

## SECRET

### No. 9

Notes on the work of the C.I.B. for the week  
ending 29th January.

N. B. These notes unless otherwise stated, are  
founded upon reports received by mail. The  
dates of incidents and reports consequently  
are stated.

#### 1. Special Features of the Week.

During the week word has come of the possibility of a strike of longshoremen in Vancouver; so far particulars are meager. The dispute which may cause it has occurred in Seattle and the strike if it occurs will be a sympathetic one; it is remarked that it would be intended in part as a protest against the Winnipeg trials. There is much unemployment on the Pacific Coast, which in Victoria is beginning to be acute.

An O.B.U. convention for the whole of Western Canada was summoned at Winnipeg for 26th January. No word has been received about it as yet.

The L.W.I.U. (loggers' union) has unexpectedly appeared in a role of comparative moderation. The convention at Vancouver issued in Winch maintaining and strengthening his position; his conflict with the I.W.W. element which attempted to oust him has caused him to appear conservative in comparison. Word also comes from Southern British Columbia that the union is adopting a less extreme attitude.

The situation in the Alberta coal mines has improved, an arrangement having been reached between the coal operators and the U.M.W. of A.

#### 2. Possible Strike of Longshoremen in British Columbia.[2]

On 12th January an American official wrote to the O.C. Vancouver that a strike of the longshoremen of the Pacific Coast was imminent, beginning with Seattle, and extending to Vancouver. Negotiations were on foot in December between the Northwest Waterfront Employers' Union in Seattle and the Pacific Coast District T.L.A.; early in January these broke down. Our own information confirmed this. The Seattle men are likely to strike, and have asked the Vancouver men to strike in sympathy. The Vancouver men at that date were regarded as likely to comply, partly out of sympathy with Seattle, partly in protest against the Winnipeg Trials.

The 15th and 21st January were mentioned as dates.

#### 3. Convention of The Loggers' Union.

The Convention of the L. W. I. U. took place at Vancouver on 8th and 9th January. Winch was re-elected Secretary, defeating the extremist wing. The I.W.W. element were outnumbered and defeated; they hope that when the general convention is called the eastern delegates (i.e. from Northern Ontario) will be so strongly I.W.W. as to enable them to take

charge. It was remarked that while outnumbered the I.W.W. men were "the smarter talkers".

One move made by Winch was to cut the number of delegates sent by the unit to the O.B.U. convention to three; the effect was to leave Allman and Hatherley, the principal I.W.W.'s. out of the delegation. Another extremist who has been ousted is McKenzie, until the Convention the Secretary-Treasurer of the Kamloops Branch. Pritchard and Johns will be delegates to the Winnipeg Convention.

The demands which the L.W.I.U. convention decided to make are:-

- (1) A minimum wage of \$6.00 a day for loggers and \$5.00 a day for mill-men.
- (2) Double time for overtime, Sundays and legal holidays.
- (3) An 8 hour day, "Camp to camp".
- (4) Certain improvements in living conditions.[3]

The convention was disposed to be cautious in calling strikes but favoured slowing down of production.

Extensive organization work throughout the east is planned.

The name of the organization may be changed to "The Lumber and Camp Workers' Union".

At the Convention a quarrel took place owing to Hatherley being attacked on the charge of enlisting men in the I.W.W. while an officer of the O.B.U.. Winch expressed regret at an effort being made to cause a split between the I.W.W. and the L.W.I.U..

#### 4. The Loggers' Union in Southern British Columbia.

A report on the lumber camps in the Cranbrook district (East Kootenay) dated 10th January states that the L.W.I.U. in that district now number over 2000. The organization as a whole has over 12,000 members and a monthly income of more than \$12,000. No other organization is in the field, and the L.W.I.U. is getting a strong position. This report says that this union has caused improvement in camp conditions, and that it is less radical than other portions of the O.B.U.. A bad feature in its circulation of radical reading matter. I.W.W.'s, coming in join this organization but so far have kept quiet. General conditions are described as good, labour plentiful, business prospects good, and no indications of strikes.

An investigation of certain logging camps near Prince Albert shows that the O.B.U. has made little headway in them.

#### 5. Developments in Winnipeg.

On Sunday 18th January a meeting was held in the Strand Theatre, Winnipeg, to consider the legal effect of the Russell verdict. Admission was confined to delegates of the Central Labour Party, the Dominion Labour Party, Socialist Party of Canada, Ex-Soldiers' and [4] Sailors' Labour Party, the Labour Church, the Womens' Labour Church and the Trades and Labour Council. The attendance is variously estimated at 500 and 1000. Mr. W. H. Trueman of the legal firm of Bonnar, Trueman,

Hollands and Robinson attended and delivered an address in which he stated: (1) that general and sympathetic strikes are legal, despite the inconvenience to the public, provided they are not started with the intention of causing disorders, etc. (2) that Judge Metcalfe had mis-directed the jury. (3) that they should appeal to the Privy Council and petition for Judge Metcalfe's impeachment. (4) that Mr. Andrews' connection with the Citizens' Committee unfitted him for the post of Crown prosecutor.

There was much talk, some of the accused men showing a desire to stir up demonstrations. A resolution pledging support of the accused was passed. There was wrangling between the O.B.U. and other elements.

The Defence have printed as a pamphlet what purports to be the official report of Judge Metcalfe's charge (it is badly reported and printed) and Judge Cave's charge in the case of Rex vs Burns in 1885. The point of the contrast is that in Burn's case the Crown apparently abstained from charging intent to create a disturbance, and argued that the accused must be deemed responsible for the consequences which followed the reckless and violent language they used; whereas in Winnipeg the charge was one of conspiracy, i.e. of intention and agreement. Justice Cave was rather favourable to the defence on the question whether subsequent violence should be regarded as proving seditious intent on the part of the accused. Judge Metcalfe dealt at length with the question of conspiracy.

Labour Church Services were held in Winnipeg on 18th January as follows:-

Park Theatre, Port Rouge A. Henry.

G.W.V.A. Hall, St. James Rev. Wm. Ivens "The World's Unrest".

Columbia Theatre, Winnipeg F.G. Tipping.

Centennial School, West - Rev. J.S. Woodsworth -  
Kildenan. "Freedom".

S.O.E. Hall, Weston R.H. Gray "The Right of Self-Determination".[5]

Among the interesting observations made were:-

A. Henry:- "What the world wants today is autocracy, meaning independent power. Let every man have the same amount of power and make his own laws. Government of today was unreasonable, and only carried out their powers for democratic purposes, and the labouring class was never thought of".

Rev. W. Ivens:- "He knew that the road from the Law courts to the jail was greased, and that he would be serving two years, but they were going to try to tip the slide".

Rev. J. S. Woodsworth:- "They would never be free, as long as they had to go across the water for all their orders. There was a likelihood of their trials being taken across the water to the Privy Council, was that freedom?"

The regular weekly Socialist gathering was held at the Labour Temple, Winnipeg, on 11th January. Armstrong, one of the accused now under trial, made a violent speech, in which he attacked Judge Metcalfe, personally and by name.

We have additional report from Winnipeg to the effect that the O.B.U. is gaining at the expense of the International. This report puts the proportion of the labour unions who are O.B.U. at three fourths.

At Regina the O.B.U. recently asserted they had a membership of 40000.

#### 6. The Alberta Coal Fields.

On 26th January the coal operators and the U.M.W. of A. concluded an agreement to the effect that the 14 p.c. advance is to be paid to all employes until the mines are organized by the U.M.W. of A.; when that condition is realized the increase will be restricted to members of this union, i.e. the "closed shop" will be instituted. The [6] Drumheller operators, who have formed an association of their own, have agreed to conform to this arrangement.

Information dated 26th January is that in the Drumheller area the U.M.W. of A. is in a satisfactory condition, 17 out of 20 mines being fully organized, and the organization of the rest being expected soon.

The O.C. Calgary under date of 19th January writes that Mr. Whiteside, President of the Western Coal Operators' Association seems most determined to oppose compliance by the operators with the Closed Shop order; and that he is supported by Mr. W.F. McNeil the secretary. The O.C.'s inferences are:-

(1). That the operators are as hostile to the U.M.W. of A. as to the O.B.U..

(2). That they wish to discredit the local officials of the Labour Department, and the Minister of Labour.

On 7th January a strike took place at the Rosedeer Mine, Wayne (near Drumheller), the immediate cause being the action of the management in dismissing a check-weighman who had deserted the U.M.W. of A. and seceded to the O.B.U. About 80 men went out. It is a fight between the two unions, with the management availing itself of a falling off in orders to reduce operations and get rid of the turbulent element.

At Michell on 7th January the miners decided to accept the 14 p.c. increase, but to object to the "check-off" to the U.M.W. of A.

Mr. H. Ostlund, a barrister of Lethbridge, who for years has been the legal adviser of individual miners and the U.M.W. of A. now appears to be acting for the O.B.U..

#### 7. The O.B.U. in Alberta.

At a meeting of the Miscellaneous Section, O.B.U., in Calgary on 15th January a man named Hoey of the Central Labour Council, O.B.U. reported that it had been proposed to divide the O.B.U. into five sections,

each of which would finance itself, and the five to cover every industry in the country:-

1. Miners' Unit.[7]
2. Transportation Unit.
3. Industrial Unit. (Manufactures).
4. Agricultural Unit (including loggers and bushmen).
5. Educational and Hospital Section (Doctors, teachers, etc.)

Ill-temper was shown in the discussion, and there is a prospect of dissension.

The O.B.U. in Calgary have rented the Nolan Hall, 127a 8th Avenue West, for the purpose of holding their meetings. They also have rented offices in the same building. The hall is one used by various local labour unions.

#### 8. The O.B.U. in British Columbia.

The amalgamation of the weaker O.B.U. units in Vancouver was advanced a step on 9th January. The units concerned were:-

1. Transport Workers; \$30 in debt.
2. Construction Workers; a membership of over 300; over due debts of \$280.
3. General Workers; no debts.
4. Engineers; a surplus of \$100.

At a meeting of the General Workers' Unit of the O.B.U. in Vancouver on 12th January the President (James O. Smith) expressed a hope that the efforts of the employers in the United States to oust the Internationals and establish "open shop" conditions would succeed, and would reach Canada soon. Under open shop rules the O.B.U. could get into the shops, and once in would grow.

At a meeting in Vancouver on 9th January, V. R. Midgley stated that the O.B.U. started with \$500 and at the first of the year had spent \$17000; he added that the financial statement for the end of the year would show the organization in pretty good standing. He hoped that after the loggers' convention they would pay per capita on the full membership; this would give the O.B.U. another \$1000 per month.

Midgley's explanation of the omission of the L.W.I.U. to pay per capita dues on its full membership was (1) that to do so would give the unit too many delegates; (2) Winch desired to keep certain men out of places of influence. The amount had been made up, he said, by the [8] Loggers defraying organization expenses which the O.B.U. would have had to meet.

#### 9. Individual Agitators.

On 11th January, at a meeting of the Socialist Party, Vancouver, Charles Lester gave another of his violent speeches. One utterance was that when the working class came into its own and the capitalist class was overthrown there ought to be judges, and he hoped to be one. Should that

happen, he would not be like the judge in Winnipeg and give a sentence of two years. If a capitalistic lawyer came before him he would give him twenty years.

Asked by a member of the audience what he worked at, Lester accused the questioner of being a stool-pigeon, and evaded answering.

Jack Kavanagh spoke at Merritt, B.C., on 11th January, in advocacy of the O.B.U.. He used some violent language.

#### 10. Conditions in Victoria.

Under date of 14th January, the N.C.O. in charge, Victoria, reports the unemployment situation as showing no improvement. "The patience of the unemployed seems to be wearing out, and the idea of out-of-work parades in gaining in favour".

The only hope of early employment is the Cholberg Shipbuilding Company; it is not certain when it will begin operations. This company has a co-operative plan which involved deducting from 10 p.c. to 20 p.c. of the men's wages to pay for stock; this is much disliked as a device to reduce wages.

#### 11. The Radical Press.

Addressing the new General Workers' Unit of the O.B.U. in Vancouver on 12th January, A. S. Wells, the editor of the "B.C. Federationist" stated that the paper had suffered much from the strike of last summer, its advertising having fallen off, partly through the [9] diminished purchasing power of its readers being known to merchants, partly because of the antagonism of the International unions, which it had opposed.

The "Worker", the very radical organ of the L.W.I.U. has ceased publication.

The "B.C. Federationist" will devote a certain amount of space in each issue to this union.

#### 12. Ukrainian Propaganda.

On 10th January in the Greek Catholic Home, Edmonton, the "Samo-Obrazowania Society", formerly the Ukrainian Socialist Party, performed a play, "The Thorny Wreath" (? The Crown of Thorns) of a revolutionary tendency. This is the fourth drama of this sort performed since November. Our informant (who is of Central European Nationality) described it as effective propaganda against religion and government.

At a meeting of the "Shewchenko" meetings of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Association at Edmonton 11th January a resolution was passed protesting against the assignment of Galicia to Poland. One speaker advocated raising troops in Canada to send to the Ukraine to fight Poland. The general trend of the meeting was described as adverse to the Canadianization of Ukrainian immigrants.

A secret society has been formed in Saskatoon in association with an institution styled "The Ukrainian National Home". The new body has a revolutionary tinge, but may be principally a benefit society.

### 13. Finnish Propaganda.

The Finnish Colony in Manyberries (southern Alberta) has an organization of a socialistic nature which has had three names within the last year or two:-

1. Finnish Social Democratic Organization.
2. Finnish Organization in Canada.

3. Finnish Socialist Organization of Canada.[10] Sanna Kannasto, a Finnish woman who has a reputation as an organizer is planning to visit this community, which as a whole has been quiet, though it has a small knot of agitators.

### 14. The International Bible Students.

The International Bible Students, whose meetings and reading matter were prohibited until the end of 1919, held a public meeting in Edmonton on 11th January. A man named Williams, who seems to be a travelling missionary of the body, delivered an address in which, in addition to attacking the various churches, attacked the present system of personal ownership of property. Our informant, who was present at the meeting, regarded the address as having a revolutionary tendency.

### 15. Miscellaneous.

Twenty-three applications of aliens for naturalization were sent to Regina. One hundred and thirty-two reports on aliens so applying were sent to the Under-Secretary of State for Canada.

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OTTAWA, 30th January, 1920.