

LABOR CONFERENCE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

Urges Organized Workers to
Oppose it Every Way

NATIONALIZE RAILROADS

Also Coal Fields, Cold-storage, Abattoirs and Canneries—Appoint Food and Fuel Controller—Demands to be Laid Before Cabinet.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, June 3.—After a momentous sitting Saturday the National Labor Conference passed a resolution against conscription, urging the organized workers of the country to oppose it with every means in their power. The conference also placed itself on record as in favor of the nationalization of all the railroads in Canada and all the coal fields, the appointment of a Food and Fuel Controller, public ownership of cold-storage plants, abattoirs and canneries, and in favor of the passage of an order in Council giving municipalities the right to operate coal and wood yards.

Both Parties Rapped.

Both political parties came in for rapping for the petty party politics which, it was alleged, had been displayed during the war, and for allowing speculation in foodstuffs. The Government was declared by some speakers to be "the willing tools of the interests which dominated them."

It was decided to start a campaign for the reorganization of the Imperial Munitions Board by communicating with the 1,700 unions in Canada. Amplification of the assertions made against J. W. Flavelle and the board was brought down in the conference.

The delegates will likely seek a conference with the Cabinet to present their demands for action to bring down the cost of living. A session was held to-day, and another will be held to-morrow morning.

The following is the statement of the deliberations, issued for publication by the Press Committee, composed of Fred Bancroft, Toronto; J. C. Waters, Ottawa, and John T. Foster, Montreal:

Overwhelmingly Against Conscription.

"By an overwhelming majority the delegates to the Labor Conference have recorded themselves as opposed to conscription. The special committee on conscription presented their unanimous report, which stated:

"We declare ourselves as most emphatically opposed to the proposed conscription measure, and we urge the workers in Canada to oppose by every means in their power the enactment of such legislation."

"The delegates were in session on Saturday from 9 o'clock a.m. until 1.30 a.m. on Sunday, and the whole evening session was taken up by the discussion on the committee's report on conscription. Before a final vote was taken, members of the Executive Council of the Trades Congress explained the attitude of Sir Robert Borden, outlining his assurances, even on the eve of his departure for England, that the situation remained the same, and the Government had no intention of introducing a compulsory military service measure. The Premier's statements to the Labor men since his return did not contain one argument which justified his change of front. Several of the delegates strongly emphasized their viewpoint, that the proposal of the Premier had behind it the intention to shackle the workers of this country, not only now, but after the war, to prevent them from making moves to better their wages and conditions.

Five Oppose Resolution.

"The vote was limited to accredited and recognized representatives of International Unions and members of the Executive Council of Congress. Five representatives of International Unions asked to be recorded against the resolution, one stating that he was in favor of conscription.

"Scathing denunciations of the Government and Opposition in the Federal House were made by delegates from various Provinces, on the petty party politics which had been displayed during the war, while speculation and food profiteering ran riot over the country. Delegates touched upon the great numbers of men from their organizations in the battle line, and great sacrifices of the trades unionist, while the profiteers were allowed to exploit the dependents of soldiers and the working people of Canada generally.

Attack on Munitions Board.

"It was decided to commence a campaign for the reorganization of the Imperial Munitions Board, by

sending the following statement, through the Executive Council of the Trades Congress, to over 1,700 local unions and other labor organizations throughout the Dominion.

"Under the caption, 'Attitude of Imperial Munitions Board to Organized Labor,' the statement follows:

"At the conference of representatives of International Unions, held at Ottawa June 1 and 2, the hostile attitude of the Imperial Munitions Board to organized labor in Canada was clearly defined. Evidence was submitted by delegates showing:

Charges Made by Delegates.

"1. Violation of sanitary requirements, gross negligence in regard to the protection of the health of the worker, in camp and plant construction.

"2. Lowering the wage standards already established in different sections of the Dominion.

"3. Elimination of the eight-hour day and the introduction of the 12 and 14 hour day and seven-day week.

"4. The unnecessary dilution of labor by the introduction of female labor, before proper steps have been taken to utilize available skilled mechanics.

"5. Where dilution has occurred no general effort has been made to maintain the same standard wages as received by the men.

"6. Substitution of cheap, semi-skilled labor from rural districts for construction work, because of their willingness to accept less than the trades union rates.

"7. A declared policy of refusing to recognize trades union representatives in determining the wages and hours and contracts let by them.

"8. Challenging trades union officials to obtain reasonable conditions by use of their organized power instead of through negotiations, which would result in strikes."

through the manufacture of it into liquors.

Socialists' Meeting Prevented.

It was announced through circulars last week that a meeting would be held in the I.O.O.F. Temple this afternoon in opposition to conscription. On Saturday Chief Whatley stated that this meeting should not be held, and when about 200 Socialists, included among whom were many foreigners, met there, the police told them that they could not meet, and they dispersed without causing any trouble.

Hydro Board Surplus.

At yesterday's meeting of the Hydro Board it was stated that the surplus for the first three months of this year was \$17,700. Manager Sifton recommended that a \$12,000 plant be installed in the premises of the Dominion Steel Foundry Company, which was asking for 600 or 700 additional horse-power. This will be further considered. The operators and meter readers asked for more pay. The readers' request was refused, and the other will not be considered till the end of the year.

Thinks It Provinces' Matter.

A deputation of temperance leaders in this city waited upon T. J. Stewart, M.P., yesterday, and asked him to use his influence at Ottawa in securing Dominion-wide prohibition. Mr. Stewart promised consideration, but stated that he thought this was a matter for the Legislatures, and that it was unfair and unreasonable to embarrass the Federal Government about this matter when it was at its wits' end trying to help win the war. Provincial Governments, he said, had power to deal with this question.

The children of the public schools will not be allowed a holiday on Monday in honor of the King's birthday.