

# LABOR HOT SHOT FOR WAGES REDUCERS

President Foster Expresses  
Doubt of Goodwill of Alder-  
men Favoring Reductions

## STRIKES AT ALD. LAPOINTE

Trades and Labor Council  
Voted Money Last Night for  
Campaign of Candidate in  
West Hamilton

"Arguments so absurd in logic that they hardly warrant a reply from any intelligent man," was the view taken by President Foster at the meeting of the Trades and Labor Council when speaking of the effort made by certain aldermen to secure a diminution of the salary of some of the civic laborers, and with special reference to the statements of Ald. L. A. Lapointe on this matter. This view was held by the other speakers, and evidently by the council, as it passed unanimously a vote of censure on those aldermen who had worked for lower wages for the civic workmen.

The motion of censure was proposed by Delegate O. Proulx and seconded by Delegate Wall. The latter thought that a propaganda against aldermen who habitually vote against the interests of labor should be conducted, and said that a careful record of their votes on every question affecting the interests of labor was being kept, and that this should be placed before the electors at the time of election, as many candidates claimed then to be the friends of labor who afterwards gave some very contradictory votes. He thought that the man was afflicted with senile decay who said that if the men now working for 42½ cents an hour would work for 25 cents, there would be much more work to go around. When all the work was portioned out they could not give any more no matter what the price of labor.

### QUESTION OF GOODWILL.

Delegate Arcand thought they should maintain at all costs their demand that as much work as possible should be done by day labor.

President Foster thought that there was not so much goodwill to labor on the part of those who wanted to force this through as towards some contractors who want a job from the City Hall. Ald. Lapointe had not shown in the past such a friendly disposition towards labor, or those who voted with him, that they could swallow it now that their main object was the benefit of the workingman. He contended that a reasonable wage meant that a better class of mechanics was obtained. They had had considerable difficulty in the past with municipal and government contracts in seeing that the fair wage clause was lived up to, and they did not feel like giving up the day labor advantages they had gained. The situation was bad enough with many workingmen out of work, and a large proportion of the others working on reduced time. If they wanted to, they could work the men shorter hours, but they should not reduce the wages. It would take too long to return to the old figure.

An echo of the strike of the musicians at the Orpheum and Gayety Theatres came in the form of a request to the council to inform all other trades and labor councils through the country that it had been satisfactorily settled. At the same time the joint committee of the Theatrical Federation of Montreal asked that they should be notified, as well that the following theatres are still at odds with the union: Canadien-Francals, Nouveautes, Family, Scala, Globe and Empire Theatres, and the following moving picture theatres: Maple Leaf and Fairyland. President Foster complimented them on the victory obtained, noting that it followed the announcements that the musicians taking their places would be deported as aliens.

### ARMY CONTRACT LOW WAGES.

After considerable discussion as to how to avoid a clause in the Constitution which prevented the voting of

money without reference to the Executive Committee, it was decided to ask the Executive to have a meeting immediately, and consider a request of monetary assistance for the labor candidate in the West Hamilton bye-election. Ten dollars were voted on the recommendation of the committee when it returned.

President Foster stated that in one case brought to his attention where wages had been reduced on an army contract they had found a bad condition of affairs. A contract for 40,000 dungarees has been placed, the price being \$1.10 a pair. Delegate Silver and himself had worked out the price for producing this garment and found it to be 16 cents, so that there was no justification for the reducing of wages. The committee had not met for the members had failed to bring forward any other cases. They had assurances from the Minister of Labor and other ministers that where genuine, proven cases could be brought to their attention action would be taken.

President Foster also gave a report of the delegation to Ottawa composed of five aldermen, Controller McDonald, representatives of Charity organizations and others, including himself, to ask steps to be taken to look after the unemployed, particularly those of German and Austrian birth. He himself, had asked for more stringent inspection of the immigrants coming to Canada as many of them were undesirable at this particular juncture.

Sir George Foster had assured them that the Government was doing all possible to ensure a greater amount of work, and using its influence successfully to get orders from allied countries at war.