

PRESIDENT OF LABOUR FEDERATION EXPRESSES APPRECIATION OF GOV'T.

Commends Provincial Old Age Pensions Introduced by Dysart Administration; Deals With Fair Wage Board, Strikes and Other Matters

The report of the president, James A. Whitebone delivered before the New Brunswick Federation of Labor Council yesterday expressed regret at the death of James E. Tigh who had been connected with the organization since its foundation a quarter of a century ago, and who had risen to the height of offices in the International Trade Union movement.

Mr. Whitebone outlined various activities and aims and objectives of the Federation. His address in part was as follows:

Greatly increased organizing activity throughout the province since our last convention is highly gratifying and well reflects the awakening realization of workers that they must band themselves together in legitimate unions of their respective crafts in order to secure for themselves a fair share of their productive efforts. In my opinion the outstanding achievement is the almost complete organization of miners in the Minto coal field into the United Mine Workers of America. Conditions within this industry have long stood as an indictment of the economic system prevailing in certain sections of this province and, as so aptly expressed by President D. W. Morrison of District No. 26, U.M.W., "a blot on the industrial map of New Brunswick." These men are to be heartily congratulated for having chosen the only organization on this continent which has been successful in securing for its members economic recognition which has led to the emancipation of workers in this always and hazardous and onerous occupation.

The wave of organization, it is pleasing to note, has not been confined to the cities and so-called industrial centres, but has spread to all parts of the province. A splendid organization has been instituted in Albert County under charter from the International Longshoremen's Association, embracing at the present time well over two hundred members, and still growing. We are pleased to welcome this local union to the federation and wish them every success.

On the Miramichi

In the Miramichi district the Farmer-Labor Union has been developing with rapid strides and now covers four counties with membership upwards of two thousand. While this body is not chartered nor organized exactly along the same lines as our directly affiliated unions we nonetheless welcome them to the ranks of Labor and are very glad to have their delegates in attendance at this convention. I am sure their aims and objects coincide with those of the International Trade Union Movement, and we may consider them as part of that movement by reason of our common goal and their desire to be associated with us.

It is a source of satisfaction that the movement started in the City of Fredericton during our convention last year has developed to its present stage and that Labor in this city is making rapid progress toward organization of all its workers. The Fredericton Trades and Labor Council is a healthy, energetic body and a valuable addition to Labor's ranks. We extend a warm welcome to their delegates to this gathering.

In the Saint John district seven new charters have been installed during the past few months including Hospital Employees, Dairy Workers, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Railway and Steamship Clerks, Fruit Handlers and Teamsters and Chauffeurs. In addition to these new organizations the membership of existing unions has been greatly augmented and a conservative estimate places the increased membership during the past year in that city at more than one thousand. The campaign is still being vigorously pursued and within the course of the next three months it is expected several new local unions will be installed.

You will have before you at this convention several resolutions urging the adoption by the Provincial Government of the bill first introduced at our last convention which, if adopted, would grant the legal right to any body of workers of organizing into unions of their own choice. This legislation is now in force in several provinces including Nova Scotia where after one year's operation it has met with the approval not only of Labor but of employers and Government alike. Those of us who have been active in organization work can readily realize the need of such legislation. Many instances of discrimination against employees because of their union activities have come to our knowledge and I urge that every effort be put forth to the end that this very necessary legislation be placed on the statute books without delay.

We should know at once whether or not the Government will sponsor this bill as a government measure so that we may resort to the necessary alternative action ourselves in time to have the bill considered at the next session of the Legislature.

Recent public utterances of members of the Provincial Cabinet with

regard to International Unions in New Brunswick cause us to be apprehensive of the Government's attitude toward our Labor organizations. We have become accustomed to the senseless attacks of those who seek to discredit our type of union or various obscure reasons and have learned to pay little or no attention to them, but when our elected representatives make public statements to the effect that our form of organization will not be tolerated in New Brunswick then it is time for us to take definite steps to ascertain just what is behind such a move and whether or not we are to accept this as the policy of the Government or merely the private opinion of individual members. International Unions have been the means of maintaining industrial stability in this province and have been working in the interests of the workers here for many years. They have been recognized and accepted by every progressive employer of labor in New Brunswick as the collective bargaining agency of their members. It is to be regretted that there still remain some employers, and evidently one or two cabinet ministers, who seem to believe the workers are not possessed of sufficient intelligence to choose for themselves the type of union to which they shall belong, and who undertake to instruct them to refrain from joining any union at all or to join the one selected for them, invariably the boss-controlled company union. Such tactics will be resisted to the utmost by organized labor and the ultimate result can only be in our favor.

The Minto Strike

The strike in the Minto coal area and the repercussions therefrom have certainly provided plenty of food for thought among New Brunswick workers. The whole question now simmers down to whether or not the mine workers of this province shall have the right to belong to the recognized union of their craft or whether they must continue to be dominated by local representatives of big business and autocratic Government officials. I believe this question will be decided in no uncertain fashion by these men themselves and their decision will be to maintain continued loyalty to the union of their own choice, which union has, and will continue to be loyal to its members. The United Mine Workers is in New Brunswick to stay and must be recognized by every mine owner and operator before industrial peace and prosperity can be attained in this industry.

This conditions extends to other sections as the records will show that other unions have been advised by at least one member of the Government to sever their connection with other labor bodies having International affiliations.

Fair Wage Board

Many of us came to this convention with mixed feelings respecting the Fair Wage Board set up under the Fair Wages Act as amended by the last session of the Legislature. Before the members of the Board were appointed executive officers of the Federation made strenuous representations to the Government to the end that the Labor representatives should be named by our Federation as the official central Labor body of the province. Eventually the Government did see fit to name our two nominees and John S. MacKinnon, of Saint John, and Raymond Roy, of Dalhousie, were appointed. For this we extend our appreciation to the Government.

We awaited the functioning of the Board with open minds, willing to lend our co-operation and afford every opportunity for the carrying out of the expressed intention of adjusting wages and working conditions of underpaid workers in the Province, although some of us were frankly skeptical of the good intentions of the legislation. After nearly one year's experience and study of the activities of the Board we should now be in a position to consider intelligently the effect of its actions and decisions on the labor situation in this Province. In all fairness we must concede that in several cases orders made by the Board and which appear to substantiate the charge that the Board is slow to move in the face of facts before it.

There is no doubt that the interference of the Fair Wage Board in the Minto controversy has seriously retarded the clearing-up of that situation. This was surely a matter which rightly fell within the scope of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, and had the provincial authorities not interfered with the sitting-up of the Board of Conciliation under the Federal Act as requested by the union I have no doubt the matter at

issue would have been adjusted in short order. Obviously the Fair Wage Board had no business in Minto, and its meddling has only succeeded in complicating the issue and prolonging an unfortunate strike with its resulting suffering to the miners and their families and the near crippling of an important industry.

In my opinion the Provincial Fair Wage Board should act only in cases where workers affected are unorganized and should refrain from entering into disputes between unions and employers unless requested to do so by the union involved. You will have the opportunity of considering this question at this convention when dealing with resolutions before you, and I recommend very careful deliberation on the subject.

Unemployment Insurance

Contributory Unemployment Insurance on a national scale is long overdue in this country and organized labor still carries on with redoubled vigor the campaign inaugurated many years ago toward the adoption of this legislation most essential to the well-being and self-respect of those of our citizens who, through no fault of their own, are thrown out of employment from time to time. I would recommend that full approval of this Federation be tendered the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada in its support of the proposed National Unemployment Insurance Act now under consideration by the Federal Government.

We agree in part with the position taken by the Government of New Brunswick with respect to proposed amending of the British North America Act in that ill-considered meddling with the Constitution of the Dominion should not be countenanced. Experience has convinced us, however, that lack of uniformity in social and labor legislation has greatly interfered with the effectiveness of such legislation, and that statutes of this nature should be national in scope under the administration of centralized authority. Should amendment of the British North America Act be necessary to secure such nationalization, then we must approve of this course and urge such amendment.

Dept. of Labor Urged

We have frequently urged upon the Governments of the day the necessity for a Provincial Department of Labor under the direction of a full-time deputy minister qualified by experience in the Labor Movement, and I recommend that special effort be put forth this year toward this desirable end.

Other Matters

You will probably have before you several proposed amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act and I urge that our deliberations on these be tempered with good judgment. There are certainly many improvements which might be made in the Act which, if adopted, would prove of great benefit to the injured workman and I am sure the important and beneficial resolutions will receive your best consideration, while any frivolous or dangerous proposals will be eliminated from our agenda.

Very few, if any, complaints against the Forest Operations Commission have been received since our last convention and we may assume the Commission has the situation well in hand and is performing a real service to the men of this province who depend on work in the forests and allied occupations for a livelihood. Labor is fortunate in having as its representative on the Commission Mr. John H. Wallace, a vice-president of this Federation and one whose knowledge of woodcraft and the problem of its workers is second to none.

Commends Government

The Provincial Government is to be highly commended for having during the past year extended the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act to include payment of monthly pensions to indigent blind persons of the province. The Federation has advocated this course on many occasions and our appreciation of the action of the Government is freely expressed.

I am sure I voice the sentiments of every delegate to this convention in expressing deep regret that continued illness prevents the attendance here this year of our good friend, Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, Minister of Health and Labor. His sympathetic understanding of our problems and his honest desire to assist us in our efforts to secure better conditions for the workers will always assure him a warm welcome at these gatherings. It is our sincere wish that he will enjoy a speedy and complete recovery enabling the early resumption of his duties.

Praise To Press

Before concluding I feel a word with respect to the newspapers of New Brunswick would not be out of place. I believe our appreciation of the manner in which Labor happenings throughout the past year have been reported by the Press should be extended just as freely as we have in years gone by to commend what we believed to be unfair reports of our activities. We do not expect, nor do we desire, publicity in our favor only, and the fairness with which reports of the labor situation during the past year have been dealt with by the Press with few exceptions, merits our hearty commendation. We are pleased to pay tribute to the daily papers of New Brunswick.

SQUIRES SCORES N. B. COMMUNISM AND MONOPOLIES

Speaks at Gathering N. B. Federation Of Labor

Wants Labor Dept.

Members of Federation Deny Alliance With Communism

Lashing out at the "taint of communism and its effects on the church and liberty" in this province, Hon. F. C. Squires, chief of the New Brunswick Conservatives, yesterday afternoon dubbed a "sane and honest labor organization" as one of the main bulwarks of democracy, in speaking before the annual convention of the N. B. Federation of Labor.

I am a friend of industry, but not of crushing monopolies, he asserted, after having paid passing tribute to the keen insight of the president of the Federation, J. A. Whitebone, of Saint John, into matters in connection with the seaport of Saint John, gained, he said, through his experience on the Common Council of that city.

Condemning what he termed "a false philosophy regarding industry and labor," which, he asserted, people should understand, he predicted that a new order of governments is slowly coming into being. They will not be machine governments, he affirmed, for the youth of today has new ideas and ideals. Declaring that the old-type politician is a relic of the past, he predicted that governments of the future will "get down and work with the people, whether they be industrialists or labor."

Must Have Public Support

Hon. Mr. Squires urged caution in taxation in view of poor industrial outlook in the United States, declaring that taxes tend to make industry more unsettled. He emphasized the fact that labor must have supporting it a "right, sane and honest public opinion" to force the government to fall into accord with its wishes.

New Brunswick should have a separate up-to-the-minute Department of Labor, with a deputy minister as have other departments, he contended. The function of this department would be to anticipate capital and labor difficulties and adjust them before they had injured the industry, he said. "We cannot be without labor because it is the backbone of our nation," he concluded.

Indignant denial of the rumor that the N. B. Federation of Labor is allied with communism was voiced by Arthur Skaling, of Saint John, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Squires. "We hate it," he spat out between clenched teeth, adding that no more willing people can be found in Canada to fight for democracy than labor.

Discussion concerning the alleged inactivity of governments when they had promised action also featured yesterday afternoon's session, being led by George Rawline, of Moncton, and Harold Doyle, Saint John. Robert J. Talon, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, was introduced to the convention yesterday afternoon. He will address the body either today or tomorrow.

Now Science Explains Why So Many People Past 40

Feel That They're Slipping Losing Their "Grip" on Things



Many people 'round 40 think they're "growing old." They feel tired a lot... "weak." Have headaches, dizziness, stomach upsets.

Well, scientists say the cause of all this, in a great many cases, is simply an *acid condition* of the stomach. Nothing more.

All you have to do is to neutralize the excess stomach acidity. When you have one of these acid stomach upsets, take Phillips' Milk of Magnesia after meals and before going to bed. That's all!

Try this. Soon you'll feel like another person! Take either the familiar liquid "PHILLIPS'" or the convenient new Phillips' Milk of Magnesia Tablets. Made in Canada.

ALSO IN TABLET FORM: Phillips' Milk of Magnesia Tablets are now on sale at all drug stores everywhere. Each tiny tablet is the equivalent of a teaspoonful of Genuine Phillips' Milk of Magnesia.

PHILLIPS' Milk of Magnesia

What 1938 Car has the most Revolutionary Features?

IT'S A

CLEAN SWEEP

FOR NASH!



SERVICE ACROSS CANADA

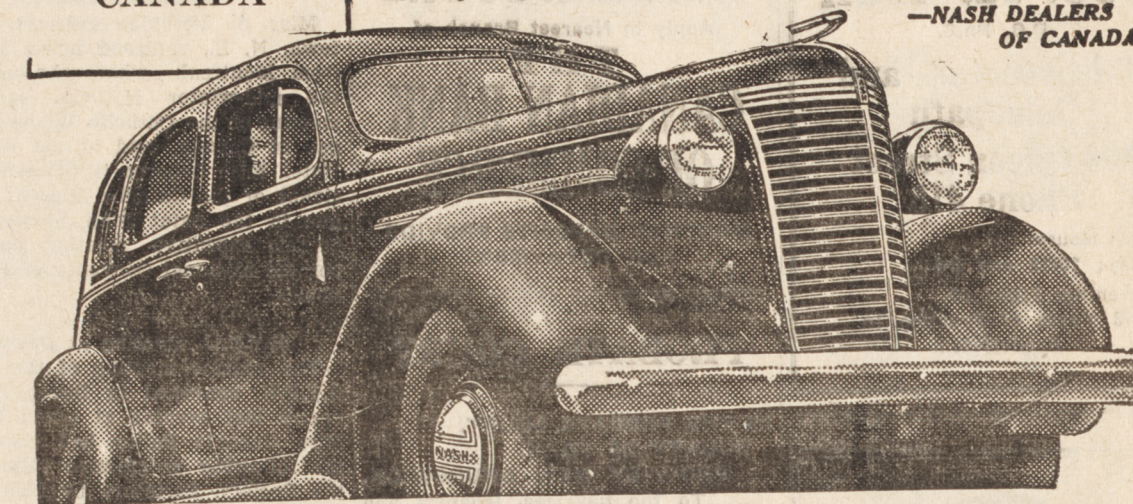
First car with **CONDITIONED-AIR** for winter driving.
The First **SUPER-THRIFT** Engine
The First **FATIGUE-PROOF** Ride
The First Car With **"SEA LEGS"**
AUTOMATIC VACUUM GEAR-SHIFT

— 83 New Improvements You Will Want To See And Try For Yourself!

"The wallop in this story is... you get SIX basic, im-

portant improvements no other car can offer... plus seventy-seven more that pile up the extra value NASH gives for your money. To top it all, precision workmanship and brilliant engineering that save you money and trouble. 1938 Nash prices make it doubly shortsighted to put up any longer with a SMALL CAR. Come in and see the tremendous lead NASH has for 1938!"

—NASH DEALERS OF CANADA



You Can't Beat A NASH

THE GREAT INDEPENDENT

COME IN — SEE THE THREE GREAT SERIES OF 1938 NASH CARS!

Say ! This is Corking Good Tobacco !

When you touch a light to a pipeful of Rosebud, you'll know why the grand Maritime favourite has so many life-long friends! C mellow, fragrant and friendly, bud is the buy-word with N smokers — they're particular!



ROSEBUD

Cut smoking tobacco

THE MARITIME SMOKE