

THE TRADES UNIONIST

Issued by the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, in the interests of Organized Labor.

VOLUME III, No. 4

VANCOUVER, B. C., APRIL, 1908

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Proceedings of Vancouver Trades and Labor Council.

The regular fortnightly meeting of the Trades and Labor Council was held on March 19. The greater part of the session was devoted to the revision of the Constitution and By-Laws. These were only partially finished and will be finally disposed of at an early date.

After the reading and approval of the minutes the following communications were disposed of: City Clerk re reduction in city laborers' wages filed; E. Milton Small re Co-operative Association.

The following credentials were received: Electrical Workers, E. C. Knight, H. L. Fitzgerald and A. Montgomery; Builders' Laborers, A. Kennedy.

President McVety and Vice-President Pettipiece, who at a previous meeting had been appointed to represent the Council at the annual meeting of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society in Victoria, both made extended verbal reports as to what had taken place there. As full reports appeared in the daily papers at the time it will not be necessary to again repeat them. Suffice to say that the reports were received with manifest appreciation by the delegates and the Council approves the good work done by this association.

The bartenders announced that they had removed the union card from the New Fountain hotel for cause.

The Street Railway men called attention to the excessive cost of funerals.

Cigar makers reported that business still continues dull and urged all union men to look the blue label on cigar boxes.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters having leased the hall in which they had been meeting will again have their headquarters in Labor Hall.

The Typographical Union delegates reported that the Times office on Georgia street was not a union shop. They also gave notice that in the course of a short time they would start an active label campaign and asked the support of all delegates. A committee of three was appointed to wait on the theatre managers in

the city to urge them to put the label on their work Dels. Dutton, Ley and Sayers were appointed.

A motion was passed that one hour of the last meeting of the month be devoted to general matters pertaining to labor aside from routine business.

The meeting of the Trades and Labor Council held on April 2 was well attended and proved to be most interesting.

Credentials were received as follows Cigarmakers, H. Heuft and R. Purschouse; Garment Workers, Bro. Greenwell; Cooks and Waiters, H. Harder and J. Arneson; Bricklayers, James Corney; Machinists, W. White and A. Fenton.

A new addition to the members of the Council is that of the Wood,

Wire and Metal Lathers who will be represented by Harvey Norton, James Finlayson, Frank Dempster and Robt. Burnett.

Communications were received as follows:

From Hon. H. E. Young, Minister of Education, in reference to what the government had done in the matter of free school books. The communication is published in full in another part of this issue.

From P. M. Draper, Secretary of the Dominion Trades Congress, as follows:

Ottawa, March 18, 1908.

Mr. Harry Cowan, Secretary,

Trades and Labor Council.

Dear Sir and Brother:—I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 6th, respecting the representations made by the Executive of the Congress to the Dominion Government of the Japanese question. The executive presented the resolution passed upon the subject at Winnipeg and stated that it represented the matured judgment of the Congress and that we emphasized every word in it. We further stated that we ob-

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served that Hon. Mr. Lemleux was reported to have made arrangements in the mater, but that we are not concerned with methods but with results. If the grievance has been removed, well and good. If not, we would be heard from again.

Fraternally yours,

P. M. DRAPER.

The secretary was instructed to write Mr. Draper for further information as the foregoing was not satisfactory.

G. A. Kilpatrick tendered his resignation as Sergeant-at-Arms as he is leaving the city. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to him expressing regret at his departure and thanking him for his very useful services to the trades union movement in Vancouver.

Organizer Pettipiece tendered his resignation as chairman of the Organization Committee, which was accepted. He announced that he was compelled to do this as at present he had more on hand than he could attend to.

Organizer Pettipiece announced that the Brewery Workers had been organized last Sunday and that they would soon be in good shape both

as regards their union and their schedule.

The committee appointed to visit the theatres re the label on their printed matter reported progress. They announced that both the Orpheum and Grand and Pantages had promised to see that it appeared on all their work, but as two weeks had elapsed and it had not appeared, they wanted further time to interview the management of these places to see if they intended to stick to their promises.

A delegation from the Structural Workers' Alliance addressed the Council in reference to holding a labor parade in the spring with the object of impressing on the newcomers the necessity of getting into the union of their calling. Later in the meeting the delegates were instructed to take the matter up with their respective unions and report at the next meeting of the Council.

The Cooks and Waiters have in view an endeavor to place white cooks in a large number of restaurants and hotels in the city and they desired the assistance of the Council. Dels. Sayers and Aickin were appointed a committee to assist.

The Plumbers asked what action was being taken re the announcement of the Employers' association in regard to the Workmen's Compensation Act. The delegate was informed that as the act could not be amended until the next session of the Legislature the matter would be watched closely.

Bricklayers—Of about 200 men on our rolls only about 50 are working.

Cigarmakers reported that business continues dull in their line. The Cabello Cigar Factory having signed up the scale was entitled to use the blue label.

The Printers' label was again discussed and it was unanimously agreed to push it with zeal.

The Tailors reported that they had issued a card containing the names of the shops where the label would be put on and members were urged to patronize them.

The Bartenders reported the New Fountain Hotel still on the unair list.

The C. P. R. have given notice of the abrogation of all agreements existing in the mechanical departments. This will probably affect about 5000 men. Such was the report of the Machinists.

Del. Ley of the Tailors was elected sergeant-at-arms.

BUILDERS' LABORERS.

Work in our line is still quiet. Although quite a number of the members are working they have considerable broken time. Members would do well to attend their union meetings more regular at this time of the year, especially the various shop stewards. They could considerably assist the agent to get things in shape for the coming season as their cooperation is badly needed to help to get the unemployed members started to work on the larger jobs. At this time of the year every one of us ought to be especially vigilant and turn our attention towards perfecting our organization, and that cannot be done by men who are continually knocking unionism by saying that the union cannot find them a job. Remember the union does not employ you and although in times like they were for a short period last summer, when the contractors would come or phone to the union headquarters for men, it was not because they took any particular interest in your welfare but simply because it was a matter of convenience to themselves, there not being the crowd of men around the jobs there are now and the number to pick from.

Another thing to be remembered is that the tactics of unions are changing considerably. To be a good unionist one has to try and interest himself and others, not necessarily union men, but at all events workmen, in labor politics and the labor movement generally. Re-

member your union is not the only one that you can work for. By demanding the union label on your tobacco, clothes, laundry and other necessities you cause a demand for union labor to the detriment of the non-unionist it is true, but in the long run the non-unionist sees the policy of organization and finally gets into the fight for better conditions himself. The up-to-date, or at least the coming, tactics of unionism are, legislation for the worker alone.

Never mind the capitalist or employers' side of the question. They will take care of themselves. But without our help at the ballot box on election day they will find themselves considerably handicapped. With our own class legislating for us, either in municipal or government councils, we will not have the repetition of a body of men like our present city council raising the salaries of heads of departments and reducing the miserable wages of the city laborers practically at the same time. Remember that, those of you who have a vote at civic elections.

Fraternity amongst ourselves is also essential. Help your fellow worker all you can. Don't go around saying he is no good or that you can do more in one hour than he can in four. Those yarns generally reach the boss, and although the man may not be as good as others it is the boss' place to find that out himself. Many a poor devil has got his "time" through no fault of his, but through the damnable habit of his fellow-workers gossiping about him.

Meetings for April 7 and 21.

P.

By an overwhelming majority telegraphers on the Northern Pacific Railroad have rejected the proposition made by the road with regard to a new schedule of hours and wages to become effective on March 4, when the "hours of service law" goes into effect.

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IMPORTED LABOR.

Editor Trades Unionist:


I see by the local press that the Salvation Army, in conjunction with other philanthropic institutions, are meeting with very flattering success in their efforts to supply the wants of the long-suffering British Columbian housewife with domestics imported from Europe, and our government, encouraged by the press, are heartily applauding their further and successful efforts in raking the industrial slums of London, Manchester and other centers of European population and dumping their accumulated conglomeration of victims of European economic injustice into the already congested labor market of British Columbia. Now, while the sincerity of these people may be beyond question, I certainly doubt the wisdom of their judgment. Why do these people, with the applause of our government (elected to represent the interests of all the people) under the cloak of charity, real or assumed, use their influence to prevent the betterment of the condition of the Canadian domestic, the most defenseless, underpaid and socially humiliated workers of present conditions, in order to better the condition of the foreign domestic or assist the Canadian mistress of this nation in obtaining cheaper help? Why interject artificial conditions in the field of domestic labor, thus preventing the natural law of supply and demand working out its legitimate end? Why not, as in other callings, allow the demand to regulate the supply, wages and conditions which will, if let alone, eventually raise to a point that will induce our girls to abandon the factory and the sweat shop, and thus restore once again the normal and natural conditions, making room in these callings requiring greater strength, and for the aged and feeble who often have families dependent upon them and who cannot engage in other callings requiring greater strength, agility and endurance, thus removing budding Canadian womanhood from the temptations that are rapidly demoralizing, morally and physically, those engaged in these callings. Mild sarcasm may be somewhat misplaced in this case, but I sometimes feel that these spectacular charitable institutions are not very distantly related to that other charitable British Columbia organization, the (Gardiner-Johnson) Asiatic Emigration Bureau, whose object in importing Japanese some time ago, was not for the money that was in it but rather for the purpose of securing industrial scavengers to engage exclusively in the lower callings of labor which the Canadian industrial aristocrat shuns with horror. The Asiatic has more than fulfilled the intention of their self-sacrificing benefactors for our industries are now

being operated by Asiatics, while Canadian labor, elevated to the condition of industrial tramps, walks our streets in idleness or clothed in scanty attire, sucks a half-empty dudgeon on the street corners, pausing at intervals to display his ignorance and ingratitude by sneering at his moon-eyed benefactors whose presence here has been a blessing which has enabled him like his Apache Indian prototype, to live in idleness and indulge in the luxuries of the municipal soup trough at the public expense. But assuming these people to be strictly honest and moved only by the most humane motives are not conditions most damnable, where a kindly act, intended to confer a blessing upon the victims of misfortune in Europe or Asia, becomes transformed into a curse to the victims of misfortune in Canada. But now that financial paralysis is upon us and grim want has taken up his abode in the home of Canadian labor, why could not the kindly efforts of these charitably disposed people be directed in another channel, having for its destination a modification of our tariff laws that will enable the Canadian labor to secure the necessities of life more cheaply, rather than in importing cheap labor to promote the interest of the protected employer at the expense of unprotected labor. Charity which expends its efforts in promoting the interest of the home on the boulevard at the expense of the home on the alley is hardly of the Nazarine order. Again, charity extended to the needy foreigner at the expense of the needy at home, partakes strongly of the Pharisee character. Fellow-workmen you have only yourselves to blame. Devote a fraction of your time to studying these questions with a universal ballot in your

possession. Ignorance alone can explain this inequality, this injustice of which you are the victim. Cease hurling brickbats and sneers at the Japs and other foreigners. They are not to blame. They are doing identically what you would do under similar circumstances, under treaty rights coming here to better their condition. Let me illustrate: Wages in Japan are 17 cents per day; in British Columbia, \$2.00 per day. Multiply 17 cents, the prevailing wage in Japan, by 12 and you have approximately \$2.00, or Canadian wages. Now let us reverse these conditions and multiply the wage for labor in British Columbia, \$2.00 per day, by 12 and you have \$24 per day in Japan. What would be the result? Why, every means of conveyance, from a pile driver to an ocean liner would be brought into requisition and the bosom of the Pacific Ocean would be crowded with British Columbians rushing to the new Eldorado. Surely these people have committed no crime against either you or your country that you would not be guilty of yourselves under similar circumstances. Then apply the blame where it legitimately belongs, at Ottawa, and learn to exercise your ballot in your own interest. Learn to teach these people that this class legislation and misplaced philanthropy must cease. Teach them that you, too, as well as the foreigner and the protected Canadian employer have interests to be considered in this connection, and that you propose that it shall have consideration if you have to secure control of the government to attain that end.

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THE ASIATIC QUESTION.

The following article recently appeared in the Coast Seaman's Journal and while it deals with the question as applied to California it is on all fours with the conditions prevailing on this side of the line:

The demand for the exclusion of Asiatics is based upon three grounds, the racial, the political and the economic. Considering these grounds in the inverse order of their importance, let us briefly review the economic features of the question.

Centuries of habit and necessity have inured the Asiatic to a standard of living far below that of the Caucasian, especially that of the American people. The ability of the Asiatics to maintain themselves under conditions that would spell extinction to the Caucasian is illustrated by the fact that Japan, with an area but little less than that of California, maintains a population of between 40,000,000 and 50,000,000, as compared with 2,000,000 in the latter territory. Of course, California can support a much larger population; but even with a population as large as that of Japan, that state would still enjoy an advantage over the latter country in point of natural resources.

Wages being governed mainly by the standard of living, the Asiatic is able to work, live, and even thrive, according to his own standard, upon a wage that would mean pauperism in an average American community, even when compared with the sweatshop scales prevailing in densely populated centers. It is useless to talk of raising the Asiatic to the Caucasian standard in these respects, since the former's standard is second nature to him, and can not be changed except by a process of evolution.

The disposition and ability of the Asiatic to work for wages below the "subsistence limit" of the Caucasian has its counterpart in the peculiar adaptability of the former to the in-

dustrial system of the times. Here arises the question of relative superiority or inferiority in the races. Whatever may have been the position assumed by Exclusionists in the past, to-day the demand for Asiatic exclusion is in itself an admission, more or less frankly acknowledged, of the superiority of that race, in the economic sense at least.

In the present machine age of industry, that class or labor which by natural disposition most nearly conforms to the characteristics of the machine, possesses an advantage in securing and holding employment over those classes characterized more by human than by machine-like traits. The patience, docility and plodding instinct of the Asiatic are proverbial. These characteristics fit the Asiatic for employment in modern industry with all the nicety and precision of an actual piece of mechanism. In competition for employment the Caucasian is hopelessly outclassed by the Asiatic, where economic considerations alone prevail with the employer, by reason not only of the lower wage standard but also of the superior adaptability of the latter.

Many industries have already been invaded, and several of these practically monopolized, by Asiatics. The tendency of this condition may be noted by a glance at the effect produced in one industry, that of domestic service. The common complaint of householders, that they are compelled to employ Chinese or Japs because white girls refuse to work as domestic servants implies an inversion of cause and effect. In other words, the employment of Asiatics in domestic service is not an effect but a cause of the refusal of white girls to accept employment in that capacity. The field of domestic service being largely occupied by Asiatics, the white girl or woman is averse to entering it because of the degradation with which it is associated in

her mind. A similar attitude is manifested toward other industries in which Asiatics are largely employed.

Frequently an attempt is made to justify the employment of Asiatics upon the grounds, first, that the wage rates of white labor are too high to admit of profitable production, and, secondly, that cheap labor is a necessity to the development of natural resources. Again, it is quite freely asserted that Asiatic labor is desirable in certain lines in order that the white man may avoid the hardship and indignity of the so-called menial tasks.

Concerning the first of these grounds, the fact is that the "high wages" demanded by the white worker are high only as compared with the Asiatic standard. In essence the refusal to employ white men is based chiefly upon the ground that the latter refuse to work for the Asiatic rate of wages.

The argument for the employment of Asiatics as a means of developing natural resources, so far as it holds good at all, may be answered by saying that no argument of this kind can hold as against the necessity of maintaining Caucasian supremacy. If we must choose between the development of natural resources, with a consequent development of the Asiatic standard of living, and the loss of such resources in order that the Caucasian standard shall be maintained, every consideration of patriotism and self-preservation—every consideration other than the purely financial one—demands that we choose the latter alternative. Better a partly-undeveloped country of free white men, than a fully developed country of landlords, peons and "poor whites."

The suggestion that certain forms of labor should be abandoned to the Asiatic, as unworthy the dignity of the Caucasian, is repugnant, chiefly because it suggests the caste idea, an idea which, in proportion as it gains general acceptance, tends to establish conditions of social inequality which are certain to endanger the whole social structure. In any

proper conception of the "dignity of labor" there is no room for distinction between one kind of labor and another; all kinds of labor are equally honorable. The man dignifies the work, not the work the man. Whatever practical ground may have existed in the past for this attempted distinction, the obvious fact of to-day is that there exists an overabundance of white labor for the performance of all classes of work. The assumed fact that without Chinese labor the first transcontinental railroad could not have been built at the time of that undertaking can no longer be cited to justify the continued immigration of Asiatics. The labor question of to-day is one, not of importing labor but of employing the labor already available.

The economic results of Asiatic immigration are very well illustrated by the conditions now prevailing in the Hawaiian Islands. In that territory, as a result of the continuous demand for cheap labor, democracy has been succeeded by plutocracy. The various steps in this process are clearly set forth by Professor John R. Commons, in his recent work, "Races and Immigrants in America," from which we quote as follows:

"The way plutocracy looks when it has passed the incipient stage may be seen in Hawaii. It is as though we had annexed those islands in order to watch in our own back yard the fruit of excessive immigration. A population of 154,000 furnishes 65,000 Hawaiians, Portuguese, and other Caucasians. The Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans have 87,000 population and no votes. The American contingent is some 17,000 souls and 3,000 votes. The latter represent four classes of interests; the capitalist planters owning two-thirds of the property; superintendents, engineers, and foremen managing the plantation labor; skilled mechanics; small employers, merchants and farmers. In order to get plantation labor and to keep the supply too large and diversified for concerted wage demands, the planters imported contract Chinese in place of Hawai-

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shift remedy for the exactions of unions and the development of resources. More immigration requires perpetually more and still more, till the resulting plutocracy seeks to save itself by servile labor. A moderate amount of immigrant labor, assimilated and absorbed into the body politic, stimulates industry and progress, but an excessive and indigestible amount leads to the search for coercive remedies and ends in the stagnation of industry. The Protective tariff was supposed to build up free American labor, but in Hawaii, with unrestricted immigration, it has handed us American plutocracy."

Professor Commons, in the same work, casts a powerful light upon the general race question and its bearing upon the economic struggle of the Caucasian. Although these observations are made with particular reference to the negro, in essence they apply equally to the Asiatic. Professor Commons says:

"The Souther planter was not hostile to the negro slave—he was his friend and protector. His nurse was the negro 'mammy,' his playmates were her children, and the mulatto throws light on his views of equality. It was the poor white who hated the negro and fled from his presence to the hills and the frontier, or sank below his level, despised by white and black. In times of freedom and reconstruction it is not the great landowner or employer that leads in the exhibition of race hostility, but the small farmer or wage-earner. The one derives a profit from the presence of the negro—the other loses his job or his farm. With the progress of white democracy in place of the old aristocracy, as seen in South Carolina, hostility to the negro may be expected to increase. With the elimination of the white laborer, as seen in the black countries, the relations of negro and planter are harmonious.

"So it is in the North. The negro or immigrant strike-breaker is befriended by the employer, but hated by the employee. The Chinaman or Japanese in Hawaii or California is praised and sought after by the employer and householder, but dreaded by the wage-earner and domestic. Investors and landowners see their properties rise in value by the competition of races, but the competitors see their wages and jobs diminish. The increase of wealth intensifies the difference and raises up professional classes to the standpoint of the capitalists. With both of them the privilege of leisure depends on the presents of servants, but the wage-earners do their own work. As the immigrant rises in the scale, the small farmer, contractor, or merchant feels his competition and begins to join in measures of race protection."

The demand for the exclusion of Asiatics, considered from the political viewpoint, is justified by the axioms that the political institutions of a country reflect the character of its people, and that the character of a people is determined by that of the lowest classes, meaning by that, not the lowest in point of social distinction but in point of largest numbers. Whatever the name by which we designate the political institutions are of a country, in nature these institutions are a reflex of the people who compose the base of the social pyramid and upon whom the whole social structure rests. The United States is a country of political liberty and equality, not because it is ordained or maintained by some exterior authority, but because it is composed of a people naturally disposed, and indeed impelled, to assert and maintain equally among themselves. Naturally, too, the instinct of equality has been most assertive among that class which, being dependent entirely upon its labor, has most need of such protection as may be assured by the equitable administration of public affairs, namely, the working class. The declaration that "all men are created equal" could not of itself have established a "government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed." That declaration derived its force and effect from the fact that it expressed a self-evident truth concerning the character of the people in whose name it was issued. Had the fact been otherwise—had the Declaration of Independence expressed a mere abstraction in the minds of its framers, the doctrine of men's equality would, "in the course of human events," have been proved a "glittering generality" and a "self-evident lie."

In proportion, therefore, as Asiatic immigration increases, the character of that element of the people upon whom the stability and perpetuation of free government mainly depends undergoes a change from in-

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dependence to servility. This change operates not only directly in its effect upon the independence of those directly affected by Asiatic immigration, but also indirectly in its effect upon other classes. In proportion as labor becomes servile, and therefore indisposed or unable to assert itself in political affairs, other classes are disposed to ignore it, and even to aggrandize themselves at its expense. Practically speaking, the latter points is immaterial, since, even if they would, the commercial and professional classes could not of themselves maintain the political liberty of the masses. Liberty, in politics as in other respects, can not be given, or if given can not be maintained; it must be taken and held by those who would enjoy it. "Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow!"

Political liberty maintained by one class of the people in the interest of and despite the servile disposition of other classes, is a political anomaly and a physical impossibility. A society thus maintained would resemble a pyramid set upon its apex, and therefore in constant danger of falling. Lincoln's sayings, "A house divided against itself must fall," and "This country can not exist part

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slave and part free" apply with as much force in the case of Asiatic immigration as in the case of chattel slavery, as indeed both cases are identical in essence. It has been well said that "the future of democracy is the future of the working classes." Political liberty must depend for its maintenance upon the maintenance of a people disposed, and in fact determined, by reason and instinct to be free and equal in the sight of all mankind.

The race question is the most important of the grounds upon which Asiatic Exclusion is demanded, because it is the most fundamental—because it forms the basis of all other grounds. The objectionable characteristics of the Asiatic, considered from the economic and political standpoint, are referable to the characteristics of the Asiatic race. The race question is most important upon the further ground that it involves the instinct of race-preservation, which, next to the instinct of self-preservation, is the strongest of all human impulses. In considering the essence of the race question presented by the Asiatic we find that it rests not so much upon physical peculiarities as in the matter of religion and language. It has been observed that, once the religion of a man or nation (not that is professed, but the religion that is actually believed in and acted upon) is determined, it is a simple matter to explain the past and divine the future of that man or nation. In the religion of the Asiatics whether it be called, Shintoism, Buddhism or Confucianism, we find a central thought radically opposed to that which vitalizes Christianity, namely, the idea of divinity in the head of the nation, with its corollary of unquestioning submission to the will of the latter. The Christian religion, as we know, is founded upon the idea of human equality, including the king and the peasant, in the sight of God, the idea so aptly expressed in the declaration, "Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God!" This difference in the re-

ligions of the Asiatic and the Caucasian accounts for the difference in the history of these races, a history in the former case, of despotism and stagnation, and, in the latter case, of liberty and progress.

In language, too, the difference between the Asiatic and the Caucasian is plainly manifested, not only in the matter of its written and printed characters, but in the more important element of sound. A common language is everywhere recognized as the indispensable condition of amalgamation among peoples of different nativity. This condition may be attained in the case of those languages having a common root. The opposite of this condition is illustrated by the "pidgin-English" of the Chinese, a form of expression which, despite the common assumption of its origin as a convenience in business communication between Asiatics and Caucasians, is significant of the gulf that lies between the languages of these races. The domestic, social and sexual customs of the Asiatic, are but so many exemplifications of racial antipathy. We may admire and commend the parental and filial devotion of the Asiatic, but not without scruple at that conception of duty which commands a daughter to sell her body that her parents may have bread. Most Christian parents would prefer to face death rather than live by such means.

It is frequently said that the American people are an "amalgam of the races." This view is correct only so far as it embraces the European races, or peoples; so far as it embraces other races, black or yellow, it clearly begs the question. The original American stock, Puritan and Cavalier, "Saxon and Norman and Dane," was grafted from one soil and transplanted in the New World with the one purpose of creating a nation which should honor the conception of human freedom, freedom of conscience and freedom of opportunity. To the extent that the succeeding generations have honored that conception they have flourished;

NABOB

Tea, Coffee, Spices
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Received Highest Award for Quality
Wherever Exhibited.

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to the extent that they have failed to do so they have suffered. The demand for Asiatic Exclusion can not be answered by a counter-demand for the exclusion of all immigration, upon the ground of equal treatment to the peoples of all nations. Admitting that European immigration, as it has recently developed, constitutes a problem demanding immediate attention, it is after all a problem of quantity, whereas Asiatic immigration is distinctly a problem of quality. These two problems can not be dealt with upon a basis of equality, since they are in their nature different problems.

If the American people would avoid the certainty of another race and sectional problem, they must enforce Asiatic Exclusion, by which alone, as applied to the Chinese, the West has thus far been preserved to the white race. That course, considered from every point of view, is at once justifiable, necessary, lawful and peaceable.

FREE TEXT BOOKS.

After Many Years the Agitation for Free School Books Has Borne Fruit—Letter From Minister of Education.

The question of free school books is a matter that has been advocated by the Trades Councils of British Columbia for many years and we are pleased to announce that their efforts have not been in vain, the provincial government having recently made arrangements to supply readers, arithmetics, copy books and blank books free of cost. This they announce is in the nature of an experiment, but we are satisfied that it will be found a wise policy and extended. If there is one person more than another that is entitled to consideration it is the man and woman who are raising a family in British Columbia. To compel them to send their families to school and then permit them to be robbed by the school book trust is an outrage. The number of books supplied is only a portion of that used in the public

schools, but for a starter it is all right and the Trades Councils of the province will continue the agitation until all books are supplied free and the greater part of them manufactured in this province. The government has not made a start yet on the manufacturing of school books so it will be necessary to keep kicking until they do.

The following letter explains itself and will be pleasing to those who have been fighting for free text books:

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Victoria, Mar. 20, 1908.
Harry Cowan, Esq.,
Trades and Labor Council,
Vancouver, B. C.
Re Free School Books.

Sir:—In reply to your communication of the 16th instant in reference to the above matter, I have much pleasure in saying that the kindly suggestions you gave me when you and Mr. Kernighan were here to interview the government, were of great assistance to me. The Department have had this matter under consideration for some considerable time, and I have finally formulated a scheme by which blank books, copy books, readers and arithmetics are to be furnished free to the schools of British Columbia.

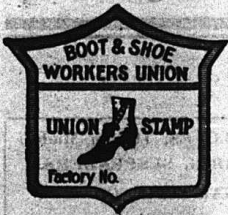
This move is, of course, at present in the nature of an experiment, but we intend to give it a thorough trial, and have no doubt that with careful management the work will prove a great success.

Thanking you for your kindly advice in this matter, I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
H. E. YOUNG,
Minister of Education.

The convention of the United Mine Workers of America at Indianapolis, Ind., on March 20, adopted a provision which levies an assessment of 50 cents a month on all members of the organization for the purpose of assisting members who by failure to secure contract on April 1 may be forced into idleness.

UNDERSTAND



BROTHER UNIONISTS

That the best made shoes—the shoes made under the best manufacturing conditions, the shoes that best stand wear—bear the Union Stamp as shown herewith.

Ask your dealer for Union Stamp Shoes, and if he cannot supply you WRITE

Boot and Shoe Workers' Union

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Ask Your Grocer for Jersey Cream Yeast Cakes and take no other. They are the Best Made. Every Package Guaranteed.

IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

Memorandum Recently Presented to Provincial Government by Executive of Dominion Trades Congress.

The following is the copy of a memorandum presented to the Provincial government during the recent session of the Legislature by the Provincial Executive of the Dominion Trades Congress. It deals very clearly and succinctly with the question of immigration, fair-wage clause in government contracts and the eight-hour day:

Victoria, B. C. 24th Jan., 1908.
Hon. Richard McBride,
Premier,
Victoria, B. C.

Sir:—The undersigned members of the Executive for British Columbia of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, have the honor to state that the annual convention of that body was held last September in the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Among the matters considered, and in regard to which the provincial representatives of the congress were particularly instructed, were the following:

Immigration.

In regard to this very important question we beg to submit the following declaration as describing the attitude of the organized workmen of this province respecting immigration:

"The organized workmen of British Columbia desire to see this province peopled by a free, enlightened, moral, energetic and law-abiding class of citizens, and recognize that this can best be accomplished by immigration from other countries.

"That such immigration should be the spontaneous and voluntary movement of the immigrants themselves, and in this regard we declare against any system of assisted immigration, or the granting of bonuses for that purpose.

"That while every regard should be had for the welfare of those who seek our shores, the first considera-

tion should be the well-being and happiness of our people and the betterment of our common country, and that this consideration requires the exclusion of certain classes of people who, either by temperament, non-assimilation, qualification, habits, customs or want of any permanent good which their coming brings to us, are not a desirable acquisition to our citizenship; and among such undesirable classes we include all Asiatic races and tribes of people."

One of the strongest reasons advanced in favor of assisted immigration in the recent past was the declared scarcity of labor in several trades, as well as for common labor. But the admitted and well known fact is that the so-called scarcity of labor was almost a universal condition caused by the unprecedented activity in manufacture and commerce throughout the world. In our province the prevailing condition was the happy and unusual experience of plenty of work for all that would and could; and while it was claimed by some employers that the industries of the province were suffering for lack of labor, we are glad to note from several sources that the indications are that the year just closed has been the most prosperous in the history of the province. On the other hand, now that industrial stagnation has commenced, although quite recently, and having afflicted Canada but to a slight degree and this province to no appreciable extent, the problem of the unemployed has succeeded the former condition of work for all, in almost every industrial centre of the land.

We submit that bonusing or assisting immigration is not in the best interest of the people as a whole, and can only benefit a small percentage of the population and to an uncertain degree, while it involves moral responsibilities and a possible financial obligation for the community receiving such assisted immigrants.

In view of the above, the government is hereby respectfully requested not to give any subsidies, bonuses or grants for the purpose of importing

or assisting others to import immigrants into the province.

FAIR WAGES.

Another matter on which the congress instructed its provincial representatives was the question of fair wages. The workmen of the province have very decided opinions on this subject. At the present time they find the present standard of wages threatened by the combined effect of two important factors in our economic and industrial life, viz.: that of assisted immigration and an industrial depression.

As the revenue of the Province, which is derived from taxation, direct or otherwise, is created entirely by the development consequent on the presence and thrift of the people at large, it is felt to be no more than the right of the wage-workers to claim fair and full wages on works performed by or for the government, and that the going rate of wages in the community or district in which any particular work is being done should prevail and that a contractor or sub-contractor should not be permitted to deprive his employees of their fair share in the expenditure of the revenue of the province by paying less than the prevailing rate of wages.

To accomplish this object it is requested that an order-in-council be passed, if necessary, providing for a clause to be inserted in all contracts let by the government, guaranteeing the prevailing rate of wages in the place the work is being done, and that a penalty clause be also inserted insuring the due observance of the first.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

The eight-hour day is another matter of great importance to which we beg to draw your attention. The recognition of the justice of the eight-hour day is gradually and surely forcing its way into the various trades, industries and callings throughout Canada, and it is a source of satisfaction and pride to know that British Columbia leads all the rest of the provinces of the Dominion

Commercial Billiard and Pool Rooms

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20 Cordova Street

Gents' Clothing and Furnishings, Hats and Caps.

Union Made Overalls of All Kinds.

Vancouver, B. C.

in the number of trades and the percentage of working people enjoying the eight-hour day, and the benefits accruing therefrom. It is with the confidence inspired by such condition that we request that an act be passed providing for and establishing an eight-hour day on all work or works performed by or for the government, as well as in all work or works carried on with or receiving from the government any bonus, subsidy or exemption which materially assists in the carrying on of such work.

All of which is respectfully submitted for your most favorable consideration.

We have the honor to be, sir,
Sincerely yours,
J. C. WATTERS,
Vice-President.
CHRISTIAN SILVERT,
Secretary.

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We have a work room fitted up with the best Optical grinding plant in the West.

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ARMSTRONG BROS.

Jewelers and Opticians.

609 Hastings St. W.

When Patronizing Our Advertisers Don't Forget to Mention the Trades Unionist.

The Trades Unionist

Issued by the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council.

Published first week in every month.

Subscription Price, 50c per annum; 35c to unions subscribing in a body

News and correspondence columns in charge of Press Committee, elected by the Central Body.

Address all correspondence, communications and exchanges to Business Agent Trades and Labor Council, Labor Hall, Vancouver, B. C.

Advertising patronage in charge of S. J. Gothard. Advertising rates will be supplied upon application at Room 1, 428 Richards St., (upstairs) P. O. Drawer 1239. Telephone 2258.

The Trades Unionist is issued promptly the first week of each month. It aims to furnish the latest and most authoritative information on all matters relating to the labor movement. Contributions are solicited from correspondents elected by their respective unions, to whom they must be held responsible for contents.



MARCH 1908

The Civil Service Commission has certainly stirred up an awful mess at Ottawa. Murder will out.

Now that the discovery has been made that Dunsmuir is a machinist we anxiously await the announcement that he has been made an honorary member of the Machinists' Union.

The National Cash Register Co., of Dayton, Ohio, which parades as a "model factory" (?), is a non-union concern, having refused their printers the eight-hour day. They have an agency in Vancouver.

President Roosevelt recently sent a message to Congress in which he recommended an amendment to the Sherman law so as to make important concessions to capital and labor. In other words that labor unions be permitted to boycott if they want. Limitation of the powers of certain courts regarding injunctions or labor. Passage of an employers' li-

ability bill. Surely there must be an election in sight? Yes, come to think of it the presidential elections will take place next fall. And for this reason these measures stand a good chance of going through. A sop to labor

The aldermen sent the policemen's clothing east but they got cold feet when a little later the firemen's uniforms had to be dealt with and inserted a clause providing that they must be made in the city.

"Gwen" has come to the rescue of the Mount Pleasant band and all is well. If the members of the aforesaid organization have any sense of gratitude in them they will each proceed to buy a copy of "Why Not, Sweetheart?"

There will be a very large amount of money spent, public and otherwise, on the tercentenary at Quebec this summer that could be more profitably employed in other directions. It simply means that it will be a society event and of no permanent benefit.

The Buck Stove Co. have been granted a permanent injunction by the Supreme Court of the United States restraining labor papers from publishing a "We Don't Patronize" list. But that don't follow that trades unionists in Vancouver are compelled to buy these stoves. They are sold here.

When people visit Chinatown their protests arise to heaven against the filthy conditions prevailing there. Yet that is the normal condition of life of the ordinary Chinaman. They supply a very large proportion of our food whether we eat at home or in a restaurant. Our stomachs are as inconsistent as our brains.

We very much regret to announce the retirement of G. A. Kilpatrick from the Trades and Labor Council. He had been in the service of the city for some time and when the recent cut was made in wages he could not see his way clear to accept. He has gone to Alberni. As a representative from the Civic Employees' Union he was a model delegate, always willing to undertake his share in the work and constant in his attendance.

During the recent meeting of the Independent Labor Party of Great Britain the delegates, representing over 1,000,000 members, unanimously passed the following resolution: "The House of Lords being an irresponsible part of the legislature and of necessity representative of interests opposed to the general well-being, is a hindrance to national progress and ought to be abolished" It looks very much like as though the average Englishman is being weaned from the old belief that he

"dearly loves a lord" If this question could be submitted to the people of Great Britain by itself they would vote by an overwhelming majority to do away with this outfit.

We are pleased to announce that the Taylor Milling and Elevator Company, of Lethbridge, Alberta, is a strictly union institution and all their output carries the label on their sacks. They manufacture the "Pride of Alberta" and "Mother's Favorite" flours. You might ask your grocer for it the next time and tell him the reason why.

The proprietors of the Ladies' Home Journal and Saturday Evening Post have recently sent out letters to the effect that these journals are printed by union labor. This is not true. They are "scab" publications and should be shunned by all who believe in fair treatment. The hypocritical Mr Curtis, president of this company, promised his employees the eight-hour day but when it came time to deliver the goods he went back on it.

The minds of our civic solons certainly passeth understanding. They acknowledge that no increase in expenses should be encouraged and they put their beliefs into action by cutting down the wages of the pick and shovel men. Then their minds change again, possibly on account of a change in the moon, and they proceed to increase the wages of those employed in the City Hall at a great rate. Now we have no objection to those employed in the City Hall receiving first-class wages, but isn't it contemptible, not to say inhuman, that the poor devil that has to work outside in the open in all sorts of inclement weather and a comparatively small number of days in the year should have his miserable stipend cut when those under more fortunate conditions have theirs raised. But what can be expected from such an aggregation?

Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, recently returned from a visit to Mexico. Interviewed he said that Mexico was an ideal place for investment. No fear of Socialist legislation. Vested interests were protected. The whole resources of the state were at the disposal of corporations to see that they were protected. It is said that this announcement was received with great satisfaction by the commercial interests in Montreal. Now Mexico has for years been ruled by a military dictator named Diaz, who takes good care that the working class are kept in thorough subjection. This accounts for Mr. Clouston's enthusiasm. He complains that in Canada there is no security for capital that at any time the people are liable to take hold of a public monopoly and run it

themselves and the poor capitalist has no place to lay his head. Terrible! terrible! But cheer up Clouston, you take too severe a view of it. There are still a few instances here where capital can do as it likes. The C.P.R. and our banks for instance. We live in dread of the announcement that the Bank of Montreal has left us bag and baggage to settle in the capitalist paradise, Mexico.

Say, Mr. Union Man, when you go into a barber shop to get some work done do you make enquiries whether they have the union card? If you don't are you not forgetting part of your obligation? The other day the writer ran across a man who doesn't belong to any union and he told him that he had never patronized a non-union shop since the barbers went out on strike for a shorter work-day. Now the shop he left lost a good customer and no doubt many more did just the same thing. Asked why he did this he said that the one thing that he particularly liked in the trades union movement was the question of short hours and he would not support anyone who bucked it.

Our Lieut.-Governor does not intend to sell out his interests and retire to the Old Country. More's the pity. When it was announced that he intended to do so it undoubtedly was received with great pleasure by a very large number of people in this Province. If there is one man in British Columbia for whom the working class has a righteous contempt it is the man occupying the highest position in this Province. He has been like an evil genius, marring the prosperity of one of the fairest portions of the Dominion. He has been a consistent and insistent hater of trades unions and has used his enormous wealth to pursue those in his employ who dared to become a member of such. Recently he gave out an interview in the east in which he said that British Columbia could never be prosperous until the labor situation was improved — meaning until labor unions were destroyed. But let not Mr. Dunsmuir lay this flattering hope to his soul for he and his band of funkeys will be giving indigestion to worms when the trades unions will be growing in strength. A recent two-page write-up in the Province—probably paid for—tried to embellish the record of this man, but it can't be done. Let us repeat again the story of his recent traitorous conduct towards British Columbia. A man rich beyond the dreams of avarice, holding great public domains, one would think would be animated by some degree of patriotism. But, no; when he desired labor in his mines he entered into a contract with the Canadian Nippon Supply Co. to furnish him with 500 min-

(Continued on page 10.)

When Patronizing Our Advertisers Don't Forget to Mention the Trades Unionist.

Nicola Valley Coal and Coke Co., Limited

In addition to direct railway communication here is some of the development work accomplished to date:—Number 1 mine, main tunnel with counter tunnel 1150 feet, air stope 900 feet, seven chutes, tipples and automatic scales, bunkers, and all appurtenances.

—Number 2 seam, 1350 feet of tunnel with counter tunnel, 21 chutes, tippie with automatic scales, bunkers, blacksmith shop, etc.

Railway siding to both tipples owned by the Company, connecting with the Nicola branch of the C.P.R.

—A town midway between the tipples less than a quarter of a mile from either, consisting of offices, workmen's houses, bunk houses, wash houses, cook houses, dining rooms, stores, barber shop, water-works, etc., etc.

Our mining facilities are unique—no hoisting, no pumping, no expensive shafting or machinery—coal tunnels enter a sidehill; coal comes out on an easy grade, mines are self-draining. In this particular alone the savings will equal a small dividend on the Company's capitalization.

The mines are developed to-day to a production of 400 tons per day and in a few months this will be doubled.

Our organization is simply straightforward and business-like. Our capitalization is very low when the value of the mine is concerned, yet ample for all financial requirements. The stock has not been watered to enrich promoters. It has all been sold at par. It has been pronounced the most conservative and business-like mining proposition ever offered in this province.

The Directors are all well-known Vancouver business men.

The very best management and engineering skill are in charge. The results of last year's work amply prove this.

The future is certain and will undoubtedly be of a most satisfactory nature to all our shareholders.

Only a few hundred shares are left at par value, \$100 per share.

Do you think an opportunity for making an investment in such a proposition should be considered? We don't ask you to buy at a few cents on the prospect of some chimerical rise. We ask you to investigate it only as a substantial, permanent dividend-paying business proposition.

Don't you think it is worth while?

Further information cheerfully afforded.

S. J. CASTLEMAN

Financial Agent

IMPERIAL BLOCK

VANCOUVER, B. C.

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We Sell Union Made in All Our Branches

Men's Clothing, Hats, Caps,

Trunks, Bags and Valises.

Sole Agents for

Fincks' Railroad King Overalls and Sargent Gloves.

JOHNSTON, KERFOOT & CO.

125 and 127 Hastings St. W.

(Continued from page 8.)

ers. He knew at the time that the whole spirit of the people of this Province was opposed to the immigration of these alien and servile people. The legislature over which he presided had on many occasions given expression to this feeling by resolution and otherwise and yet in the face of this he, as an employer of labor, set his signature to a contract which virtually arranged for so much slave labor. The act in itself was a flagrant violation of the Alien Labor Law and yet the Dominion government has such a contempt for its own laws that it permits him to still occupy his present high position. Go on, James Dunsmuir; pile up your wealth; build castles covering acres of ground; fill the daily press with laudatory articles as much as you may, but you can never take a place in the affections of the people, and mothers will still use your name to frighten disobedient children.

In Grand Rapids, Mich., lives a man by the name of Post who for some time has sold to the public deceptions known as Grape Nuts and Postum. For a while he was president of the Citizens' Alliance, an organization formed for the purpose of disrupting labor unions. He spends a considerable amount of his money in publishing advertisements reviling the latter. Lately the products of his factory have been made the subject of investigation under the Pure Food laws of the United States, with the result that it has been found that the representations made as to Grape Nuts is untrue and the wholesaler selling it was fined \$60. He will now have an opportunity to spend some of his money abusing the judge and chemists who have exposed his fake foodstuffs. It is the same with all these union busters. Dig down deep enough and you will find them all fakirs.

Some years ago the highest court in England interpreted a law so that the funds of unions might be attacked by any unscrupulous corporation that

desired to do so. We refer to the Taff Vale decision. But it was a blessing in disguise for it forced the unions to elect men of their own class to represent them in parliament. This they did at the last general election when over fifty members were elected on the labor ticket and now form a separate and distinct party in the House of Commons. If the recent decisions in the United States will have but this effect it will also be a blessing. It is an anomaly and a disgrace to the great mass of workers in the United States that they have so few of their own class in Congress to represent their interests. But the movement is growing, slow but sure, and the time is not far distant when united action will land in Congress a body of men who will make the corporation grafter and their tools on the Supreme Court bench realize that danger is in sight for them.

Revv. Macdonell, editor of the Toronto Globe, recently delivered an address to some fellow person in which he gave utterance to the following:

"Referring to the immigration problem, Mr. Macdonell declared that to-day it was not a question as to how it was going to affect labor or capital, but how it was going to affect citizenship. He said that the Japanese could not be made a citizen for the reason that, when he came to Canada or the United States, his friends gave their bond that they would get him back if necessary.

"The genius of Japan," said he, "is not democratic; it is autocratic. Democracy suits us, but not them. We do not live under a government—we are the government—that is the difference between absolutism and democracy."

The east is slowly but surely becoming enlightened on this question. The trouble is though, it will take such a long time that British Columbia will be beyond saving.

Demand the label and assist your fellow-unionists.

A GOOD UNION STORY.

Does it hit any union man in Vancouver. Only the guilty ones need take exception.

A short time ago the writer visited the central body of a city in Kansas. During the evening one of the delegates arose and moved that a certain merchant, whom we will call "John Doe," be placed on the unfair list. The motion was seconded by another delegate.

It appeared that John Doe was having a home built. He had an architect draw the plans, and then the contract was let to a certain firm, who, in turn, sublet the contracts for the different work, and one branch of the work had been granted to a contractor who employed non-union labor.

After the motion had been put by the presiding officer, a delegate in the rear of the hall arose to speak to the question, and, as near as is possible, the writer will repeat the speech:

"Mr. Chairman and Brothers, I want to ask a question of the mover and seconder of the motion: Have you the union label in your hat, shoes and clothing?"

Upon investigation it was found that one of the brothers had a union and the other a non-union hat. Neither had union-labeled clothing, and they did not know whether their shoes were union-stamped or not. Then the man in the rear of the hall arose and said:

"Mr. Chairman and Brothers: I am opposed to the motion to put John Doe on the unfair list. He is not a member of a labor organization; has never taken an obligation to employ union labor. He is a storekeeper, and handles the largest stock of union-labeled goods in this city. He runs a strict union store, and no clerk can keep his job if he does not carry a card in the Retail Clerks' Association.

"See the position of this body if we put this man's store on the unfair list.

"The two men who request us to take this step are members of a trade union and delegates to this body. Upon investigation we find both of them have employed non-union labor in the making of their clothing, and one of them in the making of his hat. Their shoes we do not know anything about. If a further investigation was made, we would probably find that they smoke non-union cigars and tobacco, and also employ other non-union labor. These men have taken an obligation to purchase only such products as bear the union label. They have not done so. Has any one here asked to put them on the unfair list?"

"These men remind me of the boy who stole twenty-five cents out of the till of his employer to go to a show, and when the villain came

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The Nobbiest Materials
and
Best Tailoring
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Semi-ready
Wardrobe

574 Granville St.
VANCOUVER, B. C.

on the stage with a dark lantern to crack the safe of the millionaire this boy howled and hissed with all his might, forgetting that he himself was there by having robbed his employer. That is the position of these men who want John Doe put on the unfair list. They howl at him for doing what they themselves have done. Mr. Chairman and delegates, I believe in being consistent, and I am opposed to the motion and hope it will be defeated."

After he got down the two delegates who were interested took about thirty minutes trying to explain. The motion was then put by the chairman and defeated. This incident should serve as a warning to members of unions all over the country not to try and place any one on the unfair list unless they are positive that they themselves have a clean record.—J. S. Stern, in Philadelphia Union News.

Fifteen hundred machinists, boiler makers and members of kindred trades working in the Denver and Rio Grande shops went on strike on March 16 in response to an order issued by W. J. McQueeney, representing the machinists' national organization, after a final conference at which Manager A. C. Ridgway of the railroad refused any concessions.

What About Your New Spring Suit?

We are showing all the latest designs in Men's ready-to-wear clothing.

Suits Made-to-Measure on Short Notice.

A full line of Men's Furnishings, Hats and Caps, and all spring styles now in stock.

H. Sweeney & Co.

605 Hastings St. W.

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L. R. Spray R. Sauer

Eagle Sign WORKS

ORIGINAL DESIGNS

Glazing, Stencil Cutting, Carriage Painting, Kalsomin-
ing, Paper Hanging,
Painting

Neat, Reasonable and Quick
63 Cordova St. West

WAS IT A DREAM?

It was 5 o'clock in the evening. The clerks and stenographers had gone home. I sat in my large arm chair in my office and gazed comfortably out into the streets. A cold, sharp wind was blowing and driving sleet before it. My office was warm and pleasant, and I was happy in the satisfaction that my business was prospering.

It is pleasant, gratifying to know that you are growing wealthy, and to be looked upon as a business success.

With these pleasant thoughts in my mind I half closed my eyes. On opening them I was startled to see a pale, gaunt, ragged woman standing before me. I was more startled, because I had not seen or heard the door open.

She looked at me blankly, showing neither anger, timidity, boldness, fear; neither supplicating nor commanding.

I trembled, vainly trying to calm myself, and said in a chattering whisper, "Do you need money?"

"What!" she replied, in a voice that froze my blood, "do the dead need money?"

"Dead!" I repeated, "dead! How did you come to die?"

"Yes," she replied, looking at me with her cold, awful eyes that she never took from my face, "I was murdered in your factory. I died of overwork and foul air to make

you rich—so that the world would smile on you."

"Why didn't your husband support you?" I asked, grasping at that straw to evade her cold-blooded accusation.

"Because he was killed by you. He was caught in a band and whirled around the wheel until he was mangled to death. It would have cost \$4 to have put the guard-rails around it. You called it an act of Providence. Do you think God kills people to save \$4?"

"But," I interposed, remembering the case, "you were given \$500."
"Will \$500 take the place of husband's love; will \$500 care for and protect a woman's children like their father?"

I wished that she would take her terrible eyes off of me.

"How much did your factory make last year?"

"Forty thousand dollars," I replied, and for once did not feel like boasting of it.

"How many lives of men and women does that represent worn out? How many days robbed from childhood? How much misery and suffering does that \$40,000 stand as a monument for?"

I could not reply, but forced by her eyes, which pierced me like a sword, I asked this question, which I already knew the answer to: "Do you have any children working in my factory?"

"When you walked through the factory to-day and saw my boy, you said to yourself that you would tell the foreman to discharge him, because he is getting too feeble from overwork and lack of mother's care to do the work any longer."

"And my daughter," she continued, mercilessly, "you took her out of the factory and gave her work in the office last week. You said she was too intelligent to work in the factory."

A cold sweat came over me. I sat paralyzed in my chair and could make no reply.

"But you said to yourself that she was too beautiful."

I screamed and sprang to my feet. It was dark in the room. I had been dreaming. I rushed down into the lighted street.

It was so terrible to be alone in a dark room with one's conscience.—Robert Randell.

CHILD LABOR.

Senator Beveridge of Indiana, the champion of regulation of child labor by national legislation, one of the great national legislative acts sought by the American Federation of Labor and all of its affiliated bodies, is again in the limelight with his pet measure. Discussing his bill introduced at the last session of the Fifty-ninth Congress and which was killed by parliamentary tactics, he said:

"Ten thousand children are killed every year, and 250,000 are turned out degenerates by the mills and factories of this country.

"If you want this kept up, why wait for state regulations to stop it and hold off passing your national law?"

Senator Beveridge will force consideration of his bill in the Senate at an early day and will have some interesting things to say in its advocacy.

"I do not care to use my ammunition just now in advance of the fight in Congress," said the Senator. "As to the number of children that are yearly killed and made degenerate by work in the mills, there can be no question. I have made a careful investigation of the subject and used the figures advisedly in a speech on the floor of the Senate."

THE UNION LABEL.

Greater Activity Is Being Displayed in Booming the Union Label and Good Results Are Already in Evidence.

Various unions in the city that use a union label are commencing to wake up and soon we are liable to have a full-fledged label campaign under way. There is no reason in the world why a very large amount of what is now non-union made goods should not be replaced by union product. All that is needed is a little energetic work on the part of the unions interested and good will result.

The last two meetings of the Label League have been well attended and if the interest shown is any indication they are prepared to go on with the work in an energetic manner. Still there are some unions whose members are still negligent in attendance.

At the last meeting the question of issuing a monthly Label Bulletin was under consideration and a committee was appointed to discuss the matter with the Allied Printing Trades if this is carried through it

Fair Finance

We are showing a big range of high class Made to Fit Clothing, every garment guaranteed as represented or your money back if dissatisfied.

Fair Finance, No. 1—50 Worsteds Suits in fancy patterns; Regular Price \$18.00. Fair Finance Price \$12.50.

Fair Finance, No. 2—20 Suits in fancy colored Tweeds and Worsteds; Regular Price \$20, \$22.50 and \$25.00. Fair Finance Price \$15.00.

See Our Window for These Goods.

Wray & Dick

21 Hastings St.
Opposite Tram Office

will mean that a small book of magazine form will be printed gratis. With one of these in every workman's home there should be no necessity for forgetfulness on his part.

The printers are about to spend several hundred dollars in their label campaign and merchants that get their work done without the label on it will hear from the printers. There are a couple of non-union shops in the city that cannot put the label on their work, so beware.

The cigarmakers also intend to make an extra spurt and ere the next issue of the Unionist a well-developed label boom will probably be under way.

Wm. Kirkland—Phone 2114

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Baggage Stored and
Delivered

Telephones 1633 and 1084



We sell only the best. Our prices are the same as those charged by other firms for inferior grades.

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Head Office, 528 Pender St.

Bunkers, Foot of Smythe St.

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BUNKERS 3854.

When Patronizing Our Advertisers Don't Forget to Mention the Trades Unionist.

VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday in Labor Hall. Pres., J. H. McVety; Vice-Pres., R. P. Pettipiece; Gen. Sec., W. W. Sayer, Labor Hall; Sec.-Treas., A. R. Burns, Labor Hall; Statistician, H. Sellars; Sergeant-at-Arms, G. A. Kilpatrick; Trustees, R. R. Pettipiece, J. Commerford, C. T. Ryan.

COOKS, WAITERS' AND WAITRESSES, Local 28—Meets every Friday night at 8:30 o'clock. Chas. Davis, Secretary and Business Agent, 155 Hastings St. E. Hall for rent suitable for socials, dances and societies.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, Local Union 213—Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday, Labor Hall, 8 p. m. sharp. J. E. Dubberly, Pres., res. 1812 9th ave., Vancouver, B. C.; Geo. Jenkins, Rec.-Sec., 321 Harris St., Vancouver, B. C.; C. T. Hammersmark, Fin.-Sec., 641 Jackson ave., Vancouver, B. C.

WOOD, WIRE AND METAL WORKERS LATHERS', Local 207—Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday, Labor Hall, Homer St.; C. H. Lewis, President; Frank Mahoney, Secretary, 314 Cordova St. W.

SHIRT, WAIST AND LAUNDRY WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION, Vancouver Local No. 105—President, J. A. Scott; Secretary, W. Roberts. Meets Labor Hall, 2nd and 4th Thursday at 8:00 p. m. each month.

FEDERAL UNION NO. 32, BUILDERS' LABORERS OF VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT—Meets in Labor Hall, Homer St., every alternate Tuesday, at 7:45 p. m. Headquarters, Louvre Cigar Store, 329 1-2 Carrall St. Agent's hours, 7:30 to 8:30 a. m., 12 to 1 and 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. G. Payne, Sec.-Agent; John Sully, President.

STRUCTURAL BUILDING TRADES' ALLIANCE—Meets every Monday night. Room 3, Ingleisle Rooms, 313 Cambie St., Dan McDermott, President, 213 12th Ave.; E. H. B. Arnold, Fin.-Sec. and Treas., Box 232. Frank Mahoney, Rec.-Sec., 314 Cordova St. West.

BARTENDERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE NO. 676, Vancouver, B. C.—Meets Labor Hall, every 1st and 3rd Sunday at 2 p. m. and 7:30 p. m. President, C. J. Ryan; Fin. Sec'y, Geo. W. Curnock. P. O. Box, 424, Phone 639.

BARBERS' UNION, NO. 120.

At the request of your valuable paper I will say for Local 120 that at this writing we have 62 members in good standing and new ones are making application every day. We don't take into our local anyone who can't hold a position in a union shop. Our members are only required to at-

tend one regular meeting a month and pay their dues. The meetings are held one the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

All union shops in Vancouver have adopted the swing shift, which allows them to remain open until 8 p.m. instead of 7:30 the later having been the custom for the past eighteen months. Journeymen who begin at 8 a. m. quit at 7:30 p. m. and those who begin at 8:30 work until 8:00 p.m., making no difference in their working hours.

For our non-union brothers we entertain nothing but the most friendly feeling. Just now they are not with us regarding unionism but in the very near future united we'll be, for the reason that unionism is an up-to-date idea. The leading men of great nations recommend trade unions and in union there is strength.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENT.

Local Union, No. 120, J.B.I.U.

UNLABELED GOODS.

One of the most disagreeable conditions encountered by union men who call for union made goods is the explanation frequently given by the clerk or proprietor that although the desired article does not have the label, it nevertheless is union made.

But what shall union people think of any firm that is entitled to the label but consistently fails to put it on their products? Is such a firm entitled to the patronage of union men?

The only guide that a purchaser can have is the presence of the label, and if it is not there, the best policy to pursue is to patronize those firms that value the union trade enough to use the label on its wares.

ORGANIZATION THE THING.

Non-union Workers Should All Themselves With the Union.

Brother workingmen, look out for the danger signal. The most dangerous thing we have are the working people who are holding the working people who are holding the telling them not to join a union. Just think, Mr. Non-union Man, and see if you are getting a living wage to live on when you are filling a mechanic's place for \$9 per week when the place should pay \$18 per week. This is what hurts the working people. The Creator has said: "Seek and you shall find; knock and behold the door will be opened unto you." If a man will get into organized labor he will find out the good that one man can do for another.

The manufacturer puts a price on his goods, and maintains it, if some workers do not offer to work for his competitor for less. If the working people would organize in the proper way and fix a price to all employers, it would settle all this trouble, and it would not impose a burden on any employer, as they could all fix

Padmore's Cigar Store



Where everything a Smoker Wants Can be Had. - - Union Cigars a Specialty

Nos. 1 & 2, Arcade, Vancouver

their price and sell their goods for the same, as they would all pay the same for labor. At present some pay one price and others pay another price. This is not fair, and as long as such conditions prevail the workingman will suffer. The way to stop this matter is to get busy and organize, and then we can have a smooth-running business all over this country. Other cities are not having the trouble that we are here and I recommend the above as the cure for the conditions now prevailing. Ponder this well, non-union workingmen. Come out and say you will go with the union workingmen - Eight-Hour Printer.

standing of the Live Stock Gamblers' union.

The "open" shop is a beautiful institution only when applied to plain and simple work.

About the only lawful thing you may do, Mary Ann, and not belong to a union is to work like a dog or starve. - Machinists Bulletin, Sante Fe Ry.

Thousands Wear

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WHY NOT YOU!

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V. E. Gilmer, Secretary
J. W. Gilmer, Vice-President

PHONE 2887.

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41 HASTINGS STREET

Vancouver, B. C.

CABLES: Owl, Vancouver.

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Reserve Fund 4,390,000

Total Assets 46,400,000

Five Branches in Vancouver.
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Each Year.

Keen Kutter Tools!

To set the trade mark "Keen Kuter" on any tool is to know that it is the best grade in its class that it is possible to produce. Don't take chances on unknown brands; buy Keen Kutter Tools—every one guaranteed.

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HARDWARE
822 Granville Street.

AS TO TRADES UNIONS AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

Recently an editorial appeared in the Clarion which was replied to by Mr. Pettipiece. Here follows the editorial and reply:

As to Trades Unions.

It has long been the fashion for Socialist parties in the various countries of the earth to assume some sort of an attitude towards trade unions. It does not require any particularly searching analysis to discover that the trade union is entitled to no more favorable consideration by the revolutionary movement of labor than any other organization that exists solely as part and parcel of the capitalist system of property in the means of wealth production. That more favorable consideration is accorded it by those who profess to be revolutionists, is doubtless due to the fact that the trade union appears to be an organization of workmen for the purpose of furthering working-class interests. Laboring under this impression many well meaning revolutionists with favor upon the struggles of the unionists to carry forward their purpose, and even go out of their way to aid them in so doing. He who dares to criticise such policy is more than apt to be stigmatized as an "enemy of the working class," or one who is mentally unbalanced.

The fact of the matter is that the trade union is not an organization of workingmen as workingmen. It is an organization of sellers of a specific commodity, i. e., labor-power. The fact that they are workingmen is not the reason for their organization. This reason lies in the fact that they are sellers of the specified commodity. Their interests demand that sales shall be made upon the most favorable terms possible, hence their organization for this specific purpose. That the members of such an organization are all workingmen is merely incidental and arises from the fact that only those who do not control means of production through which their material needs may be satisfied, are compelled to sell their labor-power in order to live. As the purpose of the trade union is to exercise some control over the sale of labor-power, it may readily be seen that only working people would be eligible to membership, not because they are workers but because they are sellers of that particular commodity.

The trade union, therefore, belongs in the category of traders, organizations. The revolutionary movement of labor, that movement that has for

Gordon Drysdale

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The Lines We Carry.

Dress Goods, Silks, Velvets, Linings, Staples, Wash Goods, Linens, Laces, Embroideries, Dress Trimmings, Ribbons, Gloves, Small Wares, Notions, Art Needle Work, Fancy Goods, Hosiery, Umbrellas, Neckwear, Belts, Handkerchiefs, Leather Goods, Corsets, Waists, Petticoats, Wrappers, Tea Gowns, Underwear, Aprons, Cloaks, Suits, Furs, Millinery, Carpets, Curtains, Drapery, Children's Apparel and

Ladies' Home Journal Patterns

575 Granville St.

Phone 3541

its purpose the overthrow of capitalist production and its attendant infamy, wage-slavery, can aid and abet no traders' organization without stultifying itself, no matter whether such organization be one of sellers of labor-power or of any other commodity. A multitude of organizations have sprung into existence during past years, having for their purpose the betterment of the condition of some section or fragment of the population who live by selling things. Happily they have always failed or are failing of their purpose. The purpose of all such efforts is essentially reactionary, for the reason that if the condition of any appreciable number of persons could be bettered under capitalist production this would become a factor in the prolongation of its lease of life, prolongation of the misery it inflicts upon its wage-slave victims as a class.

The trade union has fought its fight and lost. It has proven beyond its power to accomplish that which it purposed. In spite of almost superhuman efforts the ground has been steadily cut from beneath its feet and before the present industrial depression has run its course its many boasted victories of the past will have proven but "dead sea fruit" that turns to ashes upon the lips, and the sellers of labor-power will, by the thousands, abandon their efforts to accomplish the impossible, and turn their attention and devote their energies to the task of overthrowing the baneful rule of capital that has made of industry a profit-grinding hell and reduced the world's workers to a class of paupers and slaves. By recent decision of the courts in the United States the weapons of the unions have been practically reduced to the "label," and it is not beyond the realm of possibility that a court will be found capable of putting this humorous old relic out of commission whenever it is deemed necessary.

From way up in the Yukon comes inquiry as to the attitude of the Socialist Party of Canada towards

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Vancouver, B. C.

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A new and complete stock
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144 Cordova St.

Oyster Bay Restaurant

FOR OYSTERS
IN SEASON

Cor. of Carrall & Cordova Sts.

P. L. Carscallen,

Tel. 798 Proprietor

Demand the label and assist your
fellow-unionists.

THE Dougal House

Dave Burton, Prop.
HOTEL AND BAR

Restaurant on European Plan
Strictly First-class Cafe

Everything Neat and Clean
Open Day and Night

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Phone 1267

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trade unions. It has none other than its attitude towards capitalist production and all of its attendant phenomena. Being hostile to capitalist production implies hostility to everything that tends to prolong its existence. That is the only "attitude" worthy of a revolutionary movement. And it is the only one that will stand the test of reason. Outside of this the Socialist Party of Canada is not in the "attitude" business. Its purpose is to capture the reins of power in the Dominion to the end that capitalist control of industry may be brought to an end. Whenever its representatives enter either Provincial or Dominion parliaments they will push forward such measures as will clearly indicate the party's purpose. The bitterness with which capitalist politicians, of whatever party, will fight these measures will rapidly open the eyes of the workers to the correct line of action to be followed to lead to their deliverance from that wage-bondage that now rests like a blighting curse upon them. They will eventually remove that curse by electing revolutionary Socialists from every constituency to represent them in the legislative chambers for the purpose of freeing Canada of both slaves and masters. This will put the whole caboodle of traders' organizations, from the manufacturers' Association down, out of business.

Speed the day.

—Western Clarion.

* * *

"AS TO TRADES UNIONS,"

Editor Clarion:

Under the above caption in last issue, you very clearly point out the position occupied by trades unions under the present form of property ownership, and while I must technically agree with your analysis, it seems to me that the trades union movement has in the past, and is now, something more than a "traders'" organization.

It may be, as you say, that the members of trades unions get together as traders rather than as workmen.

But for that matter, the present means of wealth production compel us all to get together, i. e., as many as there are jobs for.

And to what purpose?

The latter, as workers, to create wealth for others to take; the former (as unionists) do likewise but also try to secure better terms for their commodity, labor-power.

Admittedly, yes, so long as these organizations function solely as they did in the earlier period of modern industrialism. But the fact remains that this is not the case.

The reason there was no Socialist movement fifty years ago was because the time had not arrived in the evolution of the machine for its application.

For exactly the same reason the

trades union is no longer the most effective weapon in combatting the evils inflicted upon the workers, let alone removing them.

But only the growth and development of capital, which has necessitated a complete change in its present function and ownership, has taught us this lesson.

I mean by "us", Socialists who happen to be trades unionists.

Having discovered this fact ourselves, would you advise us to relinquish what advantages we have acquired, such as a shorter work-day (shorter yard-stick), wages a little above the life-line, some measure of protection from bosses and slave-drivers who often get the bile off their stomach by firing a few underlings before breakfast, etc.?

Certainly not.

Then, if this be the case, it is not our duty to everlastingly point out to fellow-slaves the road to industrial freedom, and stay right with them until they do come?

We can't get away from capital till they help us overthrow it. That is, if we are to judge by what those outside the ranks of "organized" labor have done in the way of putting up money and carrying on a political campaign.

I admit, of course, that all members of the Socialist Party must come in on the same basis—as workers, seeking to overthrow the rule of capital.

But a little investigation goes to prove that the trades unionist has at least, blindly may be, made some effort to help himself; and, as a result, has received a training and experience that makes him realize one thing at least: That if the workers ever expect to accomplish anything for themselves they must be ready and willing to pay the bill.

This is amply borne out by the experience of the Socialist Party in British Columbia.

Take away the efforts, money and discipline of that portion of the Socialist Party which happens, to be-

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66 HASTINGS ST. W.
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THE BEST UNION MADE
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\$1.50 per day and up
Special Rates by the week

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65 Outside Bright, Airy Rooms
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Systems of Water Works Installed for

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A local industry using local material and employing white labor
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Did You Over-sleep?

You didn't hear the alarm clock, and slept a half hour longer than you intended.

If you had a Gas Range, breakfast could be prepared in ten minutes.

The Gas Method of Cooking Is the Common Sense Method

It saves time--It saves labor--It saves expense.

"YOU'D APPRECIATE A GAS RANGE" — Visit our show room, Granville St. next Vancouver Opera House.

Vancouver Gas Co., Ltd.

long to trades unions and what have you left?

It's true many of these are ex-unionists, but that is chiefly because their respective unions have been exterminated by capital.

Who is making the Socialist Party possible in Alberta right at this moment?

Who enabled us to place twenty-two candidates in the field in this Province last election?

For that matter who is making the Socialist Party possible in every country over which the flag of Capital flutters?

Why, Socialists who are members of trades unions; not because they are trades unionists, but because of the hope within them as Socialists.

"The trades union has fought its fight and lost."

As trades unionists, yes, but as members of trades unions, no.

Every loss has been a victory; and as a matter of fact the recent reverses administered to "organized" labor by courts and parliaments alike are but forcing that portion of the working class to do the right thing, and very soon you will see that the rulers are but "digging their own graves."

You may argue that if the members of trades unions do change their tactics, and they are doing so, their organization ceases to function as a trades union.

Well, what of it?
Is it not, on the contrary, proof

positive that these organizations are something more than mere traders?

What other "trader's organization has ever helped to finance the Socialist Party?

It must be remembered, too, that the members of this particular "trader's organization, being wage-earners, have so many interests akin to the rest of the working class that they cannot, try as they will, disassociate themselves from the revolutionary movement; their very lives, everyday experiences, and environment, coupled with the logical course of capital, will ultimately compel them to take sides with the Socialists.

The trades unionist is usually a more staple member of the working class than his unfortunate "free and independent" brother wage-slave.

Who ever heard of a "union among the jobless?"

Then, rightly or wrongly, the member of a trades union, by virtue of his job, has a vote.

The other fellow is too busy seeking a master to become a voter.

For the present, at least, the man with the vote is the man the Socialist wants to reason with, and needs in his business.

I agree absolutely with the policy of the Socialist Party of Canada in having no attitude towards any one section of the working class; that's one of the reasons I'm a member of that party.

But there is plenty of room in the Socialist movement for individual members to work along individual lines.

The possibilities of the members of trades unions are only bounded by their lack of knowledge.

"No criticism of the trade union can be made that does not apply to the whole working class."

New conditions must and will be met with new methods.

The Socialists in the trades union movement must soon guide the destiny of that movement.

This because the socialist is the only one of their numbers that possesses the economic knowledge ne-

cessary to secure their deliverance from the "galling yoke of wage-slavery."

Realizing our responsibilities in the premises, we, as socialists in the trades union movement, would be cowards were to desert them in this their hour of need."

The future usefulness of what is known as the trades union movement largely depends upon the socialists themselves.

If the socialist does his duty very soon the struggle will not be a question of "fair wages," more feed, less hours, etc., but, as is already evidenced, especially in this western territory, one of political action along correct lines.

I say speed the day when "Labor Day" will be Election Day.

With the firm conviction that the future belongs to the working class. I remain your comrade in revolt,

R. P. PETTIPIECE.

Vancouver, B. C., March 22, '08.

UNION PRINTING OFFICES.

The following is a list of the Union printing offices in the city. You can get the label put on your printing at any of these places and you should not forget to ask for it. It will not be put on unless you do ask for it:
B. C. Printing and Engraving Co., corner Homer and Smithe Sts.; phone 372.

Clarke & Stuart, corner Seymour and Cordova; phone 3.

Clelland & Welsh, 629 Pender St.; Phone 2578.

Evans & Hastings, 125 Hastings St.; phone 189.

Farrow & Jewell, 626 Westminster Ave.; phone 3711.

Ham, F. N., & Co., 550 Granville St.; phone 535.

Hughes & Elkins, 528 Pender St.; phone 666.

Jackson & Morrison, 153 Hastings St.; phone 772.

Kingsley, E. T., 165 Hastings St. phone 824.

Nicholson, J. C., & Son, corner Second Ave. and Arbutus St.; phone News-Advertiser (Job), 301 Pender St.; phone, Branch Exchange 39 and 40.

Oxford Press, Howe St.

THE

Horseshoe Hotel

F. McELROY, Proprietor

Nicely furnished rooms and first-class dining room in connection.

Cor. Hastings and Columbia
Phone 622 Vancouver, B. C.

FIRE

Have you ever stopped to think what it would mean to you were your home and its contents destroyed by fire?

\$6.00 to \$8.00 per year will insure you for \$1,000 should such a calamity happen. Take warning from Victoria.

W. S. HOLLAND, Agency

317 Pender St.

Roedde, G. A., Richards St.; phone 263.

Saturday Sunset, 541 Hastings St.; phone 2796.

Thompson Stationery Co., Hastings St.; phone, Branch Exchange 3520.

Tryhall & Son, 549 Seymour St.; phone 1320.

White & Bindon, 113 Hastings St.; phone 1632.

Newspapers.

News-Advertiser; World, Province, Saturday Sunset, Western Clarion.

SHOULD BE GIVEN PREFERENCE.

The following houses employ whites as stated: All white, Oyster Bay, Louvre Cafe; first, second and night cooks white, Al's Cafe, Schuman's Cafe, Russ Cafe, Saddle Rock, Winnipeg Cafe; first, second, third and night cooks white, Vancouver Cafe.

The
Clarence Hotel
Strictly Union House
John Hector, Prop.
Cor. Pender and Seymour,
VANCOUVER, B. C.

THE LATEST APPOINTMENT.

SOLD ONLY IN SEALED TINS
IN 1/4, 1/2, 1 AND 3lb SIZES

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Choice Cut Flowers
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Funeral Designs a Specialty

Brown Bros. & Co., Ltd.
FLORISTS
59 Hastings St. E.
Greenhouse
Phone A 3131 Phone 988

NOTICE

MADE IN VANCOUVER
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P. & R.
All Union Men Smoke

Visit the Big Stock-taking
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Edgetts'

We sell the Best Goods at all times, for Cash only, at smaller prices than can be bought anywhere else in British Columbia.

Visit the store and see the magnificent display of good things to eat. Notice the price tickets, compare our prices with others.

Save Money

on your groceries by buying your supplies at

THE STORE OF PLENTY"



**The H. A. Edgett
Co., Limited.**

153, 155 HASTINGS STREET

Telephone Exchange 187

WHAT DOES THIS PRESAGE.

The different branches of the Mechanical department of the C.P.R. have received notice that after May 1 all existing agreements will be cancelled. This applies to machinists, boilermakers, blacksmiths, allied mechanics, moulders and electricians.

Referring to the action of the United States Supreme Court in declaring the boycott illegal, Samuel Compers, President of the American Federation of Labor, said:

"While the Supreme Court of other institutions may be able to temporarily retard and seriously embarrass the growth and action of our movement, we boldly assert that no power on earth can destroy successfully, out-law, or disrupt the trades union movement."

LABOR NOTES.

The Erie Railroad has officially notified its boilermakers and boiler-makers' helpers that their wages will be reduced 10 per cent.

A bill, which passed its first reading in the British House of Commons on February 10, prohibits smoking by persons under the age of 16.

The Great Northern Railway Company has decided not to reduce the salaries of its operators after the Federal "hours of service" law goes into effect.

The employees of all the railways in Uruguay have gone on strike. There are about 1200 miles of railway in Uruguay, which are controlled by British capitalists.

The Italian Government has published further telegrams from the Italian Consuls at New York and San Francisco discouraging emigration to America for the present.

The recent big railway dispute in England, that was settled by conciliation, has secured for railway employes a six-day working week, with extra pay for Sunday work and other concessions.

Out of 7,248 cases settled by voluntary conciliation and arbitration boards in Great Britain, during the past ten years, only 42, or 1 per cent. of them, were preceded by stoppage of work by strikes.

A committee of twenty-five railroad men, representing the Brotherhood of locomotive engineers, locomotive firemen, railway trainmen, railroad conductors and railway telegraphers, met at New York on February 21 to take action as to the reported reduction of wages by rail-

roads in the country. President Newman of the New York Central, sent a communication to the meeting to the effect that no reduction of wages on the Central or allied lines is contemplated.

The Old Age Pension Bill now before the Parliament of Great Britain provides for the payment of 5s. per week to all persons over 65 years of age. The total amount to be paid in such pensions is estimated at £8,000,000.

President H. G. Duffy, of the Butte (Mont.) Miners' Union, states that circulars posted in other mining camps and in leading cities of the Northwest to the effect that 10,000 men are wanted in Butte are misleading. The supply of labor now there far exceeds the demand.

The Nine-hour law, reducing the employment of railroad telegraphers, which went into effect throughout the country on March 4, will necessitate the employment of thousands of additional telegraphers by the railroads of the country, and it is hailed in labor circles as a boon to many keymen out of work, some of whom were unable to regain employment after the telegraph strike of last year.

A NEW COMPANY.

The Burnside Gas Appliance Co. have started in business at 1033 Granville St., in a full line of Gas Ranges, Heaters, Logs, Radiators, Water Heaters, Lights, Mantels, Engines, Cooking Utensils, etc. They also estimate and contract for the installation of anything in the above lines. Anyone wishing to consult them can do so by calling up phone 3704, and immediate attention will be given to any request. Only union men are engaged and will be employed.

THE GROTTO BARBER SHOP.

Joe Bruce, well and favorably known in Vancouver, and president of the Barbers' Union, has taken over the Grotto Barber Shop on Granville street, and to say the least, he has a modern and up-to-date establishment. Added to this is a competent corps of barbers, and as there are five chairs going, the hasty customer will not have long to wait to get himself barbered. Each tonorial artist has at his hand all the present-day requirements from compressed air up, and it is unnecessary to say that in addition to good work every courtesy will be shown the patrons. He also has an old member of the union acting as porter, Jim. Mr. Bruce intends also to put in a lady manicurist in the very near future.

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