculté d'aimer. C'est purement le squelette blanchi et fleuri de roses dont parle le Christ et qui ne recouvre que décomposition ou amas de cendre. La vieille fille de jadis était sigrire et dépitée parce qu'elle n'avait pas voulu son isolement. Elle n'aurait pas demandé mieux que de rencontrer l'âme-sœur. Combien de fois sa tendresse se heurta à la froideur et à l'indifférence! Si elle était hargneuse, acariâtre, on ne pouvait trop lui en vouloir, car c'est la souffrance qui l'avait comme glacée.

La fille de nos jours qui a pris de l'âge et qui coiffe Sainte-Catherine vingt fois n'a plus cette figure tourmentée de Notre Dame de Pitié... Elle est pétrifiée dans son égoïsme. Comme Narcisse elle s'est éprise de son propre reflet. Tous convergent vers sa personne, elle est son propre dieu.

Mais cette idole de pierre vous laisse insensible, sa froideur marmoréenne n'excite pas le désir. Craignez tout plutôt que cette insensibilité qui est une mort anticipée... Sans doute, il faut des membres pour les sociétés protectrices des animaux, les clubs dont le nombre augmente sans cesse, les oeuvres sociales, les parties de cartes et de échecs, les tag-days, mais qu'ils se recrutent parmi celles qui pour des raisons congénitales ou incompressibles d'humeur sont réfractaires au conjugo. Ne vous laissez pas tenter par un état qui semble offrir

des garanties d'un bonheur durable, mais dont les roses ont leurs épines. Déjà, les femmes sont en dépréciation dans certains services. Les banques leur préfèrent des employés de sexe masculin... Quelques départements de service civil sacrifient le jupon au pantalon, pour des raisons d'ordre social, parce que si l'on ne veut pas en venir au patriarcat, il faut que l'homme reconquie chef de famille puisse trouver des positions et gagner des salaires en rapport avec ses obligations.

Il viendra peut-être un jour qui n'est pas loin où pour sauver l'humanité, il faudra contraindre la femme à réintégrer la famille. On lui coupera les vivres. On lui supprimera ses droits acquis avec tant de peine; on limitera ses libertés; on tentera de l'asservir de nouveau pour assurer la survivance d'un monde qui roule vers le néant...

Que les représentants du beau sexe n'attendent pas cette extrémité pour faire leur devoir. Qu'elles aillent bravement au mariage, qui est un état moins que parfait, mais qui est un port sûr contre les tempêtes à l'horizon. Qu'elles n'attendent pas trop tard, car leurs belles qualités s'émousseront au contact de la vie. C'est dans sa prime jeunesse qu'on a suffisamment de ressort pour voler au martyre, comme les vierges romaines se jetaient à la tête des lions. Plus vous attendez plus vous aurez d'hésitations. Si avant de prendre un bain vous avancez éraintivement un orteil pour "essayer l'eau" il est certain que vous n'aurez pas le courage de piquer une tête dans l'eau glacée. Voyons, un coup de cœur, plongez dans l'abîme du mariage sans s'appuyer les chances que vous aurez de surmonter à la surface. Regardez tomber cette petite neige dont les pétales ressemblent à des pétales de fleurs d'orange et qui fond au soleil comme les illusions au contact des réalités brutales de la vie... Plutôt que des coiffes que le rouet de l'hiver dévide des fils blancs, comme des fils de la vierge, pour tisser notre voile d'épouse. "Mieux vaut briser votre cœur," a dit Victor Hugo, "plutôt que de le fermer."

La tire aux reflets d'or dont l'écheveau flexible roule en vos jolis bras, au rythme de votre taille, comme un anneau de Saturne, est un symbole de la lune de miel.

Si elle cesse au plus beau moment, vous en rattachez les bouts et rien n'y paraît. Vous pouvez manger la tire en praline, en toque, inerteuse d'amandes, mais le plus sage moyen, est de la laisser fondre dans la bouche, de ne pas manger trop à la fois afin d'en prolonger le plaisir et d'éviter une indigestion. Lune de miel, lune de mélasse, ô délicieuses bonbons!

JULIEN SAINT-MICHEL.

La véritable fraternité sans distinctions de races

Vendredi dernier, avait lieu, à Montréal, la célébration du 14e anniversaire de la fondation de la loge 1111 de Montréal de l'Ordre Royal des "Moose". Plus de 200 personnes y assistaient.

Cette réunion, qui était sous la présidence de M. Gerald Murphy, dictateur, membre de l'exécutif international de l'Union des Monteurs d'Amérique, fut des plus intéressantes et les deux principaux orateurs de la soirée expliquèrent ce que l'organisation accomplit pour ses membres.

L'orateur français, M. J.-E. Gariépy, expliqua les progrès de l'Ordre depuis sa fondation à Montréal, il y a quatorze ans, et les difficultés auxquelles il a dû faire face pour se maintenir à ce qu'il est aujourd'hui.

"Nous avons connu des jours heureux lorsque, vers la fin de novembre 1912, l'organisation des "Moose" fonda la première loge de ce genre au Canada. L'effectif de la loge de Montréal comptait plus de 3,500 membres, mais le terrible fléau dévastateur, la grande guerre de 1914, fit des ravages considérables, parmi ses membres, car des centaines s'enrôlèrent sous les drapeaux et de ce nombre plusieurs furent tués sur les champs de bataille.

"Il nous fallait combler nos vides et nous sommes parvenus; parce que l'organisation ne connaît pas de distinction de race, de croyance ou de langue, c'est une véritable fraternité travaillant au bien-être de ses membres dont le motto est: "Un pour tous, tous pour un", ce qui rend possible une entente cordiale entre tous. Cette entente subsistera tant que l'Ordre existera car ses principes sont ceux mêmes de la confraternité entre tous.

"Je ne puis passer outre sans rendre un tribut d'admiration à la mémoire du fondateur de la loge, M. John Taylor, disparu depuis quelques années, mais dont le souvenir est toujours vivace.

"Vous pouvez être frappé par la mort aujourd'hui ou demain. Avez-vous pris des précautions pour que votre femme et vos enfants n'en souffrent pas? Avez-vous envisagé le spectacle de votre femme allant travailler pour les autres afin de nourrir vos enfants et se trouvant dans l'impossibilité de leur donner l'instruction et l'éducation voulues? Toutes ces questions ne troublent pas l'existence du membre de l'Ordre Royal des "Moose", car il sait que l'organisation a prévu à tout cela, car Mooseheart est à la disposition des enfants et de l'épouse, Moosehaven, pour le vieux membre et son épouse et enfin pour ceux qui ne peuvent se prévaloir de ces deux institutions, le fonds d'extension est là pour combler toute lacune."

L'orateur fit un vibrant appel aux membres et leur demanda de se faire les agents de cette vraie et seule véritable cause, la protection de l'enfance.

L'orateur anglais fut M. Bernard Rose, qui a fait un éloquent discours pour expliquer à son tour les principes de cet Ordre de secours mutuels et de fraternité. Il débuta en rappelant la mémoire de John Taylor, le fondateur de la loge de Montréal. Il croit que s'il a aujourd'hui la récompense de ses mérites, il peut voir que la loge fondée par lui n'a pas démenti, mais qu'elle va toujours en augmentant en nombre et en force. Il indique comment le nombre des membres a été grandissant d'année en année depuis 1912 jusqu'à 1914, alors que 365 membres de la loge, un par jour, sont partis bravement pour défendre la civilisation et la liberté mises en danger. Beaucoup de ces "Moose" sont tombés sur les champs de bataille d'Europe, mais leur mémoire demeure vivante chez ceux qui les ont connus et qui leur ont succédé.

"Comme vous l'avez dit tout à l'heure M. Gariépy, nous ne savons rien de la race et de la religion des membres; nous sommes des frères, tout simplement, et c'est comme frères que nous aidons les uns les autres. Nos principes sont ceux de la charité mutuelle que nous faisons notre possible d'exercer."

M. Rose explique ensuite le fonctionnement du système de secours mutuel contre la maladie, celui des frais funéraires et ajoute: "Mais il est une chose plus admirable encore. Si un de nos membres meurt et laisse une veuve ou des enfants sans moyens de vivre, nous avons, à Mooseheart, une colonie où les veuves et orphelins trouvent un refuge assuré. Là, on donne aux enfants la meilleure éducation jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans et la mère demeure avec eux. Ce n'est pas une institution de charité; mais une colonie confraternelle et on y trouve actuellement

1,410 enfants de membres décédés. Il n'existe pas une société fraternelle au monde qui donne ce genre de secours, secours fait de charité, de confraternité et d'amour.

"De plus, si la mère, pour une raison ou une autre, ne peut aller habiter la colonie, elle reçoit des secours mensuels jusqu'au moment où le plus jeune de ses enfants a atteint 18 ans. La société va plus loin encore et si un membre trop âgé ne peut plus gagner sa vie, elle lui trouve un asile confortable à Moose Haven, où lui et son épouse peuvent habiter une maison et finir leur existence, non comme des objets de charité, mais comme des amis et protégés de l'Ordre des "Moose".

L'orateur éfit ensuite des cas qui se sont produits à Montréal et indique comment des veuves et des enfants ont été sauvés de la misère par l'Ordre des "Moose". Il ajoute: "Comment une jeune veuve ayant un, deux ou trois enfants en bas âge peut-elle faire face à la misère? Qui va l'employer quand elle doit passer la moitié de son temps à élever ses enfants? Qui va venir à son secours et lui faciliter l'existence? Ces questions sont presque sans réponse, car tout souvent nous voyons des cas de misère causés par la simple imprévoyance d'un père qui ne pense pas au lendemain."

"Combien de ces femmes peuvent choisir le sentier du mal parce que la faim et la faim de leurs enfants les harcèlent? Ne blâmez pas ces malheureuses, mais plaignez-les et faites surtout pénétrer partout l'idée de la véritable fraternité telle qu'elle est pratiquée par les "Moose".

L'assemblée s'est terminée par des remerciements à M. Rose, aux délégués venus d'autres loges et à la presse qui, dit M. Murphy, "a toujours été la meilleure amie des Moosees et les a aidés chaque fois qu'elle en a eu l'occasion."

M. Gerald Murphy, dictateur de la loge, présidait la séance, entouré de MM. Tom Barrett, ancien dictateur, J.-E. Gariépy, représentant suprême de l'Ordre; Michel Renaud, ancien dictateur; John Walker, ancien dictateur; Alph. Durocher, secrétaire; Thomas Larose, M. J. McCarthy, William Davenport et Louis Klein, syndics; Dave Thompson, vice-dictateur; Robert Broad, président du comité de réception et plusieurs autres officiers actifs ou anciens de l'Ordre Royal des "Moose".

LE SALAIRE MINIMUM DES FEMMES

Notre commission du salaire minimum des femmes qui travaille à l'amélioration des femmes employées dans l'industrie est activement intéressée à définir actuellement quels seront les salaires à être payés aux ouvrières travaillant dans les différentes branches de la province, mais son travail ne doit pas s'arrêter là car toutes les industries dans la province seront passées en revue et une échelle de salaires sera adoptée pour chacune d'elles.

Quoique que la Commission ne soit en opération que depuis peu de temps, elle a certainement accompli un travail gigantesque et ses membres ne négligent rien pour obtenir à la classe ouvrière tous les bénéfices dont elle a droit.

A l'instar de la Commission provinciale de Québec du salaire minimum des femmes, celle d'Ontario, formée depuis quelques années, vient de décider l'échelle de gages que doivent payer les modestes de chapeaux à leurs employées, dans toutes les villes où la population est de 30,000 âmes ou plus.

Les apprenties donnent le premier mois pour rien ou elles doivent se contenter de ce qu'on peut leur offrir. Les cinq autres mois pas moins de \$5 par semaine; les six autres mois \$6 par semaine; ensuite six mois à \$7 par semaine; six mois à \$8 par semaine et douze mois à \$10 par semaine. Au bout de ces trois années l'apprentissage est terminé et ensuite les gages minimum sont fixés à \$12 par semaine. De plus le nombre d'apprenties ne doit pas dépasser un tiers du personnel et comme apprenties on ne doit pas compter les employés surmarchands qui travaillent moins d'un mois.

M. J. W. MacMillan, président de la commission des gages raisonnables d'Ontario annonce que cette échelle de gages entrera en vigueur le 1er février prochain.

LES TYPOGRAPHES SE SOUVIENNENT

Samedi matin, en l'église Notre-Dame de Lourdes, avait lieu un service anniversaire pour tous les membres défunts de l'Union internationale Jacques-Cartier, No 145.

C'est M. l'abbé Pilon, de Saint-Jacques, assisté de MM. les abbés Robert et Lemire, aussi de Saint-Jacques, qui officiait à la cérémonie.

A l'orgue, une partie de la chorale de Saint-Jacques, sous l'habile direction de M. Fred. Pelletier, a rendu la messe des morts de V. Les solistes ont été: MM. J. A. Lefebvre, Gaston Nolin, Paul Tremblay et Alfred Legendre. M. Armand Pelletier, un aveugle était à l'orgue, et s'est acquitté de sa tâche d'une manière tout à fait remarquable.

L'assistance comprenait deux à trois cents personnes, hommes et femmes, presque tous membres de l'Union, ou parent ou amis des défunts. La quête, pendant le service fut faite par M. le président Joseph Gauthier, et M. O. Steele, membre de l'Union.

Ce fut vraiment un spectacle touchant de voir tous ces hommes émus, et silencieux et si pieux, prier pour leurs anciens confrères, membres de l'Union.

L'Union internationale Jacques-Cartier No 145 mérite certainement des félicitations pour cette innovation, qu'elle a si bien réussie samedi. Réellement le service fut fait par M. le président Joseph Gauthier, et M. O. Steele, membre de l'Union.

Disons que 99 pour cent (pour ne pas dire 100 pour cent) de ses membres sont des fervents catholiques, et surtout des catholiques pratiquants. Plus d'un sont pères de religieux ou de religieuses.

La réunion de samedi avait pour but de prier pour nos chers disparus. Les membres y sont allés nombreux, parce que tous comprennent que la charité chrétienne nous fait un devoir de nous souvenir de nos morts comme la même charité nous oblige à respecter nos confrères vivants.

L'église au début du service mortuaire fait dire le Requiem Aeternam — "Donnez leur, Seigneur, le repos éternel et que votre éternelle lumière luisse à leur yeux. C'est une belle et pieuse supplique très appropriée à la messe des morts.

"Donnez leur Seigneur, le repos éternel", eux qui, lui bas, ont vécu une

Ce que nous sommes

—Ce qui fait, me dit Berluron, que les Anglais et nous, restons étrangers depuis deux siècles que nous vivons face à face, c'est, plus que la différence de religion et de langue, la différence de tempérament. J'en veux prendre pour preuve cette fête du Halloween qui est, pour nos amis les Anglais et surtout les Ecossais l'une des plus gaies de l'année.

—Mais, reprit Berluron suffoqué, cette façon de se réjouir des morts, d'en ridiculiser les symboles...

—Cela nous scandalise et nous choque au premier abord, mais nous avons tort, dis-je.

—Nous avons, au contraire, grandement raison, affirma Berluron. Nous autres latins à mentalité sentimentale... —Pardou, pardou, interrompis-je.

Nous nous imaginons être des latins alors que nous sommes des Scandinaves et des Celtes, c'est-à-dire des Normands et des Bretons, au même titre que nos amis Ecossais et Anglais. Toute la différence eux et nous est dans l'éducation. Nous en tenons pour les idées alors qu'ils en tiennent pour les faits. Nous sommes des théoriciens. Ce sont des gens pratiques. J'en veux prendre, comme tout à l'heure, cette fête du Halloween pour exemple. En amenant les petits Anglais à s'amuser des symboles des revenants, des fantômes, cette fête les débarrasse des vaines terreurs, des superstitions ridicules que nombre de nos gens gardent tout au long de la vie.

—Il est permis de penser, conclut Berluron rêveur, que le jour où se souviennent de leurs communes origines et songent à leur avenir commun, les deux races maitresses du Canada mettront ensemble leurs qualités différentes, elles constitueront le grand peuple à notre grand pays.

PAUL DEMARTIGNY.

A QUOI SERT LA PROHIBITION

S'il faut s'en fier aux divers renseignements qui nous sont donnés concernant l'ivrognerie, les provinces humides doivent être fibres des résultats obtenus par leur sage législation, car l'année dernière il y a eu dans tout le pays 26,571 arrestations pour ivresse dont 11,811 dans l'Ontario seulement, soit beaucoup plus que dans la province de Québec. On a constaté que l'ivrognerie existe moins dans les provinces où le commerce de boissons est sous le contrôle du gouvernement que dans les autres provinces.



Gin Canadian Melchers Croix d'Or

(Fabriqué à Berthierville, Qué., sous la surveillance du Gouvernement Fédéral, rectifié quatre fois et vieilli en entropôt pendant des années.)

Table with 3 columns: Gros (40 onces \$3.65), Moyens (26 onces 2.55), Petits (10 onces 1.10). Melchers Distillery Co., Limited MONTREAL.

Le Coin des Unions locales

INGENIEURS STATIONNAIRES

Le local No 588, de l'union internationale des ingénieurs stationnaires de Montréal, a initié dix nouveaux membres et sept autres ont prêté le serment d'office à la dernière assemblée présidée par M. Eugène Hamelin. Il a été constaté, par les rapports, que le local No 588 des ingénieurs stationnaires de Montréal passe par une période d'activités qui annonce un beau succès. Les nouveaux membres travaillant de nuit, n'ont pu assister à la séance du samedi, et ils ont été officiellement initiés le lendemain de l'assemblée, chez M. C. Germain, secrétaire archiviste, assisté de ses autres officiers.

A cette assemblée, le local 588 a reçu la visite de son organisateur général du Canada, M. Frank Healy, qui était de passage à Montréal. M. Healy a chaleureusement félicité le local ainsi que les membres et les officiers, des progrès accomplis depuis sa dernière visite. Il remercia au nom de l'union les ingénieurs stationnaires et les encouragea d'assister assidûment aux assemblées, ajoutant que c'est pour leur plus grand bien.

CHEZ LES CIGARIERS

Le Bureau exécutif général de l'union internationale des cigariers a ouvert sa session régulière, lundi, en ses quartiers généraux, à Chicago, M. A. Gariépy, de Montréal, secrétaire-trésorier de l'union locale No 58 des cigariers, qui est aussi le vice-président général de l'union internationale, et représentant international pour le Canada, est parti pour Chicago, pour assister à cette session du Bureau exécutif général. Il sera absent une huitaine de jours.

A la présente session de l'exécutif général de l'union internationale des cigariers sera présent le nouveau président général de l'organisation, M. J. N. Ornburn, qui a été nommé récemment à cette charge, pour remplacer M. G. W. Perkins, président actuel qui se retire pour cause de santé. M. Perkins est président général de l'union internationale des cigariers depuis 40 ans. La présente session de l'exécutif général est la dernière pour l'année 1926 et la dernière que préside M. Perkins. Le 1er janvier 1927, le nouvel exécutif entrera en fonctions avec M. Ornburn comme chef. Dans le but de solutionner plusieurs questions en cours, le président Perkins a voulu réunir ses collègues une dernière fois avant son départ.

CAMPAGNE DE L'ETIQUETTE

Le secrétaire de la Ligue de l'étiquette des unions internationales, M. Ben Drolet, continue, avec un intérêt toujours nouveau, la campagne dont il a été chargé en faveur de la marque syndicale. "Que l'argent provenant du travail unioniste commande" écrit M. Drolet; que les marchands que les unionistes patronisent soient bien avertis que c'est l'étiquette de l'union, que l'on veut voir sur les produits qu'ils détiennent en vente, et qu'on désire acheter; enfin, dépensons notre argent pour acheter des chaussures, habits, chapeaux, cigares, impressions, peintures portant la marque syndicale de l'union", tels sont les conseils que M. Ben Drolet donne aux ouvriers qui se réclament du titre d'unioniste.

"Aussi longtemps, ajoute-t-il que les marchandises, sans étiquette de l'union sont d'un prix moindre que celles de l'étiquette de l'union, et que pour cette raison nous devons les acheter de préférence aux articles fabriqués par des unionistes, aussi longtemps nous végèterons, et nous continuerons à entretenir cette habitude malheureuse et ruineuse pour tous, parce que nous encourageons ceux qui nous font la guerre sur le terrain économique, c'est-à-dire les employeurs qui font travailler à petit salaire, et dans des conditions la plupart du temps inhumaines. Aussi bien l'économie illusoire de quel que soit que nous réalisons en achetant des articles de commerce sans étiquette unioniste, tient les industries favorables à l'union, dans le marasme et décourage le bon patron. Il faut être "plus homme" et se débarrasser de ce faux calcul qui nous fait croire qu'acheter des marchandises à bas prix, est une économie. Par exemple, quand nous achetons un cigare de l'union, nous nous faisons, en quelque sorte, le propre employeur de l'ouvrier cigarière. Si, au contraire nous consommons des cigares sans l'étiquette bleue, nous délaissions notre camarade de l'union des cigarières, et nous encourageons ceux qui refusent même de reconnaître les unions ouvrières. Si nous agissons conformément aux principes établis dans l'union, et que nous encourageons toujours et partout le travail unioniste, nous connaissons vite le bien-être, et cela sans trouble, sans grève, sans difficultés, et nous encourageons le patron qui le mérite, c'est-à-dire le bon patron, qui donne justice à l'ouvrier."

SUCCEES DES PRESSIERS

Le souper aux huitres organisé par le local No 52 de l'union internationale des pressiers et assistants samedi soir dernier, aux quartiers généraux des métiers de l'imprimerie, 248 rue Saint-Jacques, a été couronné du plus vif succès. Près de 300 convives y assistèrent. La plus franche gaieté régna du commencement à la fin de la soirée.

La fête commença au son de la musique. Le président, M. G. R. Brunet, vice-président international, souhaita une cordiale bienvenue aux visiteurs. L'agent d'affaires, M. G. Brunelle, faisait les honneurs de la fête. Il y eut chant, musique, déclamations, chansons comiques par des artistes amateurs de talent.

La fête se termina tard, au milieu de l'enthousiasme général. Le comité de réception nous charge de remercier tous ceux qui ont bien voulu participer à cette fête de famille et assurer son succès.

ILS DECIDENT DE SE METTRE EN GREVE

La fraternité des conducteurs de chemins de fer et de la Fraternité des serrés-freins, des employés au service des bagages, ont voté ces jours derniers, par une forte majorité la grève, ne voulant pas accepter l'échelle de salaires telle que consentie par un bureau d'arbitrage.

La visite à Montréal des officiers internationaux nous est significative et ceux-ci laissent entre les mains des ouvriers de chemins de fer canadiens de décider eux-mêmes de l'attitude à prendre.

TAILLEURS COUTURIERS

Le local No 317 des tailleurs couturiers tenait une assemblée mercredi soir dernier, aux quartiers généraux de la B & S. W. U., 729a rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Plusieurs nouveaux membres furent initiés à cette séance, et un rapport pour une nouvelle campagne d'organisation qui commença sous peu a été présenté. Les membres sont priés de prendre note que les assemblées du local 317 auront lieu à l'avenir, le 4e mercredi de chaque mois, au lieu du 2e mardi, au No 729a rue Sainte-Catherine Est.

Prouvons à nos adversaires que nous pouvons soutenir la lutte en nous abonnant à notre propre journal.

Le "Miracle" de Ford

La nouvelle que Ford, le roi américain de l'automobile, introduit dans ses usines la semaine de cinq jours avec quarante heures de travail a suscité en Europe des réactions fort diverses lorsqu'elle y parvint. Les uns y voient un exemple digne d'émulation et font judicieusement observer que cette innovation constitue un témoignage à charge pour les employeurs européens qui aspirent à compenser les déficiences de leur gestion économique en luttant contre la journée de huit heures. D'autres déclarent avec non moins de raison que Ford est plus astucieux qu'il n'a d'esprit progressif et qu'avant tout c'est le rétrécissement de la demande de ses produits qui le contraint à cette mesure, car il obtiendra de cette façon une même production pour moins d'argent et pourra mieux faire front à la concurrence. Le salaire ne changera pas, de sorte, qu'en réalité, il devra s'opérer à égalité d'intensité de travail une réduction automatique du revenu professionnel hebdomadaire. Les ouvriers devront compenser cette soustraction en accomplissant en cinq jours autant qu'en six jours auparavant. Le *Daily Herald* avait certes raison de dire pour résumer son opinion que "c'est peut-être là un capitalisme plus éclairé mais qu'abstraction faite de cet aspect ce n'est guère un capitalisme plus bienfaisant."

Lorsqu'on se prend à considérer que le prix de cette réduction de durée du travail est un accroissement de la fatigue, c'est à dire qu'on la paie par une exténuation des énergies musculaires et nerveuses, que par ailleurs les ouvriers occupés par Ford ne conservent que durant relativement peu de temps, avant cette innovation déjà, assez de leur capacité de rendement pour répondre aux exigences de son entreprise, qu'il s'impose à l'esprit que les raisons ne sont pas absentes d'être dubitatifs. Dans cet ordre d'idées il convient de dire que la pure et simple réduction de la durée du travail — comme dans le cas de Ford — est par trop exaltée et qu'on réfléchit vraiment trop peu lors de ces innovations aux répercussions qu'aura le régime nouveau sur le travail proprement dit. Quelque excellente qu'ait et tout digne d'effort que sa poursuite soit l'accroissement des loirs ne peut quand même permettre ni de déplacer l'importance ni de négliger dans l'action pour cette fin, le problème, de la rémunération, de la spécificité et de l'organisation du travail même. Si la vie de l'individu doit avoir un cours où se composent l'harmonie physique et le substratum psychique et s'y fassent sagement équilibrer, il faut que le travail y joue le premier rôle mais en même temps un rôle imprégné de dignité. Les vœux de certain professeur de la "Northwestern University" américaine parlant, à ce qu'en dit le "International Labor News Service" d'une durée de travail de 4 heures et qui pense qu'un regard du côté continu de la durée du travail les écoles devraient surtout concentrer leur enseignement sur l'utilisation des loirs que laisse le travail, parce que toute la nation est en passe de relever de la "classe à loirs" en d'autres termes d'appartenir à cette classe à laquelle il est donné de vivre sans véritable travail.

Or ce reproche tombe à la fois non seulement sur l'employeur mais aussi et tout ensemble sur le travailleur. En effet ce dernier par une sorte d'ataraxie ou par une espèce de fatalisme dédaigne de se rendre compte des préjudices psychiques de son genre de travail et ne considère que le résultat matériellement tangible. C'est ce qui précisément se montre dans le cas des innovations à la Ford, que l'on commente avec tant de feu un peu partout. On "paie" la nouvelle journée de liberté par un nouvel impôt d'épuisement prélevé sur le muscle et les nerfs, sacrifice réel et peut-être disproportionné à l'avantage apparent de l'augmentation des heures de loirs, négligeant d'examiner si l'avantage matériel n'est pas déjà lui-même problématique. Car bien que prise en soi la durée du travail se réduise, il n'en demeure pas moins qu'en réalité l'ouvrier effectue sous le régime nouveau comparativement plus d'unités-temps qu'autrement pour le gain patronal que pour la rémunération de son propre effort.

L'allongement du temps de liberté, des loirs, n'est un gain effectif et digne d'être poursuivi que si on le conquiert sans déficit ni psychique ni physique. Cela n'est vraisemblablement pas le cas chez Ford.

Enfin il convient d'attester que l'idée de la semaine de 40 heures de travail n'est pas une découverte de Ford. Le mouvement syndical américain milite depuis longtemps pour deux journées de repos et de loirs par semaine; même des actions syndicales ont été menées en faveur de cette innovation. Au début de l'année qui s'achève les pelletiers de New-York firent deux mois la grève pour acquérir la semaine de cinq jours. Ils aboutirent à un résultat partiel, en ce sens que désormais ils travaillent 5 jours à la semaine 8 mois de l'année. Or ce fut notamment cette victoire ouvrière qui projeta la revendication nouvelle à l'avant-plan des préoccupations. Au surplus s'agissait-il dans le cas des pelletiers d'une victoire et d'un progrès effectifs, cependant que chez Ford, nous l'avons vu, les choses ont un aspect plus ou moins dissemblable.

Résumant ce qui précède il convient d'y conclure qu'en face du "miracle" de chez Ford il n'y a pas lieu à des transports de joie. La revendication poursuivant une réduction de la durée du travail, surtout pour la main d'œuvre à tâche lourde ainsi que pour celle des entreprises dangereuses et insalubres — telles l'industrie chimique, l'exploitation des mines, etc.—doit demeurer ce qu'elle était: l'un des points principaux et parmi les plus importants, du programme de la classe ouvrière, mais il convient, cependant, de ne point perdre, à ce propos, de vue que la réduction de la durée de travail n'a de signification véritable que si elle est avantageuse sous tous les aspects moralement, physiquement tout autant que pour ce qui regarde l'organisation et le régime humains du travail — et qu'elle ne se résoud point exclusivement en l'une de ces apparences de progrès qui frappent le regard mais ne sont que fallacieuses au fond, augmentation numérique des heures de loirs ou bien gain uniquement matériel. — Fédération Syndicale Internationale.

Lisons *Le Monde Ouvrier* et répandons-le parmi nos compagnons de travail.

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LA BIERE POPULAIRE THE POPULAR BEER

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LABOR DIRECTORY

MONTREAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL — Meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at Building Trades Hall, 417 Ontario Street East. President, J. T. Foster, 147 Stuart Street, 4 Craig Street East. Corresponding Secretary, Jos. Pelletier, 4 Craig Street East.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL — To promote the interests of the Allied Union Label (which can be had in either the French or English language). — The following organizations comprise Council: — Typographical Union, No. 176; Jacques-Cartier Typographical Union, No. 145; Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, No. 52; Bookbinders' Union, No. 91; Photo-Engravers' Union, No. 8; Stereotypers' Union, No. 39. President, Thomas Black, Vice-President, J. A. Ricard, Recorder, J. Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer, James Philip, Room 2, Ottawa Building, 248 St. James Street; Executive, N. Oulmet, R. Léger, M. Vallières; Assistants: R. Pageau, A. Larocher, G. Brunelle.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION No. 176 — Meets every first Saturday at No. 248 St. James Street. Thomas Black, President, 585 Wisconsin Ave. Outremont; James Philip, Secretary-Treasurer, 248 St. James Street. Business hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

UNION TYPOGRAPHIQUE JACQUES-CARTIER, No. 145 — Assemblée le 1er samedi du mois, salle des Cordonniers, 729a, rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Président, Joseph Gauthier, 729, rue Lafontaine; Secrétaire, A. F. Ricard, 459a, rue Hochberg; Sec.-financier, trésorier, Louis Gaudry, 201, rue Drolet.

UNION DES RELIEURS, Local 91 — Assemblées tous les 1er et 3e mercredis de chaque mois, à la salle de l'Union, 3 rue Craig Est, à 8 h. P.M. Président Albert Julien, 3, rue Craig Est. Secrétaire financier, et agent d'affaires, Jos. Pelletier, 4 Craig Est, chambre 22-23; Téléphone, Lancaester 2726.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TAILLEURS DE PIERRE DE MONTREAL — Assemblées tous les 1er et 3e mercredis de chaque mois, à 8 heures du soir, à la salle des Cordonniers, 729a, rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Président, Eliot Paquette, 229, rue Fabre; secrétaire, Octave Jette, 5138, rue Garneau.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TAILLEURS DE PIERRE DE MONTREAL — Assemblées tous les 1er et 3e mercredis de chaque mois, à 8 heures du soir, à la salle des Cordonniers, 729a, rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Président, Eliot Paquette, 229, rue Fabre; secrétaire, Octave Jette, 5138, rue Garneau.

CONSEIL DE DISTRICT DES CHARPENTIERS-MENUISIERS D'AMERIQUE — Bureau, de 8 h. 00 a.m. à 5:30 p.m., au No 417, rue Ontario Est. Téléphone, Est 5740. Assemblée tous les mercredis, à huit heures du soir.

CHARPENTIERS-MENUISIERS — Union locale No 1508, Malsonneuve. — Assemblée tous les vendredis, à 8 heures du soir, au No 1501, rue Letourneau (Temple des Buffalo). Président: J. A. Chamberland; vice-président: E. Vigeant; secrétaire: archiviste: O. Proulx, 248, Boulevard Pie IX; secrétaire-financier: A. Robert, 1806, rue Notre-Dame; trésorier: J. W. Corbell, 438, rue Lacordaire; conducteur: Thos. Dory; gardien: Jos. Plante.

FRATERNITE UNIE DES CHARPENTIERS-MENUISIERS D'AMERIQUE — LOCAL 134. — Ernest Boucher, Président, 1023, rue Dufresne; Art. Mayer, Vice-Président, 45, rue Ricard; Napoléon Rémy, Secrétaire-Archiviste, 2131, rue Saint-Germain; J. A. Roy, Secrétaire-Financier, 1851, rue Wolfe; Ernest Tisdelle, Secrétaire-Trésorier, 1316, rue Gifford. Le local s'assemble tous les lundis soirs, au No 417, rue Ontario Est, Salle No 1.

LOGE SAINTE-MARIE No 234 DE LA FRATERNITE DES WAGONS-RODÉS DES VOIES FERRÉES D'AMERIQUE — Assemblées les 1er et 3e vendredis de chaque mois, au No 417, rue Ontario Est. Trésorier, L. A. Beaudry, 106 Desjardis; vice-président, H. Massé, 154 Montana; secrétaire-archiviste et correspondant, C. Miron, 485, rue Fullum; secrétaire-financier, B. Lamarche, 1377, avenue Delormier; trésorier, A. Bertrand, 585 Aylwin; chape-lain, Jos. Durand, 691, Frontenac; gardien, A. Miron, 182 Laurendeau, Montréal Est; guide, E. Donige, 1006 Hogan; guide, W. Leclair, 634 Des Erables.

CUISINIERS LOCAL 440 — L'Union internationale des Cuisiniers, local 440, tenait sa séance régulière jeudi dernier, au No 26a avenue du Collège McGill. Cette organisation donnera son grand bal annuel le samedi, 4 décembre prochain, à la salle Auditorium, 229 Ontario Ouest près Buisy. Tous les membres et amis des cuisiniers sont cordialement invités à cette grande soirée.

AVIS
No 11,875
Cour Supérieure
District de Montréal
Avis est, par les présentes, donné que Dame CLARA FELDSTEIN, épouse de MARCUS STEIN, de Montréal, est en demande de séparation de biens avec son époux, Marcus Stein, ce 16e jour de novembre 1926.
David N. Notkin,
Procureur du Requérent.
47-51

Province de Québec
District de Montréal
COUR SUPERIEURE
No 4788
Dame SARAH TRACHTENBERG, de la ville et du district de Montréal, épouse commune en biens de Isaac Friedman, du même lieu,
Demanderesse.
VS
ISAAC FRIEMAN, de la ville et du district de Montréal, marchand,
Défendeur.
Une action en séparation de biens a été instituée, ce jour, en cette cause.
Montréal, 15e novembre, 1926.
I. Popliger,
Procureur de la demanderesse.

Porter
Donne Santé et Vigueur

AU repas du soir, une bouteille de ce Porter riche et nourrissant constitue un excellent tonique. Ses merveilleuses qualités nutritives et fortifiantes en font le reconstituant idéal et essentiel pendant les froids rigoureux de l'hiver.

DAWES
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Minard's is the enemy of all rheumatic troubles. Rub it in thoroughly and often. It eases the pain, supplies the joints, puts new life into the tissues.

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"KING OF PAIN"
LINIMENT

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Le seul journal ouvrier
bilingue de la province de
Québec. La meilleure arme
entre les mains des travail-
leurs.

The Labor
World



Le Monde
Ouvrier

The only bilingual labor
paper in the Province of
Québec. The most efficient
medium laborers have ever
had.

12th Year — No. 48

SAMEDI, 27 NOVEMBRE 1926 — MONTREAL — SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1926

PRICE: 5 CENTS

"The Menace of Labor" "Miners Capitulate"

(Copied Headlines)

These are characteristic capitalistic newspaper scareheads. It does not matter which paper used them, for there is no grudge against any one in particular. We are concerned only with the system they represent.

They manifest the guilty, nervous, jumpy sensations of capitalism. The first expresses their craven fear when the fortunes of the struggle swing in favor of labor, and the tributes are threatened. The second headline is just a sigh of relief when capital discovers that labor must pause a while for breath.

There is evidently the hope that the second headline will also throw a scare into the battle line of workers. But British workers are not of the breed who worry about scarecrows. They have the traditional long British memory for organization. They have tried their best to bring some of the tributes back home, they have felt out the full strength of the tribute collectors. They have put them to their mightiest. The reconnaissance has been a complete success. They retire only to come back with a matured assault.

The British people have been one of the steadiest revolutionary peoples of the earth. They commenced with tyrant kings wielding unlimited power and hereditary rights; they finish with a dynasty shorn of personal power and a creature of Parliament. They have trimmed the nobility until the House of Lords exerts but a shadow of its former influence. They have bent the House of Commons to the will of universal suffrage. According as the intelligence of the British proletariat develops, they remodel their government to accommodate it.

For a couple of centuries the attention of the British masses has been attracted by the glamor of capitalistic conquest. In this drive we have seen the creation of the colonial dominions, which have since evolved into that rather indefinable entity known as the British Empire.

Lately, the proletariat of the British Isles has a little more time to gaze and calculate upon the immense wealth of their tributeeers everywhere in evidence. They know the British masses are entitled to a greater share of this wealth than they are getting. They are moving to get it. They know so many of their young relatives for whom a high education would be perfectly becoming, and they want it for them. They see plainly that the production of the British Isles is not properly utilized until these children have all that colleges can teach them. Who can doubt that the British character will eventually give it to them?

The writer has the fullest confidence in what the tenacious bulldoggedness of the Islanders can do with all its patience and confidence in struggle. Englishmen may be misunderstood abroad, but there is no doubt about their understanding one another, and capital knows exactly what it is up against when the British public gets a clear idea of what it wants.

If there be one place in the world where no Mussolini will ever backbite the people, that place is England. Yet we must ask if it be not unfortunate that such headlines as above should appear in the discussion. That is not British language to Britons. It is the language of pigs who constantly provoke a state of civil war. And surely a state of civil war is not necessary to decide whether or not British children shall be equally educated either through the instrumentality of increased wages, or by direct contribution of the tributes applied through taxation.

"British Fair Play" and "Conference" are better sounding British expressions, especially when talking to dyed-in-the-wool Britons. In fact, the get-together method has always had to be applied in the end of all British disputes, so that we may as well eliminate all the tricks of diplomacy and force at once.

When capitalists are ready to go to work along with all the other unemployed, everybody will be educated and everybody will be richer and freer.

I. S. HENRI.

As the Worker sees his World

Summary and Digest of Important Events of the Week, Here and Abroad.

Seven thousand five hundred striking New York cloakmakers win agreement with "inside" manufacturers establishing principle of five-day, 40-hour week and increased pay; 13,000 strikers still out after five months' struggle.

Matthew Woll, in behalf of National Civil Federation, writes President Coolidge attacking Sherwood Eddy's Russian report and approving President's reaffirmation of stand against recognition of Soviet Russia.

First break in ranks of Passaic textile manufacturers comes when Passaic Worsted Spinning Company settles "like with employees" and recognizes their right to organize; eight other big mills still fight workers.

New York City Teachers' Union defends teachers alleged to be denied promotion by Board of Education because of their radical opinions.

Federal Reserve Board reports industrial production reached new high mark in September.

Senator Edward I. Edwards of New Jersey demands nation-wide referendum on repeal of "dry" amendment.

Five miners killed by gas explosion in mine at Moundsville, W. Va.

Conference of English miners votes to end long strike as thousands of workers return to pits.

Building workers' wages holding firm, with labor supply plentiful building economic bureau of American Bond & Mortgage Company reports.

Mill workers at McKeesport Tinplate Company mills near Pittsburgh end strike after four days' illness.

Passage of laws restricting what may be taught in educational institutions is bringing about "alarming state of affairs," declares Dr. Walter B. Pratt of University of Nevada.

Worker 110 years old appointed chairman of building workers' Soviet at Kremenchuk, Ukraine.

National Federation of Federal Employees to push programme for improving condition of Federal workers at coming session of Congress.

London hears Asia is forming "Asiatic League of Nations" in opposition to western nations, principally Great Britain.

President Coolidge, in Kansas City address, declares entry of United States into World Court must be on our own terms.

LABOR QUERIES ?

Q.—When did the American Federation of Labor first declare for the five-day week?

A.—The first declaration of the subject was made in 1913, when the Federation said: "We heartily commend the five-day work week to the thoughtful and favorable consideration of all organizations affiliated with the A. F. of L. to the end that the shortening of the week will be conducive to the physical, material, intellectual and moral welfare of the toilers."

Q.—What is the "living-in system"?

A.—The plan, now chiefly met with in domestic service but still common in British commercial establishments, under which employees live on the premises where they work, receiving board and lodging in part payment of wages.

Q.—How long has J. P. Morrin been president of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Workers?

A.—Since 1918.

Q.—What is the "Magna Charta of Labor"?

A.—This term has been applied to the labor platform of the League of Nations composed of nine planks, the first of which is that labor must not be regarded as a commodity.

Q.—Who is C. L. Rosenmund?

A.—President of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions.

Q.—What is the "Magna Charta of Labor"?

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Q.—What is the "Magna Charta of Labor"?

Little Addresses on Trade Unionism

Taken from the Debates of the American Federation of Labor Convention in Detroit.

Treasurer Tobin: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to say anything on this question, but as a member of the Executive Council I can not sit silently by and listen to the statement made by Delegate Fitzpatrick. He said in his closing remarks, "until the American Federation of Labor clears its skirts of the slime and deception practiced upon it in the Mexican situation," and so on. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to sit silently and listen to a statement of the character without resisting it, when I know it to be an absolute falsehood and has some ulterior purpose. As one member of this Council today I want to say that there is no slime or deception practiced and consented to by the Executive Council in the discussion and consideration of this rather delicate question. I don't know whether Delegate Fitzpatrick has ever been in Mexico or not—

Delegate Fitzpatrick (interposing): I have, sir.

Treasurer Tobin: But I have been there and the conditions I found there were not at all creditable from many aspects. In view of the fact that there is, by the report of this committee, a commission to be appointed to consider it, I am not going any further into that part of the question.

Approval from Father Duffy

About a month ago the Executive Council was in Plattsburg looking over the training camp there, and while there we were invited by the fighting Father Duffy to attend a meeting in one of the large halls in that part of the country, and in introducing President Green he made this statement to a large audience: "Before I say any more, I want to make this statement, that I have gone into the entire question of the position and declaration of the Executive Council on the Mexican situation and I am thoroughly satisfied that the Executive Council of the Federation has done everything that it could have done under the circumstances."

No one who knows Father Duffy, no one of any denomination who knows his record in France can question the sincerity and the honesty of any statement that he makes. Still we have a delegate standing on the floor, a trade unionist, and telling us that until the American Federation of Labor clears

its skirts of the slime and deception practiced on it, that so-and-so, the world is going to come to an end.

Attempts made to deceive

Attempts have been made on more than one occasion, Mr. Chairman, to deceive us by practical, but sometimes selfish trades unionists, and we haven't very often been deceived on the Executive Council. Two or three years ago we were confronted with another question of a similar nature in the conventions of the Federation, tainted with religious prejudice. Those of us who come from Indiana or the middle western States know that our organizations of labor were permeated by a certain class, a few who were endeavoring to inject religion and the religious question into our great labor movement, and without getting excited, without making charges and counter charges against the inactivity of the Executive Council, we carefully worked around the situation until we brought about what we considered the best results for the American Federation of Labor.

Every so often, when everything else fails, the old doctrine of destroying confidence in one another by injecting the religious question into our movement is brought in, but in every instance it has failed, and in this instance it will fail because this American Federation of Labor is not going to allow the disconcert, the religious discontent existing in Mexico or in any other country to help to set us asunder here in this great American labor movement.

To fight for movement

I, too, profess the same faith of Delegate Fitzpatrick, and I am going to say this—and I will take no second place to that delegate or any other delegate in endeavoring to live to that belief of that denomination, but with all the power that is in me I am going to fight and continue to fight to help preserve this movement that has done so much for us by keeping out this religious question, whether it comes from Mexico or from Italy or from St. Louis or from Texas, or from any other place.

We have no right, as an Executive Council, to tell the people of Mexico what they are going to do on their religious situation. We have openly declared, not today nor yesterday, but

since the beginning of this labor movement, that we stand for freedom of religion and freedom of the press. It has never been questioned within this great labor movement of ours. We have so said to the people of Mexico. We have some documents sent by the Executive Council to those in Mexico in the labor movement which perhaps can not be made known at this time to this Federation, it would not be policy to do so, but there isn't a thing that could be done to try to bring about a better understanding, to try to obtain freedom of religion and freedom of the press in Mexico, as it has been done in every instance wherever the question arises in any country of the world.

Not sitting idly by

But that is as far as we can go at the present time. We are not sitting idly by waiting for some delegate to come in here and tell us what we ought to do. We are all practical men in the labor movement, we have handled many of its serious problems. Every one of us who are serving on the Council have had years of experience, we are doing the best we can, and when men who are high in the church have said openly and in print, "you have done all that you could," I, as one member of the Executive Council, am satisfied that we have done our duty. We are going to continue to do that and we are not going to be deceived or have perpetrated on us anything of a slimy nature coming from any source, whether it is within the movement or without the movement.

I hope and trust, Mr. Chairman, that the report of the committee will be accepted. There is much good that we can do other than by threats and denunciations. We have done a great deal for Mexico from a political standpoint, we are still working on it, and we are quite hopeful that we can help the situation, but we can't do it by heaping unnecessary abuse on both the Executive Council and the working people of Mexico at this time. I am fully in accord with the report of the committee, and I want no delegate to leave this convention, no matter to what denomination he belongs, with the idea that this Executive Council is not doing everything it can possibly do under the circumstances.

Demand Union Labeled Articles

(We herewith publish an extract from an address delivered by William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, at Brooklyn, N. Y., on the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the Central Union Label Council.)

"I esteem it a very great pleasure and a very great privilege to speak upon a subject that is near and dear to the heart of every thorough-going trade unionist.

"The subject of the Union Label is a subject that is well understood by the members of organized labor and their hosts of friends.

"It is emblematic of a high standard of living, of tolerable conditions of employment, of those conditions surrounding working men and women which make for a higher and better standard of life. I am glad to speak to you tonight upon this subject, to tell you what the Union Label represents and to appeal to the men and women who are members of the organized labor movement, to the friends of our great movement to patronize the Union Label on every occasion and to demand goods, at all times, bearing the Union Label.

"It is a very great pleasure for men and women who know something about the history of the organized labor movement to be associated with this great movement. It represents a cause that grips the hearts and minds of working people. To many of those associated with the movement it means life and happiness. It means living in every sense of the word. It means humane conditions of employment and it means to us even more than words can express.

"So, it is any wonder that men and women are so devoted to this great cause, this great organization of brotherhood and sisterhood that binds men and women transforming them into links of a chain that is indissoluble and indestructible. For these reasons I am happy to speak to you tonight in my representative capacity and to speak of this great movement of organized labor with which millions of working men and women in America are identified.

"I would like, for just a moment, to appeal to our great union audience, those who are listening to what we are saying this evening, and in speaking to them and in making my appeal to that great audience I wish to make it with increasing force to members of organized labor as well as to those whom we can claim as our friends but who, for trade reasons, are not associated with our great movement. I would like, if I could, to appeal to the trade unionists to emphasize more and more the importance of the Union Label. I wish I could impress upon them what it means not only to them but to the great organized labor movement.

"Every time a worker spends a dollar in purchasing garments and commodities and goods bearing the Union Label he contributes to the success and the power and the strength and the influence of our great organized labor movement.

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ment. No working man should buy any goods that he can purchase unless they bear the Union Label.

"He should make that a part of his life. It should be a principle with him, for, as I have just said and I think it is worth repeating, every dollar spent in the purchase of union-made goods is a dollar spent in the purchase of union-made goods is a dollar spent in the interest of our great movement. I think perhaps the failure of a great many members of organized labor to demand products bearing the Union Label is due to a lack of proper appreciation of the service an individual can render when he demands products bearing the Union Label. It is because they have not understood and do not understand what it means and how much it means to the working people of the country.

"I am bold enough to make this assertion that if the great purchasing power of the working men and women of this country could be mobilized to the point where no working men or women would buy any other goods except goods bearing the Union Label, when they can get products with the Union Label, that it would be only a short time until every merchant in America would have his shelves stacked with goods bearing the Union Label.

"It is the power that lies dormant within us which needs to be mobilized. We stress our economic strength, and it is of great importance, we stress our fraternal relationship and it is of great value. We stress the need of organization and education, and all of it is important. I would not minimize one feature or one element of strength in our great movement, but I do not believe, from my own observation, that the working men and women of the country stress to a sufficient point the power and influence of our great trade union movement.

"And I appeal to those not directly identified with our movement but those whom we delight to claim as our friends—will you not help our great movement by joining with the members of organized labor in spending your money with the merchants in your cities, towns and communities who buy and sell products bearing the Union Label? Will you not help us, in this way, to extend the power and influence of our great human organization? What will you be doing when you demand goods bearing the Union Label? Well, these are one of the things you will be doing. You will help organized labor in its fight to maintain decent wages, decent hours of labor, tolerable conditions of employment, a better citizenship, a better state and a better nation.

"In addition to that you will be guaranteed commodities and products, made and manufactured by members of organized labor, that equal and excel, if you please, in quality goods that are made by non-union labor in non-union establishments. Another thing you will do and that is you will, be demanding

the union label, discriminate most clearly and distinctly between goods that are made in sweat-shops, in non-union factories, in places where they still apply the black-list, with all its severity and oppressiveness.

"Furthermore, you will be drawing the line between goods made in free manufacturing plants throughout the nation and goods that are made in penitentiaries by convict labor. This great reform that the American Federation of Labor espoused and in which it led has attracted the attention of all humane progressive, liberty-loving people.

"It is this, that convicts, those who are unfortunate, those who are sentenced to our penal institutions, shall not compete in the sale of the goods they manufacture with free labor. Who is it that would prefer to buy the brooms and clothing manufactured by convicts to brooms made by free labor! There are many people who would prefer to buy goods made by free labor and yet unconsciously they buy clothing made by convicts, goods made by inmates of prisons, household utensils, furniture, clothing, made by convicts, in diseased factories and under inhuman conditions, because they can buy them a little cheaper than they can buy products made by free labor.

"But the most unfortunate thing of all is that many times those who seek cheap goods, without the union label, are contributing to another unwholesome and inhuman system of employment. I refer to the employment of children in the mills and factories of our country. That is a curse we wish to wipe out. It seems to me it is a crime in the human race if our children are employed in the workshops and mills and factories of our country. The American Federation of Labor has led in an attempt to free the children and eliminate the employment of children under this inhuman, rapacious industrial system.

"My friends, be sure—may I say this with all the emphasis at my command—be sure that you purchase goods bearing the Union Label. If you do this, if my unseemly advice, listening to me on the radio will do this, you can be sure that you will not be supplied with goods made by either convicts or children.

"From a sentimental point of view, from the standpoint of humanity, consider as you never did before the representation that is embodied within the Union Label, emblematic of fair conditions of employment, of good wages and of the extension and influence of organized labor.

"I have spoken to you out of the earnestness of my soul. I believe in the Union Label with all my heart. It is typical and emblematic of organized labor and all the things that organized labor stands for and I sincerely hope that the purchasing power of labor and its friends will be so mobilized that they will extend the use of the Union Label and the sale of Union-made goods and products."

And the War Goes On

In demanding the restoration of mildly alcoholic beverages, the American Federation of Labor hasn't been acting in response to appetite. When rival beer gangs in Illinois begin bombing each other with airplanes, and when civil law enforcement officers admit their inability to curb law violations, hoping for Federal troops, there is something serious the matter. Isn't it about time to restore a degree of freedom at least sufficient to bring some measure of peace to the country? It will be recalled in histories of the future that Armistice Day, 1926, meant nothing to warring bootleggers. What of the future?

Labor's Determination Stirs Employer Interest

Wage scales of building craftsmen throughout the country are generally holding firm and there is no indication of any immediate widespread downward revision of rates, according to a national survey of labor conditions in the building industry just completed by the Building Economic Research Bureau of the American Bond & Mortgage Company.

Building labor conditions are summarized, in part, as follows: Building crafts plan to maintain wages and working conditions attained during building prosperity period.

Bonus payments and practice of contractors bidding against each other for men have practically disappeared.

Little interference to building operations from strikes expected this winter.

Plant short week campaign Building unions with largest membership in history plan renewal of campaign for five-day week.

"The building industry is now being favoured by a more pronounced tendency toward stabilized labor costs," said that survey. "Conditions of employment and labor rates generally during the last 60 days have shown but little change.

"While contractors in practically all the largest cities have decided against higher wages rates, they are showing a disposition to cooperate with the building trade unions and peacefully adjust wage disputes. As a result, labor conditions generally are quiet and no serious troubles have hindered construction, except in a few localities, where an effort has been made to establish the 'open shop,' or the unions are engaged in inter-union strife.

Trades to hold ground

"Determination of labor to maintain indefinitely the high wage rates they have obtained during the last two years was expressed at the convention of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor at Detroit, Mich., last month. The building unions unanimously decided to hold their ground, and maintain to the utmost of their ability, the wage scales and conditions which have required so many years of effort to obtain." They

TEXTILE MAKING FAMILY INDUSTRY

Cotton textiles is a family industry; it employs more women than any other, some working at the looms from early childhood to the grave. These deductions are from a survey of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor that should arouse all who hope to safeguard women workers.

Two-fifths of the cotton mill workers are married women; women with broken conjugal ties constitute another 13 per cent. The double burden of economic and domestic duties carried by so many women is emphasized in the report which says "when the children are little the mother does practically all the housework before going to the mill, getting up at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning to cook breakfast, prepare the dinner and care for the children.

"Even when the father is living at home and working in the mill with the mother," the report continues, "it is the woman usually who does the housework and attends to the cow, pig or chickens belonging to the family. In the transition from home making to industrial life women have apparently kept the burdens of the home and added those of the factory."

More than one-fourth of the women were under 20 years, more than a third from 20 to 30, and more than a third from 30 to 60 years. A few were found in the two extreme age groups of under 16 and of 60 years and over.

Northern mills employed the most foreign born, more than one-third the women workers being born in other countries to 1 per cent in the South.

"A mill village in the North is surprisingly uninfluenced by its American setting," says the report. "Many of the women visited could speak no English even after living in the country for 15 or 20 years, and in one village the children playing outside the houses and on the streets were speaking a foreign language."

"Once a mill worker always a mill worker" seemingly holds especially in the cotton mills, for few who begin their working life in the mills ever escape and those that try other occupations usually drift back.

WISDOM

Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed. Consequently he who molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes and decisions possible or impossible to be executed.—Abraham Lincoln.

also declared that wage reductions were out of the question at this time.

"The largest membership in history was reported by the 16 national and international unions represented at the convention. These unions, which have a paid-up membership of 574,497, gained 30,592 new members during the last year. This was the largest gain reported in any one year since the Building Trades Department was organized in 1908.

Carpenters' union gains

"The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the largest building trades union, which is not affiliated with the Building Trades Department, has a membership of 404,917, having gained 39,924 members in the last 12 months. The combined membership of the 17 building unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor now totals 979,407.

"Building trades employers are now generally taking cognizance of the shorter work-week movement and are planning organized opposition. "All building labor seems well employed.

Winter decline less severe

"Indications are that the seasonal decline in building employment this winter will be less than in past years unless unusually severe weather is encountered. This is due to the fact that builders are becoming better educated and equipped to cope with adverse weather conditions and are arranging their work in such a way as to provide winter employment.

"Reports on wage changes from cities and towns throughout the country show that a small increase, ranging from 1-1/2 to 12-1/2 cents an hour have been granted in about forty trades in 14 cities. These increases were reported from Atlanta, Ga.; Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Duluth, Kansas City, St. Louis, Dayton, Nashville, Tenn., Norfolk, Va.; Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Reading, Pa.

Small cuts in three cities

"Reductions were reported from Philadelphia, Salt Lake City and Atlanta. These were very small and mainly due to a surplus of common labor and some skilled craftsmen.

RAILROAD WORKERS TAKE STRIKE VOTE

Conductors and trainmen on Canadian railroads are taking a ballot on the question of authorizing schedule committees to declare a strike to secure enhanced wages, and according to reports, the vote is strong for a strike. The Federation of Shop Clerks, Baggagemen, etc., have also been trying to secure wage increases from Canadian railroads, but negotiations have deadlocked.



"Father thought something serious had happened!"

"When I telephoned home last evening, Father got a mild shock," said a school teacher to her friend.

"His first question was — 'Are you well, Jean?' When I replied 'Fine,' he explained how surprised he was to hear the Long Distance operator say 'Blankville calling, please hold the line'.

"You know my home is ninety miles away and I haven't paid Father a visit since the winter, but in future I intend to talk to him frequently."

Instead of using Long Distance only in emergencies, many telephone users are making it a habit to call friends in far-away places on pre-arranged nights and at frequent intervals.



Will We Have a Railway Strike?

In view of the refusal of the Order of Railway Conductors and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen to accept the award of the Board of Conciliation by such an overwhelming majority, the minority report submitted by David Campbell, K.C., of Winnipeg, deals with the employees' demands for a six per cent increase in a masterly manner. Many of the criticisms of the Board of Conciliation and its mode of procedure must bear fruit. The contention that the Board acts more like a "tribunal, resembling a court" rather than an impartial investigation is a particularly strong one. The International officers of the Order of Railway Conductors and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen were in Montreal acting in an advisory capacity. The decision of the strike will be left in the hands of the 15,000 conductors and trainmen employed on the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National Railways. The minority report submitted to the Minister follows:

It is regrettable when members of a Board of Conciliation are unable to arrive at a unanimous decision with regard to recommending to the Minister what, according to the merits and substantial justice, ought to be done by the parties to a dispute in order to bring about a settlement. I, therefore, regret very much that my views differ so widely from those of my colleagues on this Board that I am obliged to present them to you as a minority report.

The subject matter of the dispute consists of a proposed amended scale of wages submitted on behalf of all the Conductors, Trainmen and Yardmen employed on the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railways in Canada to the number of about fifteen thousand. This new scale of wages would mean an increase in their wages of approximately twenty per cent. It was submitted to the representatives of the employees during the month of February, 1926, and in July of this year it was agreed between the managements of the two railway companies and the representatives of the employees, that the matter should be treated and disposed of by conference committees consisting of representatives of railways, and a committee consisting of representative officers of the O. R. C. and the B. R. T. as representing the employees. The conferences between the parties were of a brief nature and were so decisive that it was evident from the beginning that no agreement could be reached between them, and an application was made to the department for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation and Investigation, which was appointed accordingly.

The Board commenced its hearings at the City of Montreal on Saturday, the 4th of September, and the proceedings continued all the following week. The parties to the dispute presented their respective views and contentions and the Board made every effort to conciliate them. The Board's work was continued at Toronto on September 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd, but no agreement could be effected, nor could the Board arrive at a unanimous report then, or at its subsequent meeting in Winnipeg.

The grounds upon which the contentions of the employees for increased wages were mainly based were briefly, as follows:

1. That prior to the war they were receiving more remuneration for their services than similar employees in the United States, and that the differential in their favor had been wiped out during and subsequent to the war by the adoption of the awards of the Lane Commission, and of the United States Railway Labor Board.
2. That rigorous climatic conditions in Canada created a higher living cost and increased the element of hazard as compared with similar employees in the United States.
3. That since 1921 wages for similar kinds of work had increased while their wages have remained stationary.
4. That these classes of employees in the United States had received increases in wages since 1921, averaging in the aggregate about six per cent, and the Railway companies in Canada were at least morally bound to apply to their Canadian employees the decision of the United States Labor Board in this respect.
5. That the increased earnings and improved financial conditions of the railways warranted the increase demanded if earnings were a factor to be considered.

On many of the questions involved in this controversy, it was apparent that full and complete information could not be placed before the Board, particularly by the employees. They do not keep, nor have they records or statistics by which such information could be placed before the Board by them. The company in this respect has always a very decided advantage, as they keep records, and employ statisticians and are able to produce from their records statements which place their side of the controversy well in the most favorable light, and they do not voluntarily produce information that might support the contentions of the employees. The employees were not in a position to answer or to analyse many of the statements made by the companies, or to compile statements in answer to them.

Upon some of these matters I suggested to my colleagues that, if certain contentions of the employees were a factor or an element to be considered in dealing with the matter, it would involve an exhaustive investigation. In my opinion, if an exhaustive and impartial investigation were made into the contentions and representations of both parties, many things would appear in a different light. My colleagues, however, rather took the view, which has been taken by a majority of the members of several boards upon which I have represented employees in the past, namely, that the board constitutes some sort of a tribunal, resembling a court, which receives and considers the evidence adduced by the parties and arrives at its conclusions, having regard to the weight of such evidence, and that the Board should not of its own motion make an investigation beyond the material submitted by the respective parties or inquire and ascertain what may be the underlying and probably unexpressed, causes of the dispute, or of its own motion inquire into any of the conditions or circumstances which might seem to have a bearing on the merits of dispute, but must rely entirely, and as best they can, upon what is presented by the parties. It seems to me that if this view is correct, then the words "investigate" and "inquire into" ought to be struck out of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, and it should be made clear that the Board should merely sit as a court to weigh the evidence of the re-

and that the element of hazard was not as great now as when the trains were not controlled by air brakes, and that the automatic coupler has replaced the old link and pin coupler; that climatic conditions in Canada were somewhat similar to those of certain of the Northern United States, and that the climate of Canada, on the average, was more agreeable and beneficial physically than the climate of a portion of the Southern States. To my mind this does not answer the claim of the employees.

The element of danger, which I take it the employees refer to, is that which follows train and yard service in very severe winter weather.

In dealing with comparisons as between Canada and the United States, we cannot compare the most southerly portion of Canada with the most northerly portion of the United States. Wages are fixed for this class of labor on a country-wide basis, and for the purpose of comparison we must have regard to general averages. We must therefore compare Canada as a whole with the United States as a whole. There can be no disputing the fact that the climatic conditions of Canada are very much more severe than those in the United States as a whole. As already suggested, this requires the expense of heavy and additional clothing, and additional expenses in fuel and housing to meet the severity of climate, and generally the longer period over which it exists.

Any distinction in the remuneration for this class of labor, between the two countries prior to the War should have been given due consideration if the Canadian workmen are to be placed upon an equal footing, and are to enjoy an equal standard of living, as obtains in the United States for the same service.

The employees urged that the advances in their wages up to 1921 showed an increase of from forty to forty-seven per cent since 1913, while in the building and metal trades, coal mining, miscellaneous factory labor, lumbering and electric railways, wages had increased from sixty-six to ninety-seven per cent. These facts apparently are taken from the statistics of the Department of Labor on Wages and Hours of Labor in Canada. The employees contend that the higher percentage in the other trades was due to the low wages existing in these trades in 1913; that the monetary increases which railway employees had received would amount to more than were received by these tradesmen, and that such tradesmen did not enjoy any guarantee of daily or monthly wages. As already referred to herein, the employees pointed out that a considerable number of them did not enjoy any guarantee, and that, as railway traffic fluctuated downwards, junior men were laid off and senior men moved back into the places of spare men, and this process would continue until traffic began to increase, and that by this process hundreds of railway men were without employment for many months in the year, and that only those were able to obtain steady employment who had been in the service for many years.

When I asked the employers if they could furnish information showing the number of men employed from month to month in the classes of service concerned in this dispute, I was informed that such information would probably require months of detailed examination of pay rolls of their preparation. Nevertheless the employers were quite able to have on hand information which would appear to require even much greater detailed examination of pay-rolls and records, such as showing the total amount paid to the classes of employees herein concerned, and the number of hours actually on duty by all of these employees annually, in an endeavor to show the average hourly rate of pay upon the basis of the number of hours actually on duty by each employee.

Illustrations of runs were selected by the employers, showing the location of the run, the total regular miles in the month, the total number of hours worked, together with the total runs and the average hourly basis, no doubt introduced to suggest to the Board how well paid the employees were for the actual time employed in these runs. However, it appears from the information given by the employees that, although the men are on duty in many cases less than eight hours in order to complete the hundred miles or more, there are other circumstances in connection with the case. To illustrate—Moncton and Halifax passenger run was introduced by the company showing that, having regard to the time actually worked, the Conductor earns \$1.24 an hour and the Brakeman 85 cents per hour. But the facts developed in that case indicated that the men come on duty at 7.30 in the morning and are actually not relieved until 11 o'clock at night. They are away from home during that entire period and are under expense at the distant terminal. At the conclusion of the going trip, they wait at the distant terminal until their train is due to leave for the home trip. This is but one illustration of expense and inconvenience involved in their work.

While a large number of men have a monthly mileage guarantee, it would appear that this is beneficial only to men who have been in the service for upwards of fifteen years. The men on the spare list may get quite a considerable amount of work during the month or they may only get a very few days work. It is largely governed by the amount of traffic moving.

During the winter months, and in fact for many months each year in Western Canada, hundreds of these men are out of employment at periods of the year when little or no other employment is available, and they begin to move back into the service just at the time when other employment would be available. There is, therefore, only steady employment for men who have had long years of service, while for hundreds of others their employment on the Railways may not exceed three or four months in the year. It will therefore be seen that employment in this kind of railway work is just as "seasonal" as that of the building trades, and other employment. No definite information as to the extent of the irregularity of this employment was available, but the employers contended that this was a large factor in fixing the higher rates of wages for building trades and like occupations. To my mind a

full and complete investigation into this phase of the problem must be had if the public is to be informed as to the extent men in Railway service are really in the position of following a seasonal vocation, and before any tribunal can properly estimate this factor in regard to making recommendations as to rates of wages.

The report of the Department of Labor in Canada entitled "Wages and Hours of Labor in Canada, 1920 to 1925", issued in January, 1926, shows that, while the wages of these employees have remained stationary since 1922, the wages of other somewhat similar classes of labor have advanced. No data are available for 1926, but I happen to know of my personal knowledge that the building trades in the City of Winnipeg are this year receiving from 15 cents to 20 cents per hour more than they did last year, being an increase averaging around 20 per cent. It might be noted that with the building trades and other such employment, the employer increases the price of his building, and the additional cost is thus passed on to the public where it is taken as a matter of course, but the moment the Railway employees seek an increase in wages it becomes a country-wide matter, and the employers proceed to estimate it in large sums, their basic calculations including all employees receiving a similar increase, including everybody in the service up to the Presidents of the Railways, and this large sum is publicly announced, together with the declaration by the Railways that they cannot grant such an increase in wages and maintain their financial prosperity on the existing freight and passenger rates. Public hostility is thus invited to the demands of the employees, and if the burden of increased freight rates ultimately takes place, the public at least believes it is due to the excessive wages paid to these employees despite the efforts of the Railway management to protect the public against such injustice. This all reminds one of the coal miners' strikes in Pennsylvania, which occur regularly and which seem to end in conceding a few cents per ton (to the miners) and thus to the owners of the mines are forthwith privileged to add a few dollars per ton to their price of coal to the consumers.

Similar employees in the United States received an increase of six per cent in wages since 1921. The results of these increases in the United States accentuates the dissatisfaction now prevailing in Canada among these employees.

(On the heading of "Increased earnings of railways warranting an increase in wages, if earnings is a factor to be considered," Mr. Campbell said:

I may say that I agree with the view that the railway's gross or net earnings, its freight and passenger rates, profits, and losses, are not elements which enter into the fixing of wages. Their wages at best, having regard to the nature of their employment, involving as it does board and lodgings away from home, are nothing more than a living wage. In the eighty-seven selected examples of earnings of Conductors for the month of July, 1926, exhibited to the Board by the employees, there were five cases where the monthly wages for Conductors exceed \$300.00, while on the other hand the wages for eleven out of these eighty-seven Conductors were less than \$200.00 for a full month. When one realizes the years of work which a man must go through before he is promoted to a Conductor, the fact that he must be away from home every time he earns a day's pay, and often away several days at a time, and that he must report for duty in all kinds of weather, and at any time and all hours of the day or night, one is rather surprised at the very modest wages thus earned. The brakemen's pay in these same examples range from about \$150 to \$200, and no doubt brakemen who are able at that time of the year to hold a steady run have been in the service for a period of probably fifteen years.

As stated in my opening remarks under this topic, I do not consider that Railway earnings or profits or the absence of them should be permitted to stand in the way of any reasonable or proper wage demand. If these are a factor to be taken into account we should also consider to what extent these railways have benefited and are benefiting to-day from the bountiful concessions in land and money freely given to them by this country. It should also be considered that an employer like the Canadian Pacific Railway has assets valued, probably, at one billion dollars, against which there exists only two hundred and sixty millions of common stock, and that its replacements and improvements have been and are being paid for out of its earnings instead of by capital investment, to say nothing of its constantly increasing huge real estate. Moreover, the burden of the financial success of any concern must never be thrust upon its employees nor act as a denial to their rights.

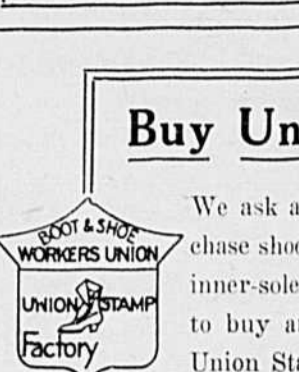
As pointed out elsewhere in this report, Brigades which fully and exhaustively investigated wages and conditions of these employees in the United States recognized that their wages were not incidental to the Railway's earnings. It was rather the reverse. Until there is to be a profit sharing with employees there can be no incidence between wages and earnings.

In the course of the hearings it developed that these classes of employees in the United States were demanding the same rates of pay as are claimed here and that their demands are under investigation and consideration by the United States Railway Labor Board. Doubtless the same careful and complete survey of all matters relating to these employees and their demands has heretofore characterized their labors will be made, and in the absence of such an investigation in Canada, and having regard to what I have already said with reference to conditions in Canada as compared with the United States, the decision of the United States Railway Labor Board should when given out be accepted by the parties here.

I therefore recommend:—

1. That former differentials in favor of these employees in Canada be restored;
2. That the increase of six per cent awarded by the United States Railway Labor Board to these classes of employees upwards of two years ago be now adopted here, and that the decision of that Board as to specific rules be also adopted;

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MEMORIES OF SAMUEL GOMPERS ON ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

It is two years since Samuel Gompers passed away in San Antonio, Texas, returning home from the inauguration of Plutarco Elias Calles, whom he greatly admired, as president of Mexico. He died on December 13, 1924.

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There had been a great, dramatic convention of the American Federation of Labor in El Paso, the colorful pagant-like inauguration in Mexico, where the American labor chief was a center of attention and admiration on a splattered platform in a great arena, surrounded by diplomats, soldiery and citizenry. There had been a convention of the Pan-American Federation to honor him with his last re-election.

And then the pain-wracked journey down the mountain, over the drab desert of Mexico, as drab as the hope of life in the broken frame. And then the gallant fight in San Antonio to win back strength to go on—and finally death in the early morning.

It is two years since these things happened. Two years—and men do not forget; nor will they for yet many years upon years.

Province of Quebec District of Montreal SUPERIOR COURT

No. 7718

Name SARAH TRACHTENBERG, of the City and District of Montreal, wife common as to property with Isaac Frieman, of the same place, Plaintiff.

VS

ISAAC FRIEMAN, of the City and District of Montreal, merchant, Defendant.

An action in separation as to property has this day been instituted in this cause, Montreal, 15th November 1926

I. Popliger, Attorney for Plaintiff.

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